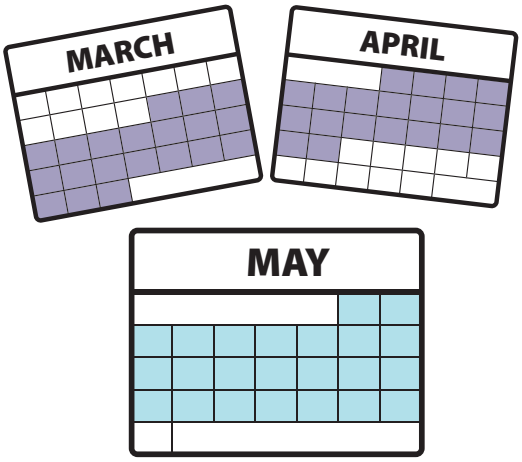
PARCC Test Design Changes
Quick Overview

PARCC

Consolidate Testing Into One Window

With the changes, the PARCC assessment will be given during one window. States and schools will have up to 30 school days in which to test, but most can/will complete all testing in a week to two weeks, depending on their schedule and availability of laptops/devices.

The new single window will end at the 90% mark of the school year. Gone are the separate early spring performance-based (PBA) and late spring end-of-year (EOY) windows.



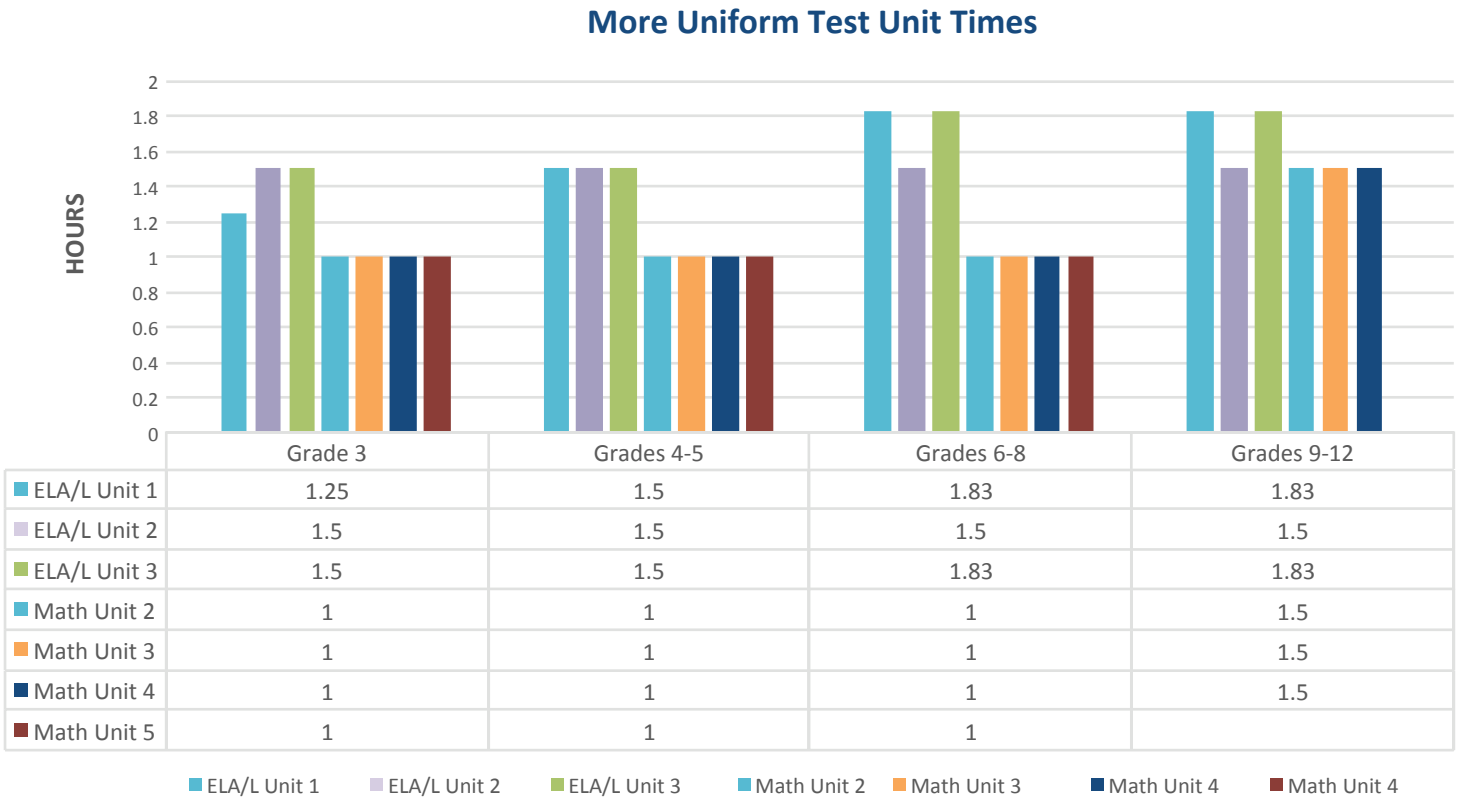
Reduces the Number of Test Units

Reduces the total number of testing units from 9 (grades 6-8) and 8 (grades 3-5) to 7 units; at the high school level reduces from 9 units to 6.

Each PARCC assessment, e.g., grade 4 math, is administered in multiple sections called units. The redesigned ELA/L tests are composed of 3 units. The ELA/L design also includes a field test unit. The proposed math tests are composed of 4 units.

