

Spring 2014
PARCC Field Test:
Accessibility and
Accommodations

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION



PARCC Field Test (Spring 2014)

- ★ Random selection of public schools and classrooms to participate in field testing in Spring 2014
 - Most participating students will take one field test in one content area this spring.
 - Some students will take the field test on a computer, others on paper.
- ★ Students taking MCAS-Alt, and those who require Braille or onscreen ASL, will **not** participate in field test.
- ★ First-year ELLs may participate at principal's discretion.
- ★ The test itself is being tested, not the students.
- ★ No PARCC field test results will be reported because there will be no results to report.



PARCC : Accessibility Features and Accommodations

- ★ Many accommodations on MCAS will now be built into computer-based PARCC tests and be available to **all students** as “accessibility features.”
 - Use of keyboard, audio amplification, highlighter, magnification, spell checker, text-to-speech (Math), and many others
- ★ Other accommodations will be available only to **students with disabilities** and **English learners**.
- ★ Most Massachusetts accommodations have been adopted by PARCC, including nonstandard accommodations.
- ★ Pearson is emailing information regarding tutorials and field test training to superintendents, principals, test coordinators, and technology coordinators.



PARCC Field Test: Accessibility and Accommodations

- ★ Be aware that the PARCC policy on **testing time** differs from MCAS.
 - Tests are timed, though all students can receive up to 50 percent “additional time.”
 - “Extended time” is available to students with disabilities (per IEP and 504 plan) and to ELLs to complete one session in one school day.
- ★ The following test administration procedures are available to **any student**, at the discretion of principal:
 - Small group, frequent breaks, separate setting, specified area or seating, adaptive/specialized equipment, furniture, or lighting
- ★ Review PARCC accessibility features and accommodations at parconline.org/parcc-accessibility-features-and-accommodations-manual.



PARCC Field Test:

Accessibility and Accommodations

- ★ PARCC accommodations for **students with disabilities** include:
 - Read-aloud, scribe, calculator for Math non-calculator session, spell-checker, and word prediction, *with some conditions*
- ★ **PARCC accommodations do not include:**
 - Individualized ELA graphic organizers and Math reference sheets
- ★ Accommodations available to **ELLs** include:
 - Extended time, scribing Math assessments, word-to-word bilingual dictionary, repeat/clarify directions in English or native language



Accessibility Features Provided for All Students on the Field Test

Accessibility Features Activated Automatically

Audio Amplification

Blank Paper *(provided by test administrator)*

Eliminate Answer Choices

Flag Items for Review

General Administration Directions Clarified
(by test administrator)

General Administration Directions Read Aloud and Repeated
(by test administrator)

Text Highlighter Tool

Headphones

Magnification/Enlargement Device

Line Reader Tool

Pop-Up Glossary

Redirect Student to Test *(by test administrator)*

Writing Tools



PARCC Operational Test (2015-)

Activating Certain Features in Advance

- ★ A small number of accessibility features must be activated prior to testing by an adult.
- ★ This is accomplished during the online student registration process, known as PearsonAccess
- ★ PearsonAccess manages the lists of students taking each test, test set-up, and the management of test administration in a school.
- ★ Students requiring an “in advance” feature can be selected from the list of registered students in PearsonAccess, matched with the appropriate test, and assigned the correct accessibility feature(s).



Accessibility Features and Accommodations to Be Activated in Advance in 2015

Features to be Activated

Answer Masking

Background/Font Color (Color Contrast)

Text-to-Speech for the Mathematics Assessments

**Text-to-Speech for the ELA/Literacy Assessments
(if student meets PARCC guidelines)**

**Calculator on non-calculator items
(if student meets PARCC guidelines)**