



A Community of Learners

Informational Memo: PARCC and KIDS Assessment Update

TO: School Board
Trisha Kocanda, *Superintendent*
FROM: Alison Hawley, *Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment*

January 27, 2015

Overview & Background

The inaugural *Partnership Assessment for Readiness for College and Careers* (PARCC), a computer-based assessment is on track to be administered to all students grades 3-8 for math and English language arts/literacy in March and May of 2015.

The PARCC is intended to assess the newly implemented Common Core State Standards that target critical thinking and writing skills. *The Standards for Mathematical Practice* will also be a major component of the assessment. Results of the March Performance Based Assessment (PBA), and the May End of Year Assessment (EOY) will be combined to determine an overall score and/or performance level for each student.

PARCC intends to set achievement levels, which will include college ready performance levels, during the summer of 2015. The PARCC consortium has not announced when the score reports will be made available to schools.

Update

Curriculum Office

On December 8, 2014, and January 12, 2015, the administrative team conducted a District Early Release meeting to give an overview of the PARCC assessment and review the technology components of the assessment. All certified staff gathered in Washburne's Little Theater for the presentations. Staff were given the opportunity to ask questions about the assessment as well as an exit slip to allow for follow-up at the building level. The principals will conduct building level trainings through January and

into February. This will include additional training for all staff that will be proctoring the assessment, as well as preparation to help students become familiar with the PARCC technology platform.

The administrative team has also created a communication plan for teachers and parents. PARCC related communications will be distributed through the building principal's weekly communication. The same communication will also be embedded in teacher communications that are sent to families as well. Each building is currently in the process of developing testing schedules that meet the circumstances of the individual facility and availability of technology.

Over winter break, Pearson released the Test Coordinator Manual that guides the test administration process for building principals and the Test Administrator Manual for teachers that will administer and proctor the assessment. Both manuals outline the accountability measures, test administration procedures, and requirements that all test sites must adhere to during the entire testing window.

Pearson has not yet released the practice tests for the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) for math to be administered in March, or the End-of-Year Assessment (EOY) for English language arts, to be administered in May. Originally slated to be released in December, the release date has been pushed back to January.

Department of Student Services

The Department of Student Services is in the process of confirming all IEP and 504 accommodations to be uploaded into the PearsonAccessNext system. Individual schools are in the process of determining small group testing needs, coordinating schedules, and determining appropriate staffing and rooms to be utilized for testing.

Technology Department

The Technology Department has determined laptops and desktop computers will be used to administer the PARCC. A recent software upgrade conducted by Pearson on the iPad app resulted in a series of technology issues, therefore it is not longer a viable option for the March testing window.

Next Steps

The Curriculum Office and the administrative team will continue to attend webinars hosted by the Illinois State Board of Education regarding test security and test administration. The Curriculum Office will also distribute information about the math Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and the English language arts End-of-Year (EOY) assessment as soon as it is available.

Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) Assessment

The State of Illinois has adopted the [Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development Survey \(KIDS\)](#) to be implemented in 2015-2016. According to Illinois Administrative Code 1.420, “Each school district offering a kindergarten program, whether full-day or half-day, shall administer the Illinois Individual Survey (KIDS) annually.” The goals of the assessment are as follows:

- Identify gaps in school readiness
- Provide information to drive more effective classroom instruction
- Support state and local data-driven decision-making on professional development and resource allocation.

The assessment consists of a 55-page rubric that requires teachers to collect observational data on each child three times per year in order to “close the readiness gap and ensure all children thrive in their earliest years.”

We believe that our current assessment system is effective and designed to track the needs of our students from kindergarten through 8th grade. The administration of this assessment will impact valuable instructional and teacher time and will not provide additional information to what is currently gathered through our District assessment system. For that reason, the District will submit a waiver to the Illinois State Board of Education to request an exemption from the assessment.

Next Steps

The State requires a public hearing as part of the waiver process. Therefore, a KIDS waiver hearing will be conducted at the February 24, 2015, School Board meeting. Glencoe has completed the waiver process and submitted the appropriate documents to the Illinois State Board of Education. Wilmette and Sunset Ridge also intend to submit waivers to the State.