

Universal Design

Arkansas Department of Education
January 2014



What is Universal Design?

- **Universal Design** is a set of design principles that are used to provide opportunities to all individuals to ensure equitable access.
- **Historical Perspective**
- **Design Principles**

What is Universal Design for Learning?

- Universal Design for learning (UDL) is a set of design principles that are used to provide opportunities to all individuals to ensure equitable access to curriculum, assessment and learning.

<http://www.cast.org/udl/>

Why is UDL Important?

- Students come to learning with a variety of skills, interests and abilities
- Universal Design for Learning provides a “blueprint” for providing instruction and supports to all students
- It is not a single design, but multiple access points to all components of learning

<http://www.cast.org/udl/>

Why is UDL Important?

Three primary brain networks come into play with learning

- **Recognition Networks - The "what" of learning**
 - How we gather facts and categorize what we see, hear, and read
 - Present information and content in different ways
 - Multiple means of representation
- **Strategic Networks - The "how" of learning**
 - Planning and performing tasks. How we organize and express our ideas
 - Differentiate the ways that students can express what they know
- **Affective Networks - The "why" of learning**
 - How learners get engaged and stay motivated. How they are challenged, excited, or interested

• <http://www.cast.org/udl/> •

How can I implement Universal Design in Instruction and Planning?

- Apply UDL principals in all aspects of instruction
 - Delivery method
 - Physical space
 - Technology
 - Personal interactions
 - Assessments

• <http://www.washington.edu/doit/Brochures/Academics/instruction.html> •

How can I implement Universal Design in Instruction and Planning?

Delivery method

- Multiple formats for presentation of information (graphs, charts, technology enhanced, etc.)
- Integrate new learning with old learning

Physical space

Technology

- Use digital formats
- Written transcripts or notes for presentations
- Speech-to-text or text-to-speech

Personal interactions

- Engage students in learning
- Give students opportunity to provide multiple modes for expression

Assessments

- Use varied formats
- Provide varied modes for response

Universal Design for Assessments

- **Universal design**, when applied to assessments, provides all students with equal access to demonstrate what they know and can do

PARCC

- By implementing Universal Design principles, leveraging technology, and offering embedded supports, PARCC intends to provide “equal access for all students to demonstrate what they know and can do.”

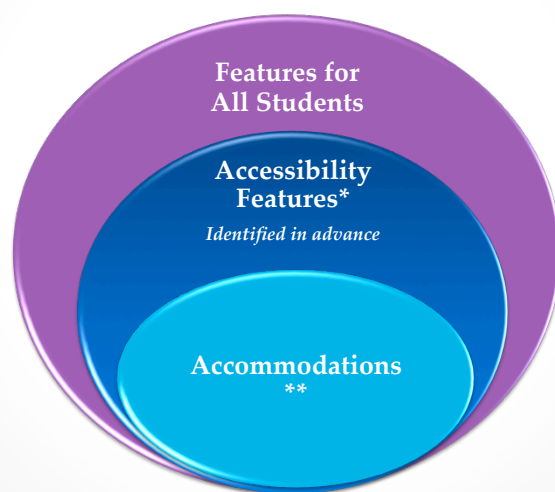
PARCC Goals for Student Access

- Apply principles of **Universal Design**
- Provide opportunity for students **to accurately demonstrate their knowledge and skills**
- Measure the **full range** of complexity of the standards
- Use technology for delivering assessment components
- Establish **Committees on Accessibility, Accommodations, and Fairness**

PARCC-Universal Design and Accommodations

- Assessment items
 - Are bias-free
 - Sensitive to diverse cultures
 - Written clearly
 - Linguistic complexity is appropriate
 - Consistently formatted
- May reduce need for accommodations, but does not eliminate accommodations


PARCC Accommodations Manual - Accessibility



Accessibility Features for All Students

- Are a tool, support, scaffold, or preference that is built into the assessment system that can be activated by any student, at his or her own discretion.
- Include Universal Design features that are expected to benefit a diverse array of students and are available to all students.
- Are provided onscreen, stored in a toolbar, or are accessible through a menu or control panel, as needed.
- Are available for students during the assessment to choose which accessibility features they need for specific items.
Examples include: audio amplification, highlighting, pop-up glossary, etc.

13

	Accessibility Features for All Students
Accessibility Features for All Students	
Audio Amplification	
Blank Paper <i>(provided by test administrator)</i>	
Eliminate Answer Choices	
Flag Items for Review	
General Administration Directions Clarified <i>(by test administrator)</i>	
General Administration Directions Read Aloud and Repeated <i>(by test administrator)</i>	
Highlight Tool	
Headphones	
Magnification/Enlargement Device	
NotePad – may not be available on field test	
Pop-Up Glossary	
Redirect Student to Test <i>(by test administrator)</i>	
Spell Checker – may not be available for Windows	
Writing Tools	

Accessibility Features Identified in Advance

- Available to all students (i.e., not limited to students with IEPs, 504 plans, or English learners), but will be selected and “turned on” by school-based educators prior to the assessment, based on each student’s Personal Needs Profile (PNP).
- Based on each student’s individual needs, a PNP (2014-2015) is created for the student to ensure that he or she receives appropriate access without the distraction of other tools and features that are *not* required by the student.
- Although school-based educators will enable specific accessibility features for students, the student will decide whether or not to use the feature. These accessibility features will be readily available on the computer-delivered testing platform.