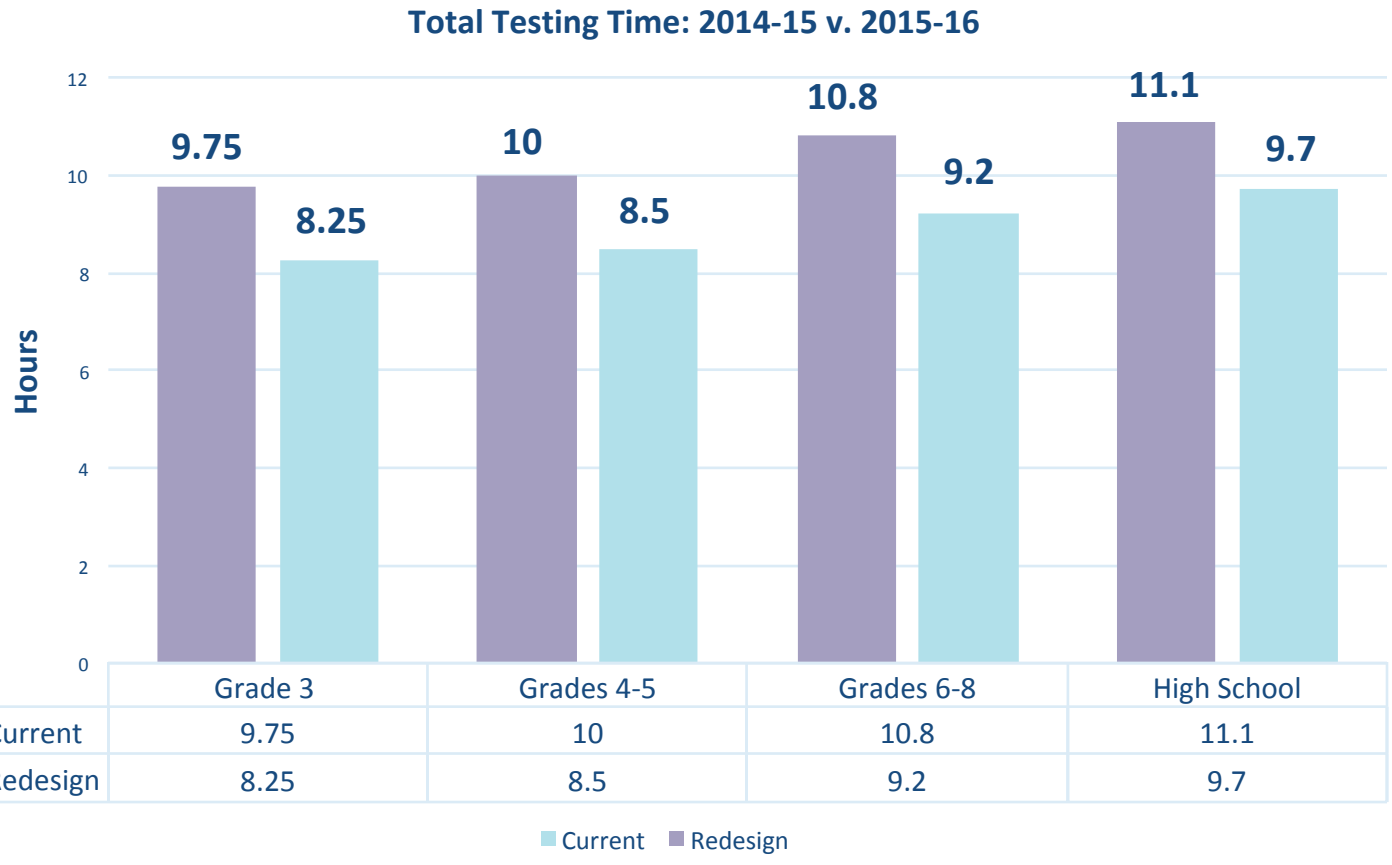
	2014-15			2015-16		
Grades	**ELA**	**Math**	**Total**	**ELA**	**Math**	**Total**
3	4	4	8	3	3 or 4	6 or 7
4-5	4	4	8	3	3 or 4	6 or 7
6-8	5	4	9	3	3 or 4	6 or 7
High School	5	4	9	3	3	6

Uniformity of Testing Units



	Grade 3	Grades 4-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
ELA/L Unit 1	1.25	1.5	1.83	1.83
ELA/L Unit 2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
ELA/L Unit 3	1.5	1.5	1.83	1.83
Math Unit 2	1	1	1	1.5
Math Unit 3	1	1	1	1.5
Math Unit 4	1	1	1	1.5
Math Unit 5	1	1	1	

Cuts Testing Time by approximately 90 minutes in all grades



	Grade 3	Grades 4-5	Grades 6-8	High School
Current	9.75	10	10.8	11.1
Redesign	8.25	8.5	9.2	9.7

Preserves Performance Tasks

The test design changes do not result in the loss of any performance tasks in English language arts or mathematics with the exception of Algebra II and Integrated Math III at the high school level.

Eliminates Standalone Field Testing

As with all similar testing, field test items – items that could be used in future years – are embedded in each student's test. Because the performance tasks in ELA are longer, a sampling of students had to take a standalone field test unit in spring 2015. To further streamline the process for all schools, the PARCC field test will now be wrapped into the testing window.

Each year, a small percentage of students will take an additional ELA unit. Schools/classrooms selected in one year – per the process determined in their state – will in almost all cases not have to field test again for several years.