

**10 THINGS EVERY LOUISIANAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PARCC ASSESSMENTS**

1. **Louisianans helped develop PARCC.** Louisiana is a governing state in the PARCC Consortium. Thus, educators in our state have designed and reviewed PARCC assessments.
2. **There are almost 2,000 educator leader cadres (ELC) in Louisiana.** ELCs help each state build and expand the number of educators who understand, support and take ownership over successful implementation of the Common Core State Standards and PARCC assessments. Every state school in Louisiana has an ELC.
3. **The PARCC assessments are aligned to Louisiana’s Common Core State Standards.** To provide a meaningful measure of the new, more rigorous expectations for students, LEAP and iLEAP tests in English language arts and math will be replaced by PARCC. Louisiana is also developing new assessments in science and social studies that will align with new standards
4. **Participation in PARCC will allow Louisianans to see how our state performs in English Language Arts/Literacy and Math as compared to other states.** Despite significant academic gains, in 2013, Louisiana ranked 48th nationally in K-12 achievement. More rigorous standards, coupled with meaningful assessments, will ensure our students are able to compete in the global economy.
5. **The PARCC Assessments are made up of 4 separate online exams- two are optional and two are required.** The exams will replace LEAP and iLEAP. Thus, PARCC does not increase the amount of testing; rather it increases the quality of the tests administered.
  - (1) *Diagnostic Assessment (optional):* Purpose is to determine students’ learning needs in order to tailor instruction
  - (2) *Mid-Year Assessment (optional):* Used to serve as a benchmark or interim assessment of student performance
  - (3) *Performance-Based Assessment and (4) End-Of-Year Assessment* scores are combined to generate an overall score which determines the students’ performance level.
6. **Sixty percent of the PARCC ELA/literacy assessment will involve writing.** Unlike previous exams, which relied heavily on multiple choice questions, PARCC assessments will evaluate an individual’s writing skills and critical thinking, requiring students to analyze information and make evidence-based arguments in their own words.
7. **More than sixty percent of the math questions will focus on the math standards that have been identified as “major work of the grade.”** Students will demonstrate greater emphasis on critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as they will be expected to show HOW they reached their answer rather than simply filling in the correct bubble. Students will receive partial credit for some questions in math.
8. **Louisiana’s postsecondary institutions are committed to college and career readiness.** All of Louisiana’s public two- and four-year colleges and universities have committed to participate in PARCC, help develop the college-ready assessments, and ultimately, use those assessments as one indicator of students’ readiness for entry-level, credit-bearing college courses. Together, these institutions educate 100% of the freshman entering public colleges and universities in LA.

**9. PARCC online assessments improve classroom instruction.** Educators will have more timely access to student performance data. Therefore, rather than receiving imperative data after the school term has ended, educators will receive data in time to tailor instruction and intervene on behalf of students that may struggle throughout the school year.

**10. PARCC will improve students' digital literacy.** Students will gain experience in conducting online research and evaluation. PARCC online assessments will continue to improve our children's access to modern technology, allowing them to develop fundamental computer skills, preparing them for jobs of the future.