Mini-PARCC Sample Items
Station Instructions for Leader

(Internal Document)

The PARCC Sample Items are different from the PARCC Practice Tests. You will use the Sample Items for this station. The PARCC Sample Items are provided as an opportunity for students to practice taking the computer-based PARCC assessments in math and English language arts. Students can engage with simple interactions and technology-enhanced items such as drag and drop, multiple select, calculator and text highlighting.

The PARCC Sample Items are different from the PARCC Practice Test. The Sample Items offer a brief overview of the PARCC assessments and do not generate a score. The PARCC Practice Test was developed so that all students can experience PARCC test items the way they will appear on the actual tests. The PARCC Practice Test is lengthier than the Sample Items and will provide the test taker with a score.

More than half of the schools in Illinois will administer the PARCC assessments online in 2014-15. Other schools will administer the same test in a paper-based format this school year. The goal is for all schools in Illinois to eventually provide an online assessment but that will require an expansion and upgrade of infrastructure and devices.

**Prior to participants arriving:**

1. Prior to event, go to [http://parcc.pearson.com/sample-items/](http://parcc.pearson.com/sample-items/) and complete a Sample Item. The following are the steps.
2. From the Sample Items page, go to Grades 3-5 Item Sets. Select either the Grade 3-5 ELA Item Set or Grades 3-5 Math Item Set.
3. Once your selection is made, you will see the headline, “Welcome! You are about to start a test.” Under that headline and to the right, click the button that says, “Start Test Now.”
4. You will now see Grade 3-5 ELA Sample Items. Click on the blue button that says “Start Session” and your test will appear.
5. Answer at least one question to make sure it is working properly. Note: Blue arrow in upper left of screen is used to advance to next question.
6. No score is provided for the Sample Items.
7. Turn on all computers.
8. If possible, set devices to the following default page [http://parcc.pearson.com/sample-items/](http://parcc.pearson.com/sample-items/).
As participants arrive:

1. Provide participants with Mini-PARCC Sample Item Handout, which is included, as they arrive.
2. The handout gives instructions beginning with this link [http://parcc.pearson.com/sample-items/](http://parcc.pearson.com/sample-items/) and picks up at No. 2 on your instructions.
3. Ask participants to have a seat at a computer and move the mouse or depress the space bar so that the computer is ready. Make sure that all computers are on the Sample Items test page.

Now you are ready to begin:

4. **(Suggested script)** As the station leader, you may want to provide an overview of the Sample Items so that the participants know what to expect. You might say, “We are going to see what the PARCC computer-based assessment questions will look like when your children take the test this spring. I will provide step-by-step instructions but first I want you to know that the Sample Items are not scored - you should feel no pressure and nobody will see your answers. I also want you to know what to expect once you start the Sample Items test. You get to choose whether to take the “Grades 3-5 ELA, or English language arts, Item Set, or, the Grades 3-5 Math Item Set. If you select the English language arts Item Set, you will be asked to read a passage, answer some questions, and ultimately, write a brief essay on the story. Your answers to the questions will help build the essay. If you take the Math Item Set, you will be asked to do basic mathematical operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The next questions will ask you to create an array, which is shading or coloring boxes in a grid to match a mathematical dimension. The following questions will continue with equations and computing volume. Now that you know what to expect, let’s answer some questions.” *(Continue to provide step-by-step instructions by following these steps.)*

5. “From the Sample Items page, go to Grades 3-5 Item Sets. Select either the Grade 3-5 ELA Item Set or Grades 3-5 Math Item Set.

6. Once your selection is made, you will see the headline, “Welcome! You are about to start a test.” Under that headline and to the right, hit the button that says, “Start Test Now.”

7. You will now see Grade 3-5 ELA Sample Items. Click on the blue button that says “Start Session” and your test will appear. Take your time and answer a couple of questions. Please use the blue arrow at the top left corner of the screen to advance to the next question. We have about 10 minutes.”

8. Provide time for questions and answers.

9. When the time for this station has elapsed, direct participants to their next station.