

# Louisiana Believes

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**2014-2015 Spring Assessment Update  
Grades 3 to 8**

# Purpose and Agenda

## **Purpose of presentation**

- Update test administration details for 2014-2015 grade 3-8 tests
- Outline series of regular communications regarding spring 2015 tests

## **Agenda**

- The Basics: Content, Format, and Dates
- Supporting Students
  - Accessibility Features for All Students
  - Supports for Students with Disabilities
  - Supports for English Language Learners
- Moving Forward: Gradually Raising the Bar
- Preparing for the Test
- Next Steps

# Basics of ELA and Math Assessments

## Test Content

- Louisiana will administer PARCC for English language arts (ELA) and math in grades 3 to 8 in spring 2015.
- This will be the same test forms as those taken by students in districts and states across the country and will include the same questions field tested with nearly 50,000 Louisiana students during spring 2014.
- The test details were originally communicated in the assessment guides released last March. Minor improvements were made based on field test feedback.

## Test Dates and Times

- Phase 1 (Performance-Based Assessment): March 16 to 20
- Phase 2 (End-of-Year Assessment): May 4 to 8
- Students will take only one session (called “units”) per day.

## Updates

- *Paper administration only:* PARCC will be given only on paper for 2014-2015. Educators have urged the Department to take a patient approach to technology implementation, allowing dedicated focus on the test’s content for 2015. In 2016, Louisiana will implement technology-based tests.
- *One fewer EOY ELA passage with questions:* Louisiana and other states have shortened the ELA test by removing one passage per grade level.
- These changes are included in the [updated assessment guides](#).

# Supporting Students

## **Supports for students with disabilities** include but are not limited to:

- Read aloud, including the full math (same as LEAP) and English language arts exams (\*new\*)
- Extended time
  - Students must finish sessions (called “units”) within the same school day, but will only take one session per day.
- Calculators
  - Four function with square root and percentage for grades 3 to 7
  - Scientific for grade 8
  - *State contracts will allow districts to procure any needed calculators at reduced rates.*

## **Supports for English Language Learners:**

- Spanish translation of the math assessment (\*new\*)
- Directions in native language

## **Supports available to all students:**

- Read aloud for the math assessment
- Small group or individual testing
- Visual aids (e.g., color overlay, place markers)
- Magnification devices
- Auditory aids (e.g., noise buffers)

# Moving Forward: Raising the Bar

## **Spring 2015**

- Test administration occurs as normal, but results will not be released in May/June while testing is completed by all students across the country and while scoring is completed for year one.
- Districts make student promotion decisions locally, per BESE's transition policies and Department guidance.
- Educator evaluations completed, per BESE's transition policies and Department guidance.
  - NOTE: Transitional student growth data will not be available in grades 3 to 8 ELA and math, as the results will not yet be available.

## **Summer 2015**

- No summer retest available for grades 4 and 8 during year one.

## **Fall/Winter 2015**

- As with all first year assessments, including the LEAP, achievement levels and cut scores determined (e.g., what is the cut score for Basic?).
- Tests scored on five-point scale.
- Test results reported at student, school, district, and national levels.
- School data certified through District Accountability Coordinators.
- School Report Cards and School Performance Scores released, in line with BESE's transition policies.
- BESE determines timeline and method for raising the bar toward 2025 when an "A" school is one where the average score is Mastery, rather than Basic.

# Preparing for the Test: Communications

## Next Week

- *Webinar for District Test Coordinators* to discuss logistics in greater detail
  - Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am
  - <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
  - Audio access: **(800) 832-0736** / room number: **3423602**
- *Webinar for Special Education Directors, 504 Coordinators, and ELL Coordinators* to discuss accommodations and accessibility features in greater detail
  - Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm
  - <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
  - Audio access: **(800) 832-0736** / room number: **3423602**
- *Webinar for teachers and principals* to discuss assessment guides and resources
  - Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm
  - <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/ac/>
  - Audio access: **(800) 832-0736** / room number: **3423625**

## Ongoing Through Spring Administration

- District Planning Calls: Information on logistics, resources for educators and district planning related to assessment
- District Test Coordinator Monthly Webinars: Information on logistics, registration, accommodations, etc.
- District Newsletter: Weekly update on PARCC logistics, content and resources
- Ed Connect Newsletter: Ongoing resources and supports for teachers and principals

# Preparing for the Test: Resources

## Resources Available Now

- [Assessment guides](#) for state assessments in grades 3 through high school
- [Sample assessment questions](#) and [practice tests](#)
- [Eagle](#) now featuring printable versions of all guidebook tasks and soon to come search and test building features
- Curriculum guides in [math](#) and [ELA](#) that include end-of-year assessment-aligned practice questions
- [Ed Connect newsletters](#) and [Teacher Leaders newsletters](#) including new resources and sample tasks
- [PARCC Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) for use in informing accommodations and accessibility decision
- PARCC [parent website](#)

## Resources Forthcoming

- PARCC FAQ to answer all basic questions regarding logistics, content and resources
- Quick user guide to explain how PARCC accommodations are the same and different from past Louisiana administrative rules
- Statewide contracts to purchase calculators, as needed
- Additional paper-based practice test from PARCC, as well as resources on how to use practice tests in classrooms and with parents
- Additional sample items through Eagle

# Next Steps

## **Next Steps**

1. Ensure appropriate staff participate in upcoming webinars for district test coordinators, special education administrators, teachers and principals
2. Ensure students have up-to-date IEP, IAP and LEP plans
3. Ensure educators are using available resources to support transition
4. Review and share weekly PARCC updates from district newsletter