

Safe and Secure with PARCC



The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a group of states that have collaborated to create high quality assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics in grades 3-8 and high school. The assessments give teachers and parents meaningful information they can use to support student success at every grade level and on their path to being ready for college and career by graduation.

A safe and secure assessment is critical to providing parents, teachers and schools with an honest evaluation of student's progress and learning at each grade level. PARCC states are committed to maintaining strict privacy policies to ensure the security of the data collected and a fair assessment.

PARCC states are in charge.

- Chief state school officers in the PARCC Governing States lead PARCC and make the major policy, design and operational decisions.
- The PARCC states are strongly committed to protecting student information and adopted a strict policy to ensure the privacy and security of student data.
- The policy implemented includes the strongest privacy protections possible and, at a minimum, are **compliant with the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#)**, which is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. This policy is built into contracts with PARCC vendors to ensure their compliance with it and to ensure student data is safe and secure.

Safe and Secure with PARCC

- PARCC states own and control their own data and data usage.
- The PARCC states – and any testing vendors that work with them – will not share any personally identifiable information with any outside entity, including the federal government.

PARCC Tests are secure.

- PARCC vendors are required to use the highest level of “industry standard” encryption, firewalls, and intrusion detection to prevent and detect a broad range of potential security threats.
- The PARCC states test security policy follows the best practices outlined by Council for Chief State School Officers, which recommends that there be “procedures to monitor the internet and social websites before, during and after test administration for any evidence the items and/or answers have been shared” online.
- Sharing images of the test via Twitter, Instagram or other public social media sites is prohibited to maintain test security. This is a standard practice for large-scale tests, including ACT and SAT.
- Monitoring for security breaches includes searches for key words and images of test items posted to social media sites or elsewhere on publicly visible Internet websites. At no time are students “monitored.”
- PARCC states require that student information and test data be encrypted at all times, including during data storage and transfer.

Additional Resources:

PARCC Data Privacy and Security Policy: <http://parcconline.org/assessments/data-privacy-and-security>

PowerPoint: http://parcconline.org/files/67/Data%20Privacy%20and%20Security/204/Data%20Privacy-Security%20Policy_12-2013.pptx