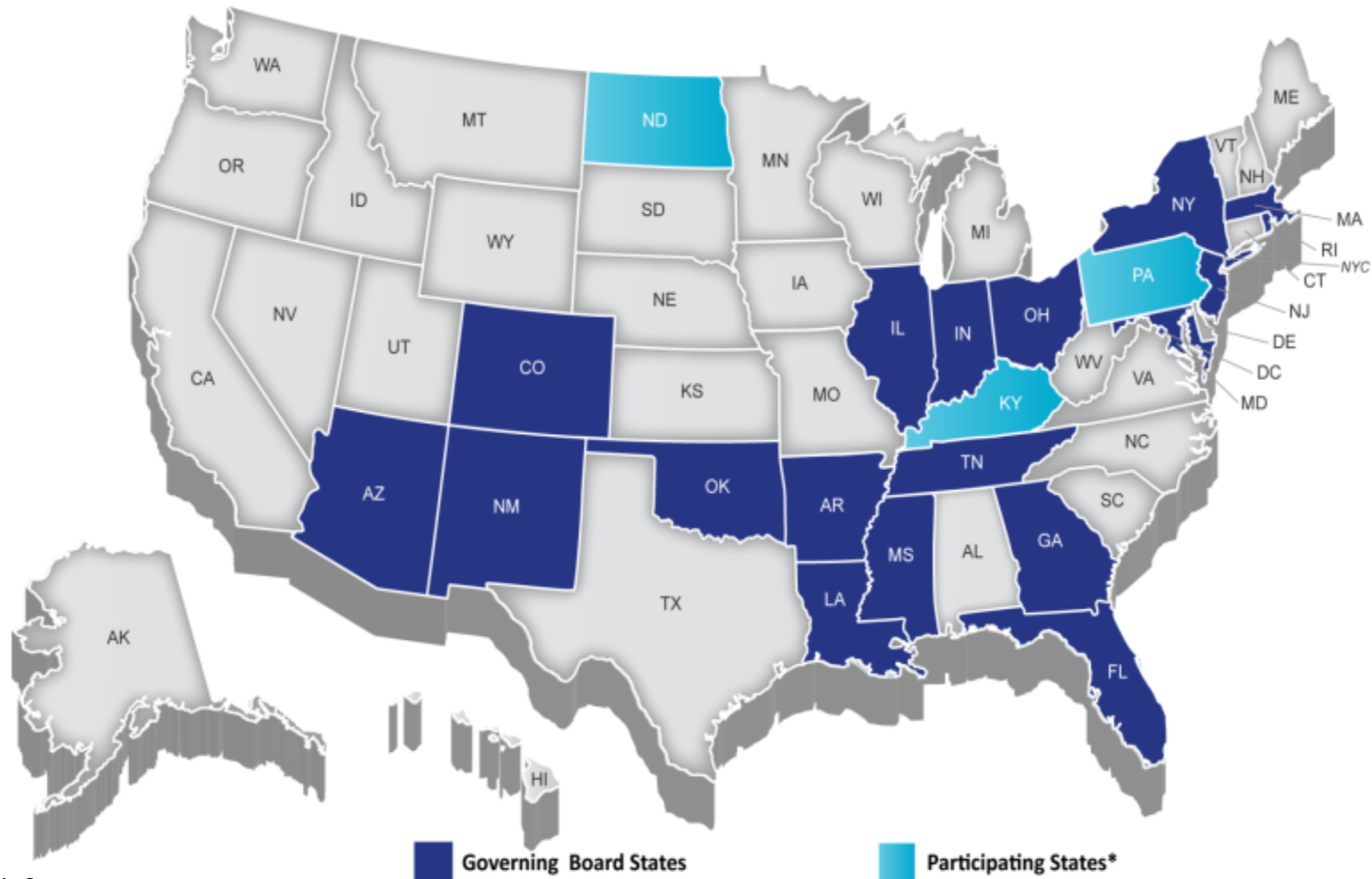




Assessment in the Era of the Common Core: Addressing what teachers want to know

What is the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)?





PARCC Assessment Priorities

1. Determine whether students are college- and career-ready or on track
2. Compare performance across states and internationally
3. Assess the full range of the Common Core Standards, including standards that are difficult to measure
4. Measure the full range of student performance, including the performance of high and low performing students
5. Provide data during the academic year to inform instruction, interventions and professional development
6. Provide data for accountability, including measures of growth
7. Incorporate innovative approaches throughout the system

English Language Arts/Literacy Grades 3-11

END
OF YEAR



PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of
Readiness for College and Careers



What do the assessments look like?



5 Stephanie Straw
IRA2013-IN19



ELA/Literacy Performance-Based Assessment

Research Simulation Task

- A research question is posed, with students told they will gather information to answer this research question
- Students read a non-fiction text , answer questions to help gather information from the text to solve the research problem.
- Students read one or two additional nonfiction texts, answer questions to help gather additional information to solve the research problem posed, and then write an analytical essay to present their solution to the research question posed.

Literary Analysis Task

- Students read two literary texts, answer questions that demonstrate the ability to do both close analytic reading and comparison and synthesis of ideas. Students write a literary analysis of both texts.

Narrative Writing Task

- Students read one text and answer a few questions to help clarify understandings of the text(s).
- Students write either a narrative story or a narrative description. (Critical element for the writing prompt is that it elicits student demonstration of ability to write sequences well).



