

# PARCC Technology Bulletin

October 1, 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
- PearsonAccess Next
- New Proctor Cache Tool
- Reminder - iOS and ChromeOS: TestNav8 App Updates
- Reminder - PARCC URLs
- Reminder - Technology Communications
- Reminder - PARCC Support Center

## Upcoming Release Dates

- Pearson is committed to verifying that the new/upgraded software components (such as browsers, operating systems, etc.) listed below, function properly with TestNav8. However, due to changes made to the beta versions of these components, it is possible that the final released version may not function correctly with TestNav8. If this occurs, a Technology Communication will be issued immediately detailing next steps.
- Please Note, Pearson recommends freezing the test environment to no longer accept automatic updates once the technology has been successfully verified prior to the testing window by administering the SystemCheck tool and secure practice tests as part of the Infrastructure Trial.

Software	Date of Release	Actions Required
<i>Firefox 33</i>	October 14, 2014	• None at this time
<i>Firefox 34</i>	November 25, 2014	• None at this time
<i>*Chrome OS 40</i>	*November 2014	• None at this time
<i>*Mac OS X 10.10 (Yosemite)</i>	*Fall 2014	• None at this time
<i>Java</i>	October, 14 2014	• This update will not be mandatory for TestNav8, but it is recommended. The decision to not update Java will result in pop-up messages when launching TestNav8 to complete Infrastructure Trials.

*\*Exact Date of Release has not been posted by the vendor*

## PearsonAccess Next

- PearsonAccess Next has been updated since the 2014 PARCC Field Test. It is a web-based technology platform that provides a full range of online assessment services. PearsonAccess Next allows 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.
- The following email addresses should be white-listed, or added to your address book, to ensure receipt of PARCC communications and new account information from PearsonAccess Next:
  - Parcc@support.pearson.com
  - Parcc@pearson.com
  - Noreply.parcc@pearson.com
- After receiving your PearsonAccess Next Login additional communications will be sent from your state outlining next steps.
- The schedule for PearsonAccess Next events is shown below:

### Fall Block Schedule

Date or Window	Event
9/8/14 - 10/3/14	Organization Participation Files are imported
9/8/14 - 10/3/14*	Student Registration Files are imported for both PBA and EOY Administrations  For additional information regarding importing students into PearsonAccess for Fall Block, please visit <a href="https://parcc.tms.pearson.com/">https://parcc.tms.pearson.com/</a> to access the Student Registration Import Training Module
11/24/14 - 12/24/14	PBA Additional Order window (test materials may be ordered until 12/17/14 and return materials may be ordered until 12/24/14)
12/10/14 - 1/21/15	EOY Additional Order window (test materials may be ordered until 1/14/15 and return materials may be ordered until 1/21/15)

*\*The deadline to have Student Registration Files imported to drive material quantities for the initial shipment of testing materials and to have student labels created is 10/3 for both PBA and EOY. Student Registration Files may be imported after 10/3 but an additional order will need to be placed if materials are needed and students will need to grid their demographic information.*

### Spring Schedule

Date or Window	Event
10/20/14 - 11/21/14	PBA Organization Participation Files are imported
10/20/14 - 1/23/15	EOY Organization Participation Files are imported
10/20/14 - 11/21/14*	PBA Student Registration Files are imported*
10/20/14 - 1/23/15*	EOY Student Registration Files are imported*
10/20/14	Infrastructure Trials begin in PearsonAccess Next Training Site

*\*The deadline to have Student Registration Files imported to drive material quantities for the initial shipment of testing materials and to have student labels created is 11/21 for PBA and 1/23 for EOY. Student Registration Files may be imported after these dates but an additional order will need to be placed if test materials are needed and students will need to grid their demographic information.*

## Infrastructure Trials

- An Infrastructure Trial is an opportunity for districts, schools, and students to prepare for the computer-based PARCC Assessments by simulating test-day technology utilization to confirm all testing devices can successfully run the appropriate software
- Pearson will provide a "PARCC Infrastructure Trial Readiness Guide" to help prepare schools for Infrastructure Trials. This material will detail all necessary steps in the process, and will become available on October 20th, 2014. When available, the Infrastructure Trial Readiness Guide will be located here:
  - [PARCC Technology Setup](#)

## New Proctor Cache Tool

- A new Proctor Cache tool will be released on October 15, 2014. At that time, the install file and new process documentation will be found on the [PARCC Technology Setup](#) page. This new version of Proctor Caching software contains an updated user interface and multiple bug fixes, resulting in better efficiency and an improved user experience.
- For schools with existing Pearson Proctor Cache software already installed, it is strongly recommended that you upgrade to this new version prior to Infrastructure Trials and online testing. However, this is not a requirement since the existing Proctor Cache software will still function with TestNav8.

