



What Parents Need to Know About the PARCC Score Reports

As many of you are aware, this past spring Illinois students participated in a new state assessment, called the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exam, in English language arts and math. The PARCC assessment replaces the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) and marks a significant change from these previous assessments.

- **The PARCC assessments replace the old state assessments.** They measure how well students are performing against the new state standards that guide math and English language arts instruction.
- **The PARCC assessments are only one of several measures,** including report card grades and in-class performance that are used to determine a student's academic achievement. They do not impact a student's GPA.
- **The score reports are a valuable tool for parents and teachers.** The report provides a deeper level of information that can be used to better understand where students are doing well and where they need additional support. This helps teachers and parents support students.
- **The PARCC assessment moves away from multiple choice questions** to ones that allow students to demonstrate a real understanding of what they know and can do by writing essays, solving real world problems, and reading and analyzing complex text—all critical skills in the real-world.
- **Your child's score may look lower this year because the tests measured more complex skills.** A low score does not mean your child did not improve or learned less, but instead that the expectations have been raised for students.
- **The first year's scores are a new baseline** from which to progress and measure against moving forward.