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October 21, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Jeffrey B. Hauger, Director
Office of Assessments
Division of Data, Research, Evaluation and Reporting

SUBJECT: Clarification Document Regarding Partnership for Assessments of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) End-of-Course Mathematics and English Language Arts Assessments

Over the past few weeks, the Office of Assessments have received many inquiries regarding the policies associated with the Partnership for Assessments of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) end-of-course mathematics and English language arts assessments. We have been compiling the list of questions and created a clarification document to answer many of the frequently asked questions districts have regarding the PARCC assessments. Attached is the clarification document. If you have any questions or concerns regarding PARCC assessment, please feel free to contact Veronica Orsi, PARCC high school coordinator, at 609-292-8739 or veronica.orsi@doe.state.nj.us; Timothy Steele-Dadzie, PARCC middle school coordinator, at 609-777-2087 or timothy.steele-dadzie@doe.state.nj.us, in the Office of Assessments.

JBH/memo:math/elaclarificationdocument
Attachment

c: Members, State Board of Education
Acting Commissioner David C. Hesper
Senior Staff
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
Executive County Business Official
County Test Coordinators
District Test Coordinators
Bilingual/ESL Coordinators
Directors of Approved Private Schools for the Disabled
Directors of College-Operated Programs
Directors of a State Facility
NJ LEE Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools

2014-15 Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Clarification Document

I. Graduating Cohort of 2015

All high school students who wish to graduate at the end of the 2014-15 school year, including accelerated students and newly enrolled students, are required to pass the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) or the Alternate High School Assessment (AHSA).

The final HSPA administrations are October 7-9, 2014 (regular administration); October 14-16, 2014 (make-up administration), March 3-5, 2015 (regular administration), and March 10-12, 2015 (make-up administration). The final 2015 AHSA administrations are January 12 through February 6, 2015; March 23 through April 17, 2015 and June 15 through June 26, 2015.

II. High School Schedules for 2015 PARCC Performance-Based Assessment Component

The default high school schedule for the PARCC performance-based assessments (PBA) in 2015 is March 2, 2015 through March 27, 2015. High schools with a large number of HSPA testers may wish to select February 20, 2015 through April 2, 2015 (Option #2) which includes a ten day suspension of PARCC testing from March 2, 2015 through March 16, 2015 to accommodate HSPA testing. High schools that choose Option #2 must notify the Office of Assessments in writing no later than January 30, 2015. Send your notification to veronica.orsi@doe.state.nj.us copying your executive county superintendent and county education specialist.

Only high schools may choose Option #2 for the PARCC performance-based assessment (PBA). All grade three through grade eight students must be tested during the March 2, 2015 through March 27, 2015 window. This includes students attending middle schools housed in buildings shared with high schools, and middle school students enrolled in Algebra I or Geometry who are taking the PARCC Algebra I or Geometry assessment instead of the grade seven or grade eight mathematics assessments.

III. High School Students NOT Participating in 2014-15 PARCC Assessments

All students who belong to a HSPA cohort will NOT take a PARCC assessment regardless of course enrollment during the 2014-15 school year.

The final HSPA cohort includes students who were first-time eleventh-grade students in the 2013-14 school year, newly enrolled and continuing students who are **retained**-eleventh graders, twelfth graders, retained-twelfth graders, adult high school students, and returning students

(students who have met all graduation requirements except passing the HSPA who are no longer enrolled in school but are “returning” to take the HSPA only), and any other student expected to be on target to graduate with the class of 2015.

IV. High School Students Required to Take the 2014-15 PARCC Mathematics Assessments

Ninth-grade students, tenth-grade students, and eleventh-grade students enrolled in course covering the content of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II must take the appropriate PARCC assessment. If high school students at these grade levels are not enrolled in a course that corresponds to the content of PARCC "end-of-course assessment" in mathematics they do not take a PARCC end-of-course mathematics assessment.

V. Other Considerations for Mathematics End-of-Course PARCC Assessments

- a. **Students Enrolled in Multiple Mathematics Courses:** If students are enrolled in multiple mathematics courses during the regular school year (i.e. Algebra I and Geometry or Geometry and Algebra II), they will take only one PARCC mathematics assessment, either Algebra I or Algebra II.
- b. **Two-Year High School Mathematics Courses:** High school students enrolled in a two-year Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II course must take the PARCC assessment associated with that course in the second year of the course; they will not take the PARCC assessment during the first year of the two-year course.
- c. **Two-Year Middle School Mathematics Courses:** Middle school students enrolled in a two-year Algebra I course or a two-year Geometry course must take their grade level mathematics PARCC assessment in the first year of the course (i.e. grade seven or grade eight mathematics) AND then the PARCC end-of-course assessment associated with that course in the second year of the course (i.e. Algebra I or Geometry).
- d. **High School Students in Integrated Mathematics Courses:** High school students enrolled in an ‘integrated’ mathematics course that includes Algebra or Geometry content AND serves as a prerequisite for an Algebra I or Geometry course, do not take the PARCC Algebra I or Geometry assessment while enrolled in the prerequisite course. Rather, they must wait until they are enrolled in an Algebra I or Geometry course to take the specified PARCC assessment. However, high school students enrolled in an integrated mathematics course that includes Algebra I, Geometry, and/or Algebra II AND serves an alternative course sequence (i.e., a traditional Integrated math sequence), must take the PARCC assessment when the district determines the appropriate content has been covered.

- e. Middle School Students Enrolled in Algebra I or Geometry: Middle School students enrolled in an Algebra I or Geometry course should take the respective PARCC end-of-course Algebra I or Geometry assessment in lieu of the grade seven or grade eight mathematics assessment under any circumstances.
- f. Spanish Versions of PARCC Grades Three through Eight Mathematics and End-of-Course Mathematics Assessments: Spanish versions of the PARCC Mathematics Assessments are available for grades three through grade eight and for end-of-course PARCC assessments in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II (All English Language Arts (ELA) assessments will be available in English only).

VI. Other Considerations for English Language Arts Assessments (ELA) PARCC Assessments

- a. All ninth-grade students, tenth-grade students, and eleventh-grade students must take a PARCC ELA assessment. This also includes:
 - Students enrolled in English as a Second Language beginner, intermediate, and advanced level courses
 - Students participating in the International Baccalaureate Program enrolled in IB Literature courses
 - Students enrolled in an Advanced Placement English Language and Composition or Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course.
- b. Ninth-grade, tenth-grade, and eleventh-grade students enrolled in multiple English Language Arts courses, including but not limited to the courses listed above, will take only one PARCC ELA assessment. The district or school will make the decision of which ELA assessment to administer the student.

VII. No Changes to the English Language Arts Assessment Exemption Policy for Newly Arrived English Language Learners (ELL)

Only ELL elementary and middle school students in grade three through grade eight, who entered the United States after July 1, 2014 of the calendar year prior to the PARCC test administration, may be exempted from taking the ELA components of the grade three through grade eight PARCC assessments. Newly arrived ELL high school students must participate in the PARCC ELA assessments with the appropriate ELL accommodations provided.