

Jackson School District

Frequently Asked Questions about PARCC Testing

Question: *Do Jackson students, who are currently in the 12th grade, need to “pass” the PARCC assessment to in order to graduate from high school?*

Answer:

No. Current 12th Grade students were required to successfully “pass” the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) in order to graduate.

Question: *Do Jackson students, who are currently in 9th, 10th, or 11th Grade, need to “pass” the PARCC assessment to in order to graduate from high school?*

Answer:

Students in these classes must demonstrate proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics required by state statute by either meeting the ‘cut score’ on the PARCC assessments, by meeting the ‘cut score’ on a substitute assessment, or by meeting the criteria of the NJDOE portfolio appeal process.

For the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018, students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in both ELA and math by meeting **ONE** of the criteria in each column below. Please keep in mind that some of the options below (marked with an asterisk *) are not administered by the district directly, which means students would need to make their own arrangements to take those assessments:

English Language Arts	Mathematics
Passing score on a PARCC ELA Grade 9 or	Passing score on PARCC Algebra I or
Passing score on a PARCC ELA Grade 10 or	Passing score on PARCC Geometry or
Passing score on a PARCC ELA Grade 11 or	Passing score on PARCC Algebra II or
*SAT \geq 400 or	SAT \geq 400 or
*ACT \geq 16 or	ACT \geq 16 or
*Accuplacer Write Placer \geq 6 or	Accuplacer Elementary Algebra \geq 76 or
PSAT \geq 40 or	PSAT \geq 40 or
*ACT Aspire \geq 422 or	ACT Aspire \geq 422 or
*ASVAB-AFQT \geq 31 or	ASVAB-AFQT \geq 31 or
Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal	Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

Question: *Will PARCC scores be used as part of the criteria for a student’s placement into advanced classes, enrichment programs, remedial programs, or high school academies?*

Answer:

Not at this time. Due to the uncertainty of when the results of the PARCC assessment will be returned to the school district and how the distribution of these scores may result, the Jackson School District will not be using the results of the PARCC assessment as a component in any criteria for placement into advanced classes for the 2015-2016 school year. However, our district does anticipate that the PARCC results will yield valuable student achievement data that may **in future years** become an informative component of our placement criteria for advanced classes.

Question: *I know that there is no provision for a student to opt-out of statewide assessments, however, how can I “refuse” to have my child participate?*

Answer:

Although it is our expectation that all of our students participate in state assessments, the Jackson School District respectfully recognizes any parent’s right to refuse to have their child participate. If a parent does wish to refuse to have their child participate in the state assessment, they should call their child’s principal, or Dan Baginski, the Director of Assessment at 732-833-4602 **at least five days before their child’s scheduled testing date.** This will provide the school district with sufficient notice to make any necessary communications with the staff members who are directly involved with testing.

Question: *If I “refuse” to have my child participate, what will they do during the testing period?*

Answer:

All students will be required to remain in their assigned testing location during the entire administration of the assessment. Non-participating students will be permitted to silently engage in recreational reading while the assessment is being administered. If you have notified the district that your child will not be taking the test, please be sure to send him or her to school that day with a book for recreational reading. They will not be permitted to use textbooks or complete school work during the testing period.

Question: *If I “refuse” to have my child participate, will they be punished or get in trouble?*

Answer:

No. There will be no disciplinary consequences imposed upon a student who does not participate in a statewide assessment. Students will need to be sure to remain quiet during their recreational reading in order to preserve the integrity of the testing environment. Any student – whether they are testing or not – who is found to be disruptive during testing would be held accountable according to the school code of conduct.

Question: *If I “refuse” to have my child participate and I don’t send my child to school on the day of testing, will this count as an excused absence?*

Answer:

No. The absence will be recorded as an unexcused absence, in accordance with our attendance regulations.