Q: What is PARCC?
A: PARCC stands for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. It is a computer-based assessment for English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy and Mathematics in Grades 3 through 11 that is linked to the new, more rigorous Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Q: Why PARCC?
A: The State of New Jersey adopted the CCSS in 2010. In addition to revising curriculum to address the Common Core, districts across the state are required to assess students using specific instruments to measure academic growth and acquired skills. Currently, NJ ASK is administered to accomplish this goal.

Q: When will PARCC be implemented?
A: Warren Township was chosen to administer field tests on a limited basis in Spring 2014. Full implementation of PARCC currently is scheduled to take place during the 2014-2015 school year.

Q: How does PARCC work?
A: The assessment will cover ELA/Literacy and Math for grades 3-11. The system includes the following required components:

➢ Performance-based assessments (PBA) in ELA/Literacy and Math. All students will take this summative test near the 70% completion point of the school year to show what they know.

➢ End-of-year assessments (EOY) in ELA/Literacy and Math. All students will take this assessment near the 90% completion point of the school year. The results will be combined with the performance-based assessment to produce a student's summative assessment score.

➢ Speaking and listening component (ELA/Literacy only). All students participating in the PARCC assessments will demonstrate speaking and listening proficiency using this tool, which can be administered anytime during the academic year. While this a required component of the assessment, currently PARCC does not envision combining results from this with those of the PBA or EOY assessments to determine a student's summative assessment score. (www.parcconline.org)

Q: How will Science be assessed?

A: NJ ASK paper and pencil tests will continue to be used to assess students in grades 4 and 8 in Science for the foreseeable future.

Q: What types of accommodations will be allowed for students with disabilities for both the PBA and EOY?
A: Please refer to the draft PARCC [Accommodations Manual](#).

Q: Are sample assessments available?
A: Sample items and tasks for math and ELA/literacy are available at www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes.

Q: Will student scores be reported for the field test administered in 2014?
A: No. The field test was not administered to evaluate students. The primary purpose of the field test was to determine whether the PARCC questions are assessing what they are supposed to measure. The test developers plan to use the student results to refine questions for the full implementation that is planned for the 2014-2015 school year.

Q: How much emphasis will be put on PARCC scores when full implementation takes place?
A: In Warren, PARCC will be considered one of many data points used to assess student learning and growth.   It will be important to develop a baseline for how the data can be used effectively to inform and refine instruction and foster student growth.

Q: How will PARCC scores be used to place students in high math?
A: As with NJ ASK, PARCC scores may be used as a single data point in the math identification process. Currently, NJ ASK is the last indicator used for identification of students. It is only used when the other indicators did not result in a complete identification of sections. Use of PARCC scores will need to be evaluated in the context of the identification process. If necessary, the district will consider alternative data points to provide a balanced set of indicators.

Q: Is the test timed? If so, how does that work?
A: The PARCC assessment is timed. The test developers determine the testing times for each administration session. Individual field test sessions ranged from 35 - 80 minutes with short breaks built into the administration periods.

Q: As a computer-based assessment, will all students need to type?
A: Students in grade 3 and above will need to keyboard responses.

Q: What if my child's keyboarding skills are poor?
A: The district will evaluate keyboarding and develop programming that will provide students opportunity to practice keyboarding. One of the goals will be to embed keyboarding and use of technology within the actual work that students do throughout the year so it is an essential and purposeful aspect of student writing across the curriculum.

Q: Are all the teachers trained in PARCC?
A: During this school year, the focus has been on providing professional development that prepares staff for the expectations and requirements within the Common Core. PARCC is an assessment of the Common Core and teachers will be provided training to understand the design and scope of the assessment. The overall district focus has been to provide staff training that enables teachers to maintain a high level of instruction and develop high quality and relevant assessments of student learning. We will continue to evaluate professional development in order to advance student achievement.

Q: Will students be trained in navigating the test site?
A: Yes. Students will be provided tutorials and training to prepare them to navigate the PARCC assessment and to use the variety of features that are available to them.

Q: If a student performs poorly, how will the district determine whether the child is not proficient or was tripped up by the technology?
A: The district collects a variety of assessment data on each child. This data will be compared with PARCC to develop a more complete picture of student learning and progress. Some students do not perform well in the standardized testing environment. As with NJ ASK scores, the individual student's assessment data can be evaluated to provide a more in-depth understanding of student learning and growth.

For more information, please visit www.parcconline.org. (Note: The PARCC website is updated regularly so please check back often.)