What is PARCC?
PARCC is New Mexico’s end-of-year math and English language arts assessment for all students in grades 3-11. This is the second year students in New Mexico will be taking the PARCC assessment.

What’s different this year?
Based on feedback from educators like you and others, the PARCC assessment is shorter by an average of 90 minutes per grade level this year, even though last year’s test took less time than previous statewide tests. In addition, there will be only one PARCC testing window, reducing the administrative time and effort required to setup and takedown the testing environment.

How does PARCC line up with what I’m teaching in my classroom?
Based on feedback and help from New Mexico teachers, the PARCC assessment was built to align with the content and skills you teach your students in the classroom every day. PARCC provides you and your school with accurate information about how students are performing to the state standards set for their grade level. PARCC results should be used as one of several measures for you to track your students’ progress in school.

What types of questions are on the test?
PARCC measures real-world skills like problem-solving, critical thinking, and reasoning. Students will answer open-ended questions and are asked to explain their answers, show their work, and compose well-organized essays.

How can the results be used to help my students?
You can use the PARCC results to work alongside parents to ensure students are prepared for success – from grade to grade and beyond high school. PARCC is just one measure you can use to address any weaknesses early on so students can receive the support they need to get back on track. You can also use results to tailor your instruction to meet individual needs.

When will results be released?
You can expect detailed student score reports to arrive at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year. Results may be used with grades and other measures to start a proactive conversation with parents at the beginning of the year.

What resources can I give parents to help them prepare their children for PARCC?
A PARCC practice test can be accessed online at http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/. For more details about the PARCC test, including skill-building tools, visit http://bealearninghero.org/classroom/parcc.

How can I use PARCC to help guide classroom instruction?
Items and test content from last year’s PARCC assessment are available at http://lessonsfromthetest.org/. These items can give teachers powerful tools to inform classroom teaching and learning. Some teachers are using the released items to develop lesson plans and help students grow throughout the year.

For more information, visit www.NMPARCC.com