Three Types of Items for ELA/Literacy

- **Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR)** – These items are used to measure reading comprehension. They appear on both the performance-based assessment and the end of year assessment.
- **Technology- Enhanced Constructed Response (TECR)** -These items are used to measure reading comprehension. They appear on both the performance-based assessment and the end of year assessment.
- **Prose Constructed Response (PCR)** – There are three of these item on each annual performance-based assessment. They measure reading comprehension, written expression, knowledge and use of language and conventions.



Sample EBSR for 10th grade

SAMPLE ITEM

Part A

Which of the following sentences best states an important theme about human behavior as described in Ovid's "Daedalus and Icarus"?

- ☐ a. Striving to achieve one's dreams is a worthwhile endeavor.
- ☐ b. The thoughtlessness of youth can have tragic results.
- ☐ c. Imagination and creativity bring their own rewards
- ☐ d. Everyone should learn from his or her mistakes.

Part B

Select three pieces of evidence from Ovid's "Daedalus and Icarus" that support the answer to Part A.

- ☐ a. "and by his playfulness retard the work/his anxious father planned" (lines 310-311)
- ☐ b. "But when at last/the father finished it, he poised himself" (lines 312-313).
- ☐ c. "he fitted on his son the plumed wings/ with trembling hands, while down his withered cheeks/the tears were falling" (lines 327-329).
- ☐ d. "Proud of his success/the foolish Icarus forsook his guide" (lines 348-349)."
- ☐ e. "and, bold in vanity, began to soar/rising "
- ☐ f. "and as the years went by the gifted youth/began to rival his instructor's art "
- ☐ g. "Wherefore Daedalus/enraged and envious, sought to slay the youth "
- ☐ h. "The Partridge hides/in shaded places by the leafy trees...for it is mindful of its former fall "

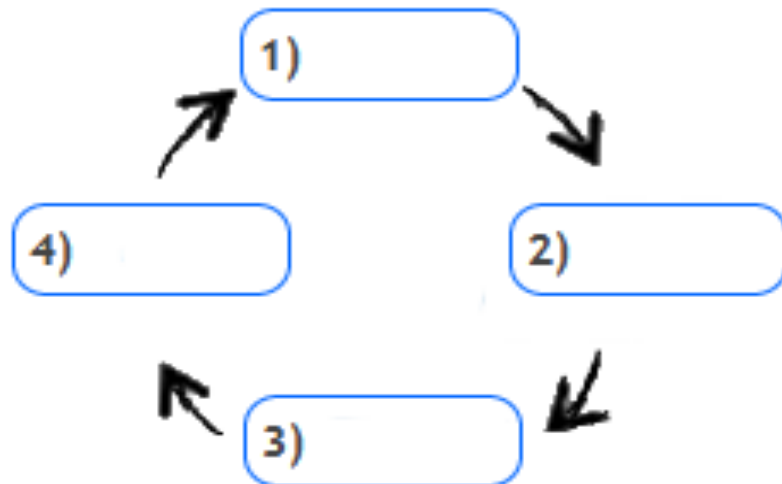
Sample TECR for 3rd grade

SAMPLE ITEM

Drag the words from the word box into the correct locations on the graphic to show the life cycle of a butterfly as described in "How Animals Live."

Words:

Egg
Adult
Pupa
Larva



[Reset](#)



Sample PCR for 10th grade

Use what you have learned from reading “Daedalus and Icarus” by Ovid and “To a Friend Whose Work Has Come to Triumph” by Anne Sexton to write an essay that provides an analysis of how Sexton transforms Daedalus and Icarus.

As a starting point, you may want to consider what is emphasized, absent, or different in the two texts, but feel free to develop your own focus for analysis.

Develop your essay by providing textual evidence from both texts. Be sure to follow the conventions of standard English.



“Test prep has, in the past, killed creativity in the classroom for teacher and student—what does test prep look like for these assessments?”

- The best preparation for the PARCC assessments is the teaching of the CCSS.
- Drill and kill exercises will not prepare students to be College and Career Ready, and the assessments are not designed to encourage such exercises.
- In measuring reading through assessments that ask for students to connect inferences, conclusions, and generalizations with textual evidence, PARCC encourages close reading.
- Inclusion of paired passages and performance-based tasks indicates the value of students comparing and synthesizing ideas from across texts.



“Test prep has, in the past, killed creativity in the classroom for teacher and student—what does test prep look like for these assessments?”

- Reading passage sets and tasks ask questions that beg to be asked with 100% permissioned, authentic high quality texts signals the importance of reading texts worthy of study.
- On the assessment, the student is provided with a strong and clear purpose for reading and writing about texts—not merely to answer a series of unrelated questions. So, preparing for these assessments means students engage in thoughtful, careful reading of compelling texts, in discussing, and writing about them as critical thinkers.



“What about our struggling readers and our ELL students?” “Are these new assessments going to be fair to those students?”

- PARCC had the luxury of beginning state assessment practices anew. As such, rather than retrofitting to make the assessments accessible after design and development, PARCC could begin with the principle that the assessments must be designed to be widely accessible and fair for all students.
- PARCC’s operational working group and technical working groups for Accessibility, Accountability, and Fairness review every policy, every contract proposal, and every design decision to ensure PARCC keeps the needs of all students in mind.
- PARCC is using UDL principles and embedded supports as a primary means to help make these assessments accessible.



Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

www.parcconline.org