About PARCC

PARCC Performance Levels and Tests

- PARCC includes five performance levels: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
    - Level 1: Did not yet meet expectations
    - Level 2: Partially met expectations
    - Level 3: Approached expectations
    - Level 4: Met expectations
    - Level 5: Exceeded expectations

- A student earning a performance level of 4 or 5 on the PARCC assessment means the student meets or exceeds expectations for their grade level as determined by the New Mexico State Standards for all public school students.

PARCC Background

- PARCC is New Mexico's annual Mathematics and English Language Arts assessment for all students in grades 3-11. PARCC is an important measure because it assesses real-world skills like problem-solving, critical thinking, and reasoning.
    - English Language Arts - All students in grades 3-11 take the ELA assessment specific to their grade level.
    - Math—Students in grades 3-7 take the Math assessment specific to their grade.
        - For grades 8-11, students take the PARCC tests for Grade 8 Math, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and Integrated Math 1, 2, 3 depending on the course in which the student was enrolled.
- PARCC is one of only a handful of tests in the nation that meets the highest standards for quality under the federal government's comprehensive peer review process. Education Week stated, **"The PARCC test has won an unusual nod of approval from the U.S. Department of Education: It got an unconditional thumbs-up as an assessment that complies with the federal rules governing how well tests measure mastery of states' academic standards."**
- Naming New Mexico a Top Truth Teller, the Collaborative for Student Success has recognized the state as narrowing the proficiency gaps between results from its state tests and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Comparing proficiency between PARCC and NAEP is one measure of how honest a state is being in representing its success in preparing students for college and careers.
- In May 2018, Achieve issued an updated report evaluating the proficiency gap between 2016-2017 state tests and NAEP 2017. The goal of the evaluation was again to check that "the signals that schools send to student and families" are "accurate and honest representations of preparedness for postsecondary options." New Mexico is cited for closing the proficiency gap: Proficiency rates on the state tests in mathematics were more rigorous than NAEP in both 2015 and 2017.

PARCC ELA Results: Statewide and Largest 10 Districts

- In 2018, 214,685 students took the PARCC English Language Arts (ELA) assessment. Sixty-three percent of these students were enrolled in one of the 10 largest school districts in the state. About a quarter of students (26.7 percent) taking PARCC ELA were enrolled in Albuquerque Public Schools (APS).

- **Between 2015 and 2018, the percentage of students proficient on PARCC ELA increased by at least 10 percentage points in four of the 10 largest school districts – Farmington, Gadsden, Gallup, and Hobbs.**

- Statewide, 31.1 percent of students earned either a Performance Level 4 or a Performance Level 5 (i.e., were proficient) on PARCC ELA in 2018. Within the state's 10 largest school districts, 31.7 percent of students were proficient.

- After two years of declining proficiency rates, proficiency at APS increased from 27.0 percent in 2017 to 30.4 percent in 2018, the first time PARCC ELA proficiency has been above 30 percent at APS. Las Cruces Public Schools was the other large school district to exceed 30 percent proficiency in ELA for the first time in 2018.

- **In 2018, Farmington Municipal Schools (FMS) became the highest-performing large district in ELA at 42.6 percent, surpassing Rio Rancho Public Schools. Proficiency at FMS increased 14.8 percentage points between 2015 and 2018.**

- Although Gallup McKinley County Schools (GMCS) continues to have the lowest rate of proficiency among the state's 10 largest school districts, its rate reached 25.8 percent in 2018. This figure is 11.2 percentage points higher than this school district's 2015 rate of proficiency. GMCS also had the highest year-over-year growth among the 10 largest school districts between 2017 and 2018.

- Continuing the trend evident since the 2015 PARCC administration, cumulative ELA performance within the 10 largest school districts remains slightly higher than statewide performance. In 2018, the difference was 0.6 percentage points. Since 2015, the gap between statewide and large-district performance has been between 0.4 and 0.7 percentage points. The increase in the percentage of proficient students between the 2015 and 2018 administrations is the same statewide as it is within the 10 largest school districts. Since 2015, proficiency has increased 4.7 percentage points for both groups of students.

PARCC Mathematics Results: Statewide and Largest 10 Districts

- **Statewide, 21.6 percent of students were proficient on PARCC Math in 2018. Within the state's 10 largest school districts, 22.1 percent of students were proficient.**
    - This is a statewide increase of 4.3 percentage points since the 2014-15 school year and an increase of 4 percentage points amongst the 10 largest districts.
    - Growth was particularly high in Gadsden, Farmington, Roswell and Hobbs.

- Like ELA, and continuing the trend evident since the 2015 PARCC administration, cumulative Math performance within the 10 largest school districts remains slightly higher than statewide performance. This gap narrowed slightly in 2018 to 0.5 percentage points. The gap had been 0.7 percentage points between 2015 and 2017.

- Rio Rancho Public Schools (RRPS) is the first of the 10 largest school districts to exceed proficiency of 30 percent on PARCC Math. Proficiency at RRPS increased from 29.2 percent in 2017 to 31.4 percent in 2018.

- Unlike ELA, none of the 10 largest school districts had growth between 2015 and 2018 on PARCC Math that exceeded 10 percent. **At 8.8 percent, Gadsden Independent Schools had the largest increase in the percentage of proficient students during this timeframe.**

- Between 2015 and 2018, statewide proficiency increased 4.2 percentage points, while proficiency at the 10 largest school districts increased 4.0 percentage points.

- The percentage of students who were proficient on PARCC Math increased at least one percentage point from 2017 to 2018 in all 10 large school districts.

