



Westerly Public Schools
23 Highland Avenue
Westerly, RI 02891
T: 401-348-2700
F: 401-348-2707
TT/VOICE: 800-RI-55555
www.westerly.k12.ri.us

Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent

Alicia J. Storey
Assistant Superintendent

Deb Bridgham
Director of Finance

Carol Brown
Interim Director of Pupil Personnel

**Westerly Public Schools
School Committee Goals:**

Support excellence in student
performance.

Recruit, retain, and develop
high quality staff.

Fully engage parents and
community.

Develop and implement
comprehensive financial
strategy.

Improve and maintain
Westerly School Facilities.

Our mission is to create an inspiring, challenging, and supportive environment where students are encouraged and assisted in reaching their highest potential.

March 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian:

March begins the state testing cycle in PARCC for Rhode Island students. Students in grades 3-10 will take PARCC assessments in ELA. Students in grades 3-8 will be assessed in grade-level mathematics, students enrolled in Algebra 1 or Geometry will take assessments in those subjects including 8th grade students enrolled in Algebra 1. Each PARCC test has a Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and an End of Year Assessment (EOY); these tests will be administered in March and May, respectively.

State testing in Rhode Island for ELA and Math has changed in response to the adoption in 2010 of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). In order to bring assessment in-line with the new standards, Rhode Island partnered with 11 other states and Washington, D.C. to develop the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC's goal is to dramatically increase the number of students graduating from high school college-and-career-ready by creating a next generation assessment system to help meet that goal. PARCC is internationally benchmarked and anchored in what it takes to be college-and-career-ready; scoring "proficient" on the assessments will mean students are on track for the next steps in their education, including postsecondary education and training after high school.

Below are some questions and answers about PARCC testing:

When will my child be tested? PARCC PBA testing will take place between March 16-April 13; PARCC EOY tests will be administered between May 4-June 1.

How long will the tests last? Estimated times vary by test. Depending on the test, most students finish within 40-60 minutes; however, students have up to 60-90 minutes, respectively, to finish if necessary.

Who will administer the test? Classroom teachers administer the test unless the accommodations of a child's IEP require a setting with a special educator.

What is the test like? Practice tests are available at www.parcconline.org/take-the-test.

How can I help my child? As always, it is critical for your child to arrive at school on time. A good night's rest and breakfast are critical every day for maximum performance. Students who are absent or arrive late to school will be required to make up the test. The state requires us to administer the test to every child in grades 3-10.

When will test results be received? Test results will not be received until the fall of 2015 at the earliest. Although the results are used to rank our schools, the results of this test serve as only one indicator of your child's academic performance. The results are a snapshot and will be combined with other data for us to get a complete picture of your child as a learner. The proficiency rates your child or school achieves this year on PARCC assessments will set a new baseline or starting point. Going forward, we can use these baselines to see whether our students, our schools, and our state as a whole are making progress.

If you have any PARCC questions, please contact me at 315-1517 or astorey@westerly.k12.ri.us.

Sincerely,

Alicia Storey
Assistant Superintendent of Schools