

PARCC Technology Updates

August 5, 2014

Purpose

The following communication was developed to help school and district technology coordinators prepare for and administer the PARCC assessments. Weekly technology updates will include technology information, implementation resources, hot topics, and troubleshooting guidance.

In this edition, you will find information regarding:

- Upcoming Release Dates
- Schedule - PearsonAccess Next
- Reminder - Technology Communications
- Reminder - PARCC Support Center

Upcoming Release Dates

- Pearson is committed to verifying functionality on beta versions and final versions of the listed software components. However, due to changes made between beta and final releases by the developing corporation, it is possible a new final version of the product might not function correctly with TestNav. If this occurs, a Technology Communication will be issued immediately detailing next steps.
- Pearson recommends freezing the test environment once the technology has been successfully verified prior to the testing window by administering a SystemCheck and secure practice tests as part of the Infrastructure Trial.

Software	Date of Release	Actions Required
<i>Firefox 31</i>	July 22, 2014	• None at this time
<i>Firefox 32</i>	September 2, 2014	• None at this time
<i>Chrome 38 Browser</i>	TBD (Aug 2014)	• None at this time
<i>Chrome OS 38</i>	TBD (Aug 2014)	• None at this time
<i>Chrome OS 39</i>	TBD (Sep 2014)	• None at this time
<i>Java</i>	October, 15 2014	• None at this time

Schedule - PearsonAccess Next

PearsonAccess Next has been refreshed from the version used during the 2014 PARCC Field Test. It is a web-based technology platform that provides a full range of online assessment services. Core functionality enables educators and test administrators to manage their organizations, user roles, student data, paper and online test delivery, and scoring and reporting services. The latest version incorporates feedback from the field test and provides a more user friendly experience.

Date or Window	Event
8/1	Current version of PearsonAccess will be shut down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample Items, Practice Tests, and Test Question Tutorials can still be accessed at http://practice.parcc.testnav.com/ after 8/1.
8/25 - 9/5	PearsonAccess Next Go Live (Training and Operational sites) on 8/25. States load Organizations file, Participation file (Fall Block Only), and upload user files <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District and school users will receive user accounts after states upload user files. If you have not received your user ID by 9/8, please e-mail your state PARCC contact.
9/8 - 10/3	SDU files are uploaded (Fall Block Only)
10/6	Infrastructure Trial is available

Reminder - Technology Communications

- The Weekly PARCC Technology Updates Communication schedule will be modified during the summer. Going forward updates will be sent at the start of each month and on an as-needed basis. The next communication is tentatively scheduled for September 2, 2014.

Reminder - PARCC Support Center

- If you have questions regarding the administration of the PARCC assessments, please contact Pearson's PARCC Support Center: 1-888-493-9888 (open Monday through Friday, 5:00am to 7:00pm CT) or PARCC@support.pearson.com.
- For state policy questions, please contact your state PARCC contact.