



Crete-Monee School District 201U Common Core State Standards Frequently Asked Questions April 2013

How will the Common Core State Standards be assessed?

Illinois is one of 22 states that is part of a common core assessment consortium called Partnership for Readiness of College and Career or PARCC (pronounced park). The PARCC assessment is scheduled for the 2014-2015 school year. Students will be tested at the 75% mark of the school year (March) and at the 90% mark of the school year (May). The combination of the two scores will determine student proficiency with the Common Core State Standards.

What will the PARCC Assessment test?

The PARCC Assessment will test both English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math, and the assessments will be done on a computer.

ELA

In March, the students will be asked to complete three tasks: a research paper, an analysis of literature, and a narrative piece of writing. For each task, students will be asked to read one or more paired texts, answer multiple choice comprehension and vocabulary questions, and write an essay that requires them to draw evidence from the text(s). The May test will include 4-5 texts that include both literary and informational texts. A number of multiple choice comprehension and vocabulary questions will also be associated with each text. At grades 6-11, both the March and May tests will include social science/historical, scientific, and technical texts.

Math

In March, students will be asked to complete both multiple choice and extended-response questions focused on conceptual knowledge and skills, and the mathematical practices of reasoning and modeling. In May, the assessments will be comprised primarily of multiple choice questions focused on conceptual knowledge, skills, and understandings.

More information on the PARCC Assessment questions can be found at:

<http://www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes>

How is Illinois preparing schools and students for the transition to PARCC?

Over the last two years, ISBE has included pilot questions on the ISAT. For 2013, 20% of ISAT content addressed the Common Core State Standards. For 2014, that percentage will increase significantly.

A **MAJOR CHANGE** for 2013 is that Illinois raised the cut scores for the 2013 ISAT. The effect of raised cut scores is that more students will not achieve proficiency in meeting state standards on the annual state assessment. This will result in lower reported scores for schools and students across Illinois including all Crete-Monee schools that test students in grades 3-8. As a courtesy, ISBE reconfigured 2012 scores to show districts the impact of raised cut scores. Generally, Crete-Monee showed a 20%-40% decrease in the percentage of students meeting standards. This aligns with the experience Kentucky had in 2012. Kentucky was the first state to adopt the Common Core State Standards and give a new common core aligned assessment. Scores in Kentucky dropped roughly a third or more in both elementary and middle school.

Why were the cut scores raised?

Historically, scores for 11th graders on the PSAT have been significantly lower than scores for 3rd-8th grade students on ISAT. The reason is that PSAT contains the ACT test which is designed to assess student readiness for college and career. The current ISAT was not designed as an indicator of college and career readiness. Raising the cut scores is one way to raise expectations for student learning to meet the demands of college and career readiness which is the foundation of the new Common Core State Standards and the PARCC Assessment.

More information on raised ISAT cut scores can be found at:

<http://isbe.net/assessment/cut-scores/isat13-parent-faq.pdf>www.isbe.net/