



# Illinois State Board of Education

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## Talking Points

# PARCC ASSESSMENT RESULTS

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- **Score reports from the first administration of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment will become available later this fall.**
  - The PARCC Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) and the End-of-Year (EOY) exam will result in one overall score that will help teachers and educators gauge how well students are grasping appropriate grade-level material.
  - In future years, schools and parents will receive score reports close to the end of the school year in which testing took place.
- **The PARCC score reports will show how a student performed on each portion of the assessment as well as the student's overall score, which will fall within one of five performance levels.**
  - Students scoring a 4 or 5 have demonstrated that they have a thorough understanding of grade-level content and are on the right track to being ready for college-level coursework. Students receiving a 3 are approaching expectations, but may need additional assistance mastering content. Students receiving a 1 or 2 need more assistance in mastering the content and are in need of greater supports.
- **The PARCC assessment replaced the Illinois State Achievement Test (ISAT) and the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE). It is a much better, more accurate tool for educators, students, and parents as we work together to address the rigorous demands of preparing students for success in college and career.**
  - The new assessment asks students to demonstrate and apply their knowledge and skills in areas such as critical thinking, analytical writing, and problem solving instead of memorizing facts.
  - It replaces previous state tests and provides an academic checkup that helps teachers and parents know whether students are on track to be ready for college and career each step of the way.
- **The 2015 scores set a new baseline and should not be compared to previous state assessment scores.**
  - Lower-than-expected test scores do not necessarily mean that schools are performing worse or that students are learning less. It means that the tests have changed and are measuring different things—such as how well students are developing critical-thinking and problem-solving skills and whether they are on a path to success.

- A drop in proficiency scores does not reflect a drop in performance, but rather a raising of standards to reflect college and career readiness in the 21st century.
- **There are no consequences for schools or students for this year's scores. Once again, this is a baseline year. Therefore, the numbers will be used as a starting point in order to measure academic growth of students, schools, and districts to determine if students are college and career ready.**
- **Test results will be used to provide valuable feedback to teachers, parents, and schools/districts.**
  - These scores are one of many factors that provide teachers with the knowledge they need to better meet the needs of their students. Parents will have a better understanding of where their child may need extra assistance.
  - The new data will help districts to improve instruction, strategically support teachers, and assess school performance as compared with other schools across our state and country.
- **Assessment results can be used for the purpose of placement into college-level, credit-bearing courses in English language arts and some math classes as the PARCC exam shows readiness for college-level work.**
- **Our ultimate goal is to ensure that all students are set up to be successful in college and beyond by giving them the knowledge and skills they need to thrive. At least 20 percent of college students must take remedial courses; the PARCC assessment provides an opportunity to students throughout their K-12 journey to better prepare for the next step in their academic careers.**