

Parsippany-Troy Hills School District

2015-16 PARCC Q&A

QUESTION: How does the district schedule our PARCC testing?

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) informs districts of the PARCC testing window, which in 2016 is 30 school days long. Within that window, local districts have discretion as to the following:

- Days of testing
- Number of test units per day, up to two
- Grade-level scheduling
- Time of day to test

Our district schedules its PARCC testing after consultation with building administrators, taking into consideration many factors, including but not limited to the following:

- District calendar
- Individual school calendars
- AP testing
- Availability of devices—e.g. Chromebooks, MacBooks, iPads
- Facility constraints
- State-mandated test administration requirements (regular and make up)
- Special education / 504 / ELL testing accommodation
- State-mandated field testing of PARCC test units

QUESTION: What was the infrastructure trial and what did we learn from it?

Each year, the NJDOE recommends performing an infrastructure trial so that districts can assess the technology-readiness of their district before administering computer-based PARCC tests. This year, our infrastructure trial indicated a problem with our district's firewall. Technology Services and Solutions (TSS) consulted with several network experts, Pearson (the company that administers PARCC), and the NJDOE, ultimately addressing that issue and increasing our firewall capabilities. In addition, subsequent infrastructure trials indicated a problem with administering PARCC tests on iPads. After much investigation, Pearson confirmed that changes were made to the iPad app, limiting our ability to simultaneously test the number of students we need to in districts of our size.

QUESTION: What is the solution for the iPads and high school testing?

We are planning to begin high school testing after grades 3-8 complete their regular administrations of PARCC, utilizing the Chromebooks and MacBooks grades 3-8 used, along with some computer lab devices already at the high schools.

QUESTION: What does this mean for the elementary and middle schools, which will “lose” their devices while the high school is completing PARCC testing?

Elementary and middle schools will be without a majority of their devices during the seven days of HS PARCC; however, we will maintain approximately 190 devices at both middle schools during the seven days of HS PARCC testing. Building administration will manage access to this technology so that all content areas may integrate technology as needed throughout that seven-day period.