PARCC Accommodations and Accessibility

January 2015
What Topics are Addressed

★ PARCC Accessibility Policies – Background
★ What’s Different from MCAS?
★ PARCC Accessibility Features for All Students
★ PARCC Accommodations for
  ● Students with Disabilities
  ● ELLs
PARCC Policies

★ All PARCC member states agreed to align their accessibility and accommodations policies.

★ Member states agreed to
  ★ expand accessibility and adopt principles of Universal Design
  ★ adopt use of MA “nonstandard accommodations” (calculator and ELA read-aloud for certain students)
  ★ allow use of assistive and other technologies, where possible
  ★ collect data on supports used by each student in a Personal Needs Profile (PNP)

★ MA participated actively in many PARCC working groups, including Accessibility, Accommodations, and Fairness.
PARCC Accessibility

Many accommodations on MCAS are built into computer-based PARCC tests and are available to all students as Accessibility Features.

- Use of keyboard, audio amplification, onscreen color contrast, highlighter, screen magnification, text-to-speech (Math), use of blank paper, redirect student to test, repeat/clarify instructions

- Paper-based accessibility features are also available, where applicable.

Test Administration Procedures are available to any student, at the discretion of the principal:

- Frequent breaks, small group, one-to-one, separate setting, specified area or seating, adaptive/specialized equipment, furniture, or lighting
PARCC Accommodations

Accommodations are available only to students with disabilities and English learners.

★ PARCC accommodations for students with disabilities include:

- Extended time, paper-based test, scribe, typed response, Braille, ASL, large print, ELA text-to-speech, assistive technology (e.g., speech-to-text, word prediction)
- “Special access” (i.e., nonstandard) accommodations under same conditions as MCAS (ELA read-aloud; calculator on all Math sessions)

★ PARCC accommodations for ELLs include:

- Extended time, scribe for Math, word-to-word bilingual dictionary (also for former ELLs), repeat/clarify directions in English or native language
PARCC Accommodations Do Not Include...

★ Untimed testing for all students
  ● “Extended time” is available only for students with disabilities and ELLs. Student may complete a test session ("unit") in up to one school day.

Note: Extended time may be offered to students with disabilities without amending IEPs this year only, and must be added to IEPs prior to 2016 during regularly-scheduled team meetings.

★ ELA graphic organizers and individualized Math reference sheets
  ● Students will be given generic math reference sheets in grades 5 and higher, and blank paper.

★ Translations of tests, except for Spanish Mathematics tests in grades 9 and 11.
Student Registration File

- In December, districts updated a list of students to-be-tested on the Spring **Performance-Based Assessment** (PBA).
  - Department pre-loaded the names/demographics of students in grades 3-8, based on Oct. SIMS.

- The file also contained pre-loaded information, where available, on these accommodations for grades 4-8 and 9/11:
  - Human reader or human signer (for paper-based test)
  - Large print test (paper-based)
  - Braille test

Districts also confirmed whether students needed a paper-, rather than computer-based test as an accommodation.

*(Note: No accommodations information pre-loaded for students in grade 3)*

- Information on other selected supports is collected in the PNP.

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Personal Needs Profile (PNP)

★ **What is it?** A data file indicating testing supports for individual students.
  - Information is collected only on some accommodations, accessibility features, and test administration procedures.

★ **Why is the PNP needed?**
  - **States** need to collect data on which students used which supports.
  - **Test contractor** needs information to provide appropriate versions of computer-based tests to schools (e.g., speech-to-text, color contrast)

★ **Who requires a PNP?** Any student who will receive any accommodation, accessibility feature, or test administration consideration listed in the PNP. 

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
PNP Upload Process

★ *When will schools update their PNP files?* In January and February, after uploading Student Registration.

- Districts should be collecting information on supports needed by students with disabilities, ELLs, and non-disabled students.

★ PNP file include pre-loaded names of pre-registered students and their *accommodations information from spring 2014 MCAS*, if any.

- **Exception:** No accommodations data will be pre-loaded for students in grade 3.

★ Schools **verify** pre-loaded information, **adding new student information**, as needed.
PNP File Layout

★ **PNP file layout** includes selected:
  - Accommodations for students with disabilities
  - Accommodations for English language learners
  - Accessibility features for any student
  - Administration considerations for any student

★ PNP can be completed for one student at a time, or uploaded for multiple students in a CSV (Excel) file.

★ Refer to **PNP Field Definitions** for clarification when updating PNP (See “Online Resources” for link).
# PNP Field Definitions (Sample)

## U
- **Color Contrast**
  - CBT
  - PBT
  - ELA/L Math

## N
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**For Computer-based Testing:**
The interface launches a pre-selected alternate color combination for the text (foreground) and background colors.

This is available to **ALL** students testing computer-based and is available on all test forms.

If expected value equals “black-cream”, “black-lblue”, “black-lmagenta”, “white-black”, “lblue-dblue”, or “gray-green”; then the student must have Test Format populated with "O" in the student registration record or record will error.

**For Paper-based Testing:**
Colored overlays for background color. Font color cannot be changed.

- **black-cream** = black font on cream background
- **black-lblue** = black font on light blue background
- **black-lmagenta** = black font on light magenta background
- **white-black** = white font on black background
- **lblue-dblue** = light blue font on dark blue background
- **gray-green** = Gray font on green background (low color contrast option)
- **ColorOverlay** = locally provided color overlay for the student to place over their paper test
- **Blank**

## V
- **Text-to-Speech for Mathematics**
  - CBT
  - Math

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Used to assign the form administered for computer-based testing.

Test content will be read aloud to the student via Text-to-Speech embedded within TestNav8.
Online Resources

- **MA Overview of PARCC Accommodations and Accessibility** at [www.doe.mass.edu/parcc/participation/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/parcc/participation/)
- **Generic PARCC Math Reference Sheets** for students in grades 5–8 at [www.parcconline.org/assessment-administration-guidance](http://www.parcconline.org/assessment-administration-guidance)
- **Field Definitions (PNP/Student Registration)** at [trng.pearsonaccessnext.com/customer/index.action](http://trng.pearsonaccessnext.com/customer/index.action), under “Support,” then “Documentation”
- **Training modules** at [https://parcc.tms.pearson.com/](https://parcc.tms.pearson.com/)
- **Test preparation** (sample items, tutorials) at [parcc.pearson.com/](http://parcc.pearson.com/)
- **General PARCC Inquiries** at [parcc@doe.mass.edu](mailto:parcc@doe.mass.edu)