



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

Gery J. Chico  
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

## PARCC Testing Windows

We are committed to sharing information about PARCC as soon as it is available. This memo contains information about the **PARCC testing windows for 2014-15**.

**The Illinois PARCC Testing Windows for 2014-2015 will be:**

### REGULAR ADMINISTRATION

School/District START DATE	Spring Regular Administration of Computer-Based Testing	
	*Paper/Pencil administration should occur during the first two weeks of each designated testing window	
On or before Sept. 1	PBA	March 9, 2015 to April 3, 2015
After Sept. 1		March 16, 2015 to April 10, 2015
On or before Sept. 1	EOY	April 27, 2015 to May 22, 2015
After Sept. 1		May 4, 2015 to May 29, 2015

### BLOCKED SCHEDULE COURSES #

Fall/Winter Block Administration of Computer-Based Testing	
*Paper/Pencil administration should occur during the first two weeks of each designated testing window	
PBA	November 3, 2014-November 21, 2014
EOC	December 1, 2014-December 19, 2014
Spring Block Administration of Computer-Based Testing	
*Paper/Pencil administration should occur during the first two weeks of each designated testing window	
PBA	April 13, 2015-May 1, 2015
EOC	May 4, 2015- May 22, 2015

#Waivers may be requested to adjust the PBA and EOC testing windows to accommodate blocked schedules that extend into January and June (ex. Fall Semester 8/21-1/24 and Spring Semester 1/25-6/6)

### Notes and definitions:

- At all grades, 3-11, there is a Performance-Based Assessment component and an End-of-Year or End-of-Course component. (It is called an End-of-Year component in grades 3-8 and an End-of-Course component in high school grades.)
- The **Performance-Based Assessment** (PBA) component will include 3 parts for English language arts/literacy and 2 parts for Math. All content that needs to be hand scored will be on the Performance-Based Assessment component.
- The **End-of-Year** (EOY) or **End-of-Course** (EOC) component will include 2 parts for English language arts/literacy and 2 parts for Math. All content on the End-of-Year / End-of-Course assessment is designed to be machine-scorable.
- As has been previously announced, the length of the testing window for both the PBA and the EOY/EOC is a maximum of 4 weeks. This is designed to allow schools to set up a schedule where students can take each test part on a cycle with the minimum device count previously announced.
- The length of the testing windows for schools/districts administering the paper-and-pencil test is a maximum of 2 weeks. These will be the first 2 weeks of the computer-based test window.
- Not all students will necessarily take each test part at the same time.

### How to set up a schedule within the testing window:

- This information is being released to allow schools to set school calendars for the year.
- However, this is not sufficient information to design a test schedule during the testing window.
- There are two critical pieces of information that are needed to be able to set up a schedule within the testing window:
  - **Length of time of each test part:** this information will be available after the field test this spring.
  - **When each test part will be available during the window:** Every test part will not necessarily be available on every day within the testing window. (For example, the Research Simulation Task may be available in all grades on Mondays and Thursdays but not available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.) PARCC will determine the number and availability of test parts by balancing security of items and flexibility for scheduling with a fixed number of items. This information will be available **after the field test** and we will provide sample schedules at that time.
- **Districts should not attempt to create a schedule for testing during the testing window until this information is available after the field test.**

### Notes on Block Schedule:

- PARCC is being designed to fairly assess students on both block and traditional schedules.
- The testing windows for PARCC should not affect decision-making about block scheduling at the high school level.
- Scheduling is a local decision and should be viewed, first and foremost, instructionally.
- In order to meet appropriate instructional time for block schedules the testing windows will be three weeks for both fall and spring.

For more information on the PARCC test and its structure, visit <http://www.parcconline.org/>.