PARCC Assessment
Math Shifts

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Higher Expectations

**ELA/Literacy**
- Read sufficiently complex texts independently
- Write effectively to sources
- Build and present knowledge through research

**Math**
- Solve problems: content and mathematical practice
- Reason mathematically
- Model real-world problems
- Have fluency with mathematics
What Are the Shifts at the Heart of PARCC’s Design?

1. **Focus**: The PARCC assessment will focus strongly where the Standards focus.

2. **Coherence**: Think across grades and link to major topics within grades.

3. **Rigor**: In major topics, pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application.

Advances in Assessment Demanded by the Shifts

**Shift #1 – Focus**: The PARCC assessments will **focus strongly** where the Standards focus

**Advance**: 70% or more on the major work in grades 3-8.

- Focus allows for a variety of problem types to get at concept in multiple ways.
- Students will have more time to master concepts at a deeper level.
Shift #2 - Coherence: Think across grades, and link to major topics within grades

Advance: The assessment design is informed by multi-grade progressions in the Standards and the Model Content Frameworks.

• Key beginnings are stressed (e.g., ratio concepts in grade 6), as are key endpoints and takeaway skills (e.g., fluency with the multiplication table in grade 3).

Shift #2 - Coherence: Think across grades, and link to major topics within grades

Advance: Integrative tasks draw on multiple standards to ensure students are making important connections.

• The Standards are not treated as a checklist.
Shift #3 - Rigor: In major topics, pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application

Advance: PARCC assessments will reach the rigor in the Standards through innovations in technology and item design.

Advances in the PARCC Assessments

- Advances in the PARCC Assessments
- Better standards require better tests - and the shifts in the standards call for critical advances in assessment quality. PARCC will develop custom items and tasks aligned to the Common Core State Standards.
- In regards to the mathematics assessments, this means PARCC will include:
- Problems worth doing: Multi-step problems, conceptual questions, applications, and substantial procedures will be common, as in an excellent classroom.
- Focus: Instead of randomly sampling a mile-wide array of topics, PARCC assessments will have a strong focus where the standards focus. This will reinforce the concept of “going deep” rather than simply "covering topics."
PARCC Updates

• Performance Level Descriptors
  – Also grade and subject specific
  – Makes specific distinctions within the content
  – Examines engagement and evidence of the practices
  – Makes fine distinctions in the performance levels
  – Public comment incorporated

What are Performance Level Descriptors?

Performance Level Descriptors or PLDs describe what students at each performance level know and can do relative to the grade-level or course content standards assessed.

All PLDs can be found on PARCC Online – Assessments/Assessment Policies
### Performance Level Descriptors

**Concept and Standards**

| Performance level ranging from 2 - 5 | Gives the Sub-Claim |

### Factors that determine the performance levels (Cognitive Complexity)

1. Mathematical Content
2. Mathematical Practices
3. Stimulus Material
4. Response Mode
5. Processing Demand
PARCC is designed to reward quality instruction aligned to the Standards, so the assessment is worthy of preparation rather than a distraction from good work.

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

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Website: www.PARCConline.org
Sample Items: http://www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes
Twitter: @PARCCPlace