

Weekly PARCC Technology Updates

February 19, 2014

Purpose

The following communication was developed to help school and district technology coordinators prepare for and administer the Spring 2014 PARCC Field Test. Weekly technology updates will be provided every Monday and will include technology information and implementation resources, hot topics, and troubleshooting guidance.

In this first edition, you will find information regarding:

- Pearson Technical Bulletin - Effects of Java Critical Patch Updates on TestNav 8
- Final Field Test Technology Specifications
- Chromebook and iPad App Release
- SystemCheck Update
- Infrastructure Trial Update
- TI-84 Calculator Tutorial Update
- Launch of Additional Supports for the Field Test
 - *Weekly Technical Webinars Starting Tomorrow Thursday February 20th 4-5PM EST*

Pearson Technical Bulletin

- Technical specifications for the Field Test have been finalized (see below). To support schools as they use these specifications to prepare school technology for field testing, Pearson Technical Bulletins will be released throughout the Field Test to communicate important information to school and district technology coordinators. These bulletins will be posted on Pearson Access at <http://parcc.pearson.com/support> under *Technology Information*.
- The most recent bulletin, [Effect of Java Critical Patch Updates on TestNav 8](#) provides details to help schools and districts shape their local policies with respect to Java updates during the scheduled Field Test administration window.

Final Field Test Technology Specifications

- The final technology specifications will be posted to <http://www.parcconline.org/field-test-technology> on Friday February 21st. Schools and districts should refer directly to the PARCC's **Full Technology Specifications for 2014 Field Test Participation v 2.0** as this document includes additional PARCC-specific guidance that is not included on Pearson's general TestNav 8 requirements webpage.
- At this time, Pearson does not anticipate any additional updates to the TestNav requirements for the Field Test beyond those included in **Full Technology Specifications for 2014 Field Test Participation v 2.0**.
- Updates will include:
 - Final List of Supported Browsers and Operating Systems for the Field Test
 - Final Accessibility Features and Accommodations Enabled for Computer-Based Test Administration in PARCC Field Test
 - Updated directions for Chromebooks App
 - Updated Java Software Guidance
 - TestNav 8 has been determined to be incompatible with Mac OS 10.5, therefore Mac OS 10.5 has been removed as a supported operating system for PARCC Assessments

- Removal of Microphone Requirement for the Spring 2014 Field Test.

Chromebook and iPad App Release

- The Chromebook TestNav app is now available in the Chrome store. To download the app, go to the Chrome Store and search for 'TestNav' or use the following direct: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/testnav/mdmkkicfmmkgmpkmdikhboggogpicma>
- The iPad TestNav app is now available in the Apple App store. To download the app, go to the App Store and search for 'TestNav'.
- Instructions on setting up and managing iPad and Chromebook devices are available at:
 - Emerging Technologies Training Module
<https://parcc.tms.pearson.com>
 - Using TestNav on a Chromebook
<http://www.pearsononlinetesting.com/TestNav/8/devices/chromebook.html>
 - Using TestNav on an iPad
<http://www.pearsononlinetesting.com/TestNav/8/devices/iPad.html>

SystemCheck Update

- Pearson identified that the calculation for testing capacity needed to be updated in order to more accurately reflect the bandwidth guidelines that have been published for the PARCC tests.
- On January 17, 2014, Pearson updated the values for the PARCC Test and PARCC Text-to-Speech Test on the System Check Tool.
- Schools that used the System Check Tool testing capacity function prior to these changes should re-run the testing capacity calculation. In most cases, updated calculations should indicate greater capacity than may have been suggested by the previous SystemCheck version. Use the updated version of the SystemCheck Tool at <http://systemcheck.parcc.testnav.com/> to ensure your testing capacity is sufficient for the number of concurrent students you plan to test during the Spring 2014 PARCC Field Test.

Infrastructure Trial Update

- When conducted as a complete dress rehearsal of the online testing experience, an infrastructure trial is a valuable tool for schools and districts to verify readiness of their devices, networks, students and staffs.
- Model test forms to be used for infrastructure trials are available through Pearson Access. Currently, the Infrastructure Trial Grade 6-8 Form most closely simulates the largest and most complex form that will be used during Field Testing, because it contains video. Pearson is working to add video to both the Grade 3-5 and High School forms by the week of February 24th. Prior to this update, use the Grade 6-8 form to conduct load and performance testing on your school devices and networks.

TI 84 Calculator Tutorial Update

- The Texas Instruments TI-84+ online graphing calculator has been removed from the publicly available High School Sample Item Set in order to protect the TI-84 code.
- The Texas Instruments TI-84+ online graphing calculator will continue to be available for use with sample items that are contained within the secure infrastructure trial forms available through PearsonAccess, and during the actual Spring 2014 Field Test and Operational Assessments.

- Users who wish to practice with the TI-84+ calculator, but who do not have a login for Pearson Access, may navigate to the PARCC practice landing page (<http://practice.parcc.testnav.com>) and select the “Tutorials” tab for more information about the calculator and a link to a trial software version.
- Additionally, a handheld graphing calculator may be used to solve the math items in this section. Handheld calculator use is allowed during the PARCC test administration. Refer to PARCC’s calculator policy at <http://parcc.pearson.com/Manuals> in Section 2.9 of the Test Coordinator Manual for information about calculator use on the PARCC assessment.

Launch of Additional Supports for the Field Test

- On Friday, February 21st, two on-demand training modules will be posted to the PARCC Field Test Training site (<https://parcc.tms.pearson.com/>) that provide a “hands on” walk-through focusing on specific topics. These modules will include:
 - *How to Install Proctor Caching* for Windows Operating Systems
 - *Configuring TestNav and Proctor Caching* on one or more computers
- Weekly technical Q&A webinars will be offered to answer questions from district technology staff regarding setup, best practices, or other questions or concerns districts may have. **The first meeting will be held Thursday February 20th from 4-5PM EST.** Space will be limited for this first webinar so please register if you are interested in attending.
 - To register for the webinar, go to:
<https://pearsononline.webex.com/pearsononline/j.php?ED=294772967&RG=1&UID=1766803582&RT=MiM3>
 - Once the host approves your request, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the meeting.
 - Additional registration details for all weekly webinars through March 24th will be finalized and distributed in next week’s update.

Pearson Help Desk

- For more information regarding PARCC and the 2014 Field Test, please visit the PARCC website at <http://www.parcconline.org/field-test>.
- If you have questions regarding the administration of the PARCC Field Test, please contact Pearson’s PARCC Support Center: 1-888-493-9888 (open Monday through Friday, 6:00am to 8:00pm CST) or PARCC@support.pearson.com.
- For state policy questions, please contact your state field test contact.