

Appendix 5: New Measure for Academic Proficiency – Partnership for Assessment Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

The Partnership for Assessment Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is an annual assessment that uses a series of tests to gauge how students in grades 3-11 are faring in math and English Language Arts (ELA). These tests provide parents with information about their children's academic progress, help educators identify and address the specific learning needs of their students, and give schools and districts a more accurate assessment of their overall progress and of different at-risk populations that might need additional support.

PARCC replaced the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (SBA) test in 2015 to better align with the Common Core State Standards, which were adopted back in 2010. PARCC also sets up more rigorous expectations, focuses more intently on 21st Century skills including problem solving and critical thinking, and provides a more interactive format.

The five PARCC performance levels are:

- Level 1 (Did Not Meet Expectations)
- Level 2 (Partially Met Expectations)
- Level 3 (Approached Expectations)
- Level 4 (Met Expectations)
- Level 5 (Exceeded Expectations)

Students testing at levels 4 or 5 are deemed ready for the next grade level and are on track for college and career.

Comparisons between SBA and PARCC scores are difficult because the expectations are higher for PARCC and the scoring brackets are different. Since the Level 4 'Met Expectations' on PARCC requires a stronger performance than the 'Proficient' level on SBA, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NM PED) is currently recognizing Level 3 and above as meeting requirements for high school graduation. For the new 2015 PARCC data highlighted on "Academic Proficiency – Changing Measures" page content, we included Level 3 in the charts to better inform the discussion on needed next steps.

Some families and education stakeholders are making the case that too much time is devoted to testing. NM PED highlights that these types of tests are required by both state and federal law and that PARCC reduced the testing time by 2.5 hours across all grades. Locally, the Santa Fe Public School district reported that for the 2015 school year, 60 families decided to opt their children out of PARCC, out of 8,000 students eligible to take the tests.

Nationally, New Mexico is part of the PARCC consortium which includes 10 other states: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, and Rhode Island. Aggregated data from all of the participating states will help New Mexico compare its progress with that of other states in the nation.

For more information on PARCC, New Mexico PARCC results, and a score report integration guide, please visit:

http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/PARCC_info.html

Appendix 6: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS)

The New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) is a tool used to assess the health-related risk behaviors and resiliency factors of youth across the state of New Mexico. The survey is offered every odd-numbered years to a selection of middle and high school students in all school districts in the state.

The survey is both voluntary and confidential and gauges:

“**RISK BEHAVIORS** related to alcohol and drug use, unintentional injury, violence, suicidal ideation and attempts, tobacco use, sexual activity, physical activity, and nutrition;

“**RESILIENCY (PROTECTIVE) FACTORS** such as relationships in the family, school, community, and with peers; and

“**HEALTH STATUS ISSUES** such as body weight and asthma.”

<http://www.youthrisk.org/>

The SFB2C K-12 Success and Youth Resiliency score card uses the percentage of students reporting caring adult and peer relationships as an indicator. For these survey questions, students have the option to respond with ‘Very Much True’, ‘A Little or Pretty Much True’, or ‘Not True At All’ to report on the presence of caring adult and peer relationships which act as protective factors. These factor are important to track because they make youth more resilient and help them buffer a variety of risks.

The New Mexico YRRS is part of the national Center for Disease Center and Prevention (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) where data is aggregated across all states to monitor overall trends in youth risk and resiliency.

The CDC highlights that their YRBSS survey and surveillance system are designed to:

- Assess the prevalence of health risk behaviors;
- Look at increases or decreases in health risk behaviors over time;
- Determine when health risk behaviors co-occur;
- Share comparable national, state, territorial, tribal, and local data;
- Disaggregate data among specific youth subpopulations; and
- Monitor progress for their overall health objectives and other program indicators.

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/overview.htm>

For a report on the high school YRRS survey results for Santa Fe County in 2013, please visit: <http://www.youthrisk.org/pdf/YRRS-2013-HS-countyreport-santafe.pdf>