Highest Performance and Growth: School Districts and State Charters

- Among the 89 school districts, nine had PARCC ELA proficiency rates of at least 50 percent. **Des Moines Municipal Schools had the highest rate at 64.6 percent, followed by Cloudcroft Municipal Schools at 62.0 percent and Melrose Public Schools at 58.4 percent.**

- Among state charter schools, nine had PARCC ELA proficiency rates of at least 50 percent. **The Albuquerque Institute of Math & Science had the highest rate of PARCC ELA proficiency in 2018 at 87.0 percent, followed by the New Mexico School for the Arts at 75.8 percent, and Cottonwood Classical Prep at 70.1 percent.**

- Among the 89 school districts (not including state charters), three had PARCC Math proficiency rates of at least 50 percent. Roy Municipal Schools had the highest rate at 63.3 percent, followed by Des Moines Municipal Schools at 57.8 percent, and Los Alamos Public Schools at 50.1 percent.

- Among state charter schools, one had a PARCC Math proficiency rate of at least 50 percent. The Albuquerque Institute of Math & Science had the highest rate of PARCC Math proficiency in 2018 at 81.8 percent. Explore Academy (48.3 percent) and the Albuquerque School of Excellence (44.8 percent) rounded out the top three.

Highest Proficiency Rates among Schools Serving Primarily Low-Income, Hispanic Students

English Language Arts

School District	School	Percent Hispanic	Percent FRL	N Total Reading	2018 Percent Proficient Reading
West Las Vegas Public Schools	Union Elementary School	85.0%	98.8%	80	73.8%
Gadsden Independent Schools	Anthony Elementary School	98.9%	100.0%	181	68.0%
Gadsden Independent Schools	Alta Vista Early College High School	97.2%	100.0%	71	64.8%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	San Lorenzo Elementary School	80.6%	100.0%	31	51.6%
Gadsden Independent Schools	Santa Teresa Middle School	96.8%	100.0%	618	48.9%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	Anton Chico Middle School	88.9%	100.0%	36	47.2%
Gadsden Independent Schools	Mesquite Elementary School	99.3%	100.0%	153	45.8%
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	Santa Rosa High School	93.3%	98.5%	135	45.2%
Gadsden Independent Schools	Santa Teresa Elementary School	91.0%	100.0%	288	44.8%
Gadsden Independent Schools	Gadsden Elementary School	97.7%	100.0%	256	43.0%

Note: For purposes of this analysis, a school was classified as serving primarily low-income, Hispanic students if the assessed population met the following two criteria during the 2018 PARCC administration: 1.) Over 80 percent of assessed students qualified for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL); and 2.) Over 80 percent of assessed students were Hispanic. The schools listed in this table had the highest rates of proficiency on the PARCC ELA content assessment out of 189 schools that met both criteria.

Highest Proficiency Rates among Schools Serving Primarily Low-Income, Hispanic Students

Mathematics

School District	School	Percent Hispanic	Percent FRL	N Total Math	2018 Percent Proficient Math
Gadsden Independent Schools	Desert View Elementary School	98.1%	100.0%	263	67.7%

Gadsden Independent Schools	Anthony Elementary School	98.9%	100.0%	215	54.0%
West Las Vegas Public Schools	Union Elementary School	85.0%	98.8%	80	52.5%
West Las Vegas Public Schools	Tony Serna Jr. Elementary School	94.1%	100.0%	85	48.2%
Gadsden Independent Schools	Alta Vista Early College High School	97.2%	100.0%	46	47.8%
Gadsden Independent Schools	Mesquite Elementary School	99.3%	100.0%	177	47.5%
Española Public Schools	Abiquiu Elementary School	95.3%	100.0%	64	37.5%
Gadsden Independent Schools	Santa Teresa Elementary School	91.0%	100.0%	320	36.9%
Las Cruces Public Schools	Mesilla Park Elementary School	81.1%	100.0%	183	36.6%
Las Vegas City Public Schools	Mike Sena Elementary School	86.1%	100.0%	36	36.1%

Note: For purposes of this analysis, a school was classified as serving primarily low-income, Hispanic students if the assessed population met the following two criteria during the 2018 PARCC administration: 1.) Over 80 percent of assessed students qualified for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL); and 2.) Over 80 percent of assessed students were Hispanic. The schools listed in this table had the highest rates of proficiency on the PARCC Math content assessment out of 189 schools that met both criteria.

2018 SBA Science Administration

- The Standards Based Assessment (SBA) in science is New Mexico's annual Science assessment for all students in grades 4, 7, and 11.
- In the 2018 administration, 72,484 students in these three grades took the SBA Science tests (410 fewer students than in 2017).
- Online testing in Science has increased dramatically over the last few years.
  - In 2016, 75% of students tested online.
  - In 2017, 95% of students tested online.
  - In 2018, 99.8% of students tested online.
- SBA Science includes four performance levels: 1, 2, 3, and 4.
  - Level 1: Beginning Step
  - Level 2: Nearing Proficiency
  - Level 3: Proficient
  - Level 4: Advanced Proficient
- A student earning a performance level of 3 or 4 on the SBA Science assessment meets or exceeds expectations for their grade level as determined by the New Mexico State Standards for all public school students.
- While Science proficiency in grades 7 and 11 was largely flat from 2017 to 2018, performance increased 6.6% in grade 4.

Grade (2018 N)	2016 Proficiency (%)	2017 Proficiency (%)	2018 Proficiency (%)	2017 to 2018 Difference (%)	2016 to 2018 Difference (%)
Grade 4 (25,810)	43.0	40.0	46.6	6.6	3.6

Grade 7	(24,453)	44.9	44.3	42.8	-1.5	-2.1
Grade 11	(22,221)	39.4	34.9	35.2	0.3	-4.2