## Reminder - iOS and ChromeOS: TestNav8 App Updates

- During the month of September, Pearson released TestNav8 App updates for iOS (iPads) and ChromeOS (Chromebooks). The updates can be installed at any time from either the iOS App Store or Chrome Web Store and will be required for the devices to successfully participate in Infrastructure Trials.

## Reminder - PARCC URLs

- TestNav8 and PearsonAccess Next URLs are being updated to prepare for PARCC Operational Testing. Each state will have their own URL for both PearsonAccess Next and TestNav8. In addition, there will also be a separate landing page for both systems, along with a PARCC landing page, where anyone can navigate to their correct state page or to the training site.
  - If necessary, based upon your school's network security procedures, please ensure internet traffic to the URLs listed below is allowed. Also, the URLs are specific, "https://" will not allow you to access sites that need to be "http://" or vice-versa.
- The PearsonAccess Next landing page URL has changed since the Field Test (shown below). The TestNav8 landing page and PARCC landing page URLs will remain the same, however, these pages are being redesigned.
- On September 5, 2014, the new TestNav8 landing page was made available. The publish date for the new PARCC landing page will be on or before October 15, 2014.
  - Please note, the State TestNav8 sites will not be available until November 2014.

Landing Sites	URL
PARCC	<a href="http://parcc.pearson.com">http://parcc.pearson.com</a>
PearsonAccess Next	<a href="http://pearsonaccessnext.com">http://pearsonaccessnext.com</a>
TestNav8	<a href="http://parcc.testnav.com">http://parcc.testnav.com</a>

State Sites	URL
<b>PearsonAccess Next</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://ar.pearsonaccessnext.com">https://ar.pearsonaccessnext.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://co.pearsonaccessnext.com">https://co.pearsonaccessnext.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://dc.pearsonaccessnext.com">https://dc.pearsonaccessnext.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://il.pearsonaccessnext.com">https://il.pearsonaccessnext.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://ma.pearsonaccessnext.com">https://ma.pearsonaccessnext.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://md.pearsonaccessnext.com">https://md.pearsonaccessnext.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://ms.pearsonaccessnext.com">https://ms.pearsonaccessnext.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://nj.pearsonaccessnext.com">https://nj.pearsonaccessnext.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://nm.pearsonaccessnext.com">https://nm.pearsonaccessnext.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://oh.pearsonaccessnext.com">https://oh.pearsonaccessnext.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://ri.pearsonaccessnext.com">https://ri.pearsonaccessnext.com</a></li> </ul>
<b>TestNav8 (Not available until November)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://parcc-ar.testnav.com">http://parcc-ar.testnav.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://parcc-co.testnav.com">http://parcc-co.testnav.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://parcc-dc.testnav.com">http://parcc-dc.testnav.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://parcc-il.testnav.com">http://parcc-il.testnav.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://parcc-md.testnav.com">http://parcc-md.testnav.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://parcc-ma.testnav.com">http://parcc-ma.testnav.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://parcc-ms.testnav.com">http://parcc-ms.testnav.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://parcc-nj.testnav.com">http://parcc-nj.testnav.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://parcc-nm.testnav.com">http://parcc-nm.testnav.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://parcc-oh.testnav.com">http://parcc-oh.testnav.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://parcc-ri.testnav.com">http://parcc-ri.testnav.com</a></li> </ul>

Other Sites	URL
<b>PearsonAccess Next Training Site</b>	<a href="https://trng.pearsonaccessnext.com">https://trng.pearsonaccessnext.com</a>
<b>TestNav8 Practice Site</b>	<a href="http://practice.parcc.testnav.com">http://practice.parcc.testnav.com</a>
<b>SystemCheck</b>	<a href="http://systemcheck.parcc.testnav.com">http://systemcheck.parcc.testnav.com</a>

## Reminder - Technology Communications

- The Weekly PARCC Technology Updates Communication schedule has been modified for the spring and fall. Updates will continue to be sent at the start of each month and on an as-needed basis. The next communication is tentatively scheduled for November 1, 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](mailto:PARCC@support.pearson.com).
- For state policy questions, please contact your state PARCC contact.