The PARCC Difference: A Better Measure of What Students Should Know to Succeed at Each Grade Level

In language arts, tests mainly asked for multiple-choice answers, so students did not do much writing to express ideas. Instead, they identified words without using them in context.

In math, students generally memorized procedures or formulas—but did not learn the reasons behind key mathematical concepts. Our tests generally asked students to memorize information, not explain it.

NOW

In language arts, students must read, analyze, and explain the meaning of what they read. PARCC measures writing at every grade, and helps students build vocabulary.

In math, PARCC asks students to “reason” in mathematical terms—to use math concepts to solve real-world problems, and show how they got the answer.

"Parent engagement is the best resource for student success in school. Maryland PTA is proud to collaborate with the Maryland State Department of Education and others to help parents understand test results."

— Elizabeth Ysla Leight, President, Maryland PTA