15

Accessibility Features Identified in Advance

Accessibility Features Identified in Advance

Answer Masking - EOY

Background/Font Color (Color Contrast) – select grades for field test

General Masking – may not be available on field test

Line Reader Tool

Text-to-Speech for the Mathematics Assessments (4, 7, Algebra)

16

What did you learn?

- Using Universal Design for Learning provides multiple access points for student to learn the content desired.
- Who can benefit from the use of Universal Design for Learning?
- How can Universal Design be implemented during instruction and assessment?
- What are PARCC accessibility features which support Universal Design principles?

PARCC Sample Items

- The primary purpose of sharing samples of PARCC items is to provide information about the assessment system and support educators as they transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the PARCC tests.

<http://parcconline.org/>

The screenshot shows the PARCC website homepage. At the top, the URL <http://parcconline.org/> is displayed. The website header includes the PARCC logo, the tagline "Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers", a search bar, and a "Stay informed!" section with a "PARCC PLACE" button and a "CONTACT US" button. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, About PARCC, The PARCC Assessment, Implementation, For Educators, and PARCC States. The main content area features a large image of a smiling student. To the right of the image is a purple box titled "Next Generation Assessments" with text about PARCC's College- and Career-Ready Determination Policy. Below the image are three sections: "Take the PARCC Test", "PARCC Field Testing", and "PARCC Technology Guidance". A blue arrow points from the bottom left towards the "What's new" section on the right, which contains a list of news items and press releases.

PARCC Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Search

Stay informed! Keep up with what's happening at PARCC. Enter your email

PARCC PLACE CONTACT US NEWS

Home About PARCC The PARCC Assessment Implementation For Educators PARCC States

Next Generation Assessments

PARCC's College- and Career-Ready Determination Policy will send a signal to students about their readiness for college-level coursework while they still have time to address any gaps.

Take the PARCC Test
See how the PARCC assessment will work. Sample test questions are now available [online](#).
[Learn more](#)

PARCC Field Testing
See information here about the 2014 PARCC Field Test.
[Read more](#)

PARCC Technology Guidance
PARCC offers technology guidelines, school readiness planning, and guidelines for new hardware purchases.
[Read more](#)

What's new

NEWS ITEM
PARCC Governing Board Approves Data Privacy and Security Policy; Reviews Field Testing Plans
December 11, 2013 - The Governing Board of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for... >>

NEWS ITEM
Common Core will make schools, workforce stronger
Peggy Brookins, Director of the Engineering and Manufacturing Institute of Technology (E.M.I.T.)... >>

PRESS RELEASE
Maryland Takes on PARCC Fiscal Agent Role
Maryland Takes on PARCC Fiscal Agent Role; States Gear Up for Spring 2014 Field Test... >>

<http://parcconline.org/>

Sample items

This screenshot is identical to the one above, showing the PARCC website homepage. A blue arrow points from the bottom left towards the "Sample items" link, which is located above the "What's new" section.

PARCC Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Search

Stay informed! Keep up with what's happening at PARCC. Enter your email

PARCC PLACE CONTACT US NEWS

Home About PARCC The PARCC Assessment Implementation For Educators PARCC States

Next Generation Assessments

PARCC's College- and Career-Ready Determination Policy will send a signal to students about their readiness for college-level coursework while they still have time to address any gaps.

Take the PARCC Test
See how the PARCC assessment will work. Sample test questions are now available [online](#).
[Learn more](#)

PARCC Field Testing
See information here about the 2014 PARCC Field Test.
[Read more](#)

PARCC Technology Guidance
PARCC offers technology guidelines, school readiness planning, and guidelines for new hardware purchases.
[Read more](#)

What's new

NEWS ITEM
PARCC Governing Board Approves Data Privacy and Security Policy; Reviews Field Testing Plans
December 11, 2013 - The Governing Board of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for... >>

NEWS ITEM
Common Core will make schools, workforce stronger
Peggy Brookins, Director of the Engineering and Manufacturing Institute of Technology (E.M.I.T.)... >>

PRESS RELEASE
Maryland Takes on PARCC Fiscal Agent Role
Maryland Takes on PARCC Fiscal Agent Role; States Gear Up for Spring 2014 Field Test... >>

References

- <http://parcconline.org/>
- <http://www.cast.org/learningtools/index.html>
- <http://www.udlcenter.org/implementation/examples>

Questions?

- Suzanne Knowles
- Arkansas Department of Education
- Suzanne.knowles@arkansas.gov
- (501) 682-5161