



PARCC Student Journey

BEFORE PARCC

DURING PARCC

AFTER PARCC

Disparate Experiences with Curriculum and Instruction

Students described different experiences with PARCC depending upon their academic placement. Students in AP courses stated that nothing changes for them in the weeks leading up to PARCC. College Prep students, however, described a time of significant, rote test prep. Students not yet in high school universally cited extensive test prep in the weeks leading to PARCC. Those in AP classes expressed dread at the boredom of testing days, while those in college prep courses expressed stress and exhaustion.

Student Mental Health

Students subjected to test prep stated that they experienced stress, exhaustion, burn out, and shame. There were a number of comments about complaining during this time because of both the stress and the desire to do more personally relevant work. "Rushing through practice tests to do other work for grades."

"Disappointed in Us"

Students explicitly stated that they were "disappointing" the adults through their lack of effort, apathy toward, or poor preparation for PARCC. Students demonstrated a perception that PARCC has value to the adults, yet little personal value for students. This led students to believe their behavior and feelings toward PARCC would "disappoint" the adults in their lives.

Effort

Students overwhelmingly described a lack of effort, citing peers randomly clicking through answers and others finishing as quickly as possible so that they could spend the remainder of test administration time sleeping.

Strict Atmosphere

Students described PARCC administration as a time of strict control. Students are forced to be silent, even after they have completed the test. While they are permitted to sleep, sit quietly, or read a novel, students are prohibited from studying, reviewing notes, or completing work for their classes. Many would like a break once they are finished with the test.

Emotional Impact

A small minority of responses cited taking the PARCC in earnest. These students described their experience as frustrating and confusing. Multiple responses cited crying and "loud sobs" followed by worry about their performance. Some stated, "Eventually, I stop caring."

Continued Testing

The students in AP classes described the time post-PARCC as one of increasing stress due to looming AP tests. They see these tests as more personally relevant and resent being forced to spend a week on the PARCC test.

Relief

A set of students stated that they were relieved after PARCC administration. They were happy to return to a normal schedule where they understood what was going on in class and could interact with their friends.

Burnout

A set of students expressed a diminished ability to continue school work because they felt so burned out from PARCC. Students described themselves as "tired; feeling dead." Following the PARCC, students stated that they discussed PARCC questions, how they answered them, poorly constructed questions, how "dumb" they felt, and concern over performance.

The prevailing student feelings during this time are **apathy, stress, and exhaustion.**

The prevailing student feelings during this time are **boredom, frustration, and tiredness.**

The prevailing student feelings during this time are **stress, aggravation, resentment; relief.**



Students expressed extreme differences in their experiences, based upon their course placement.

"All of the students look sad and stressed" versus "No one cares. Everyone just wants to get it done with. Sweet half days."



Students shared a great deal of comments regarding the impact PARCC has upon their mental health.

"I'm going to drop out."



Many students commonly expressed the perception that they are disappointing the adults.

"You would be disappointed in my lack of preparation for PARCC."



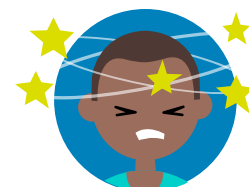
Student commonly expressed a lack of effort on the assessment.

"Take five minutes on test, fall asleep for three hours."



Students dislike the impact PARCC implementation has on the school atmosphere and wish their time could be used more productively.

"School feels like punishment."



PARCC has an extreme impact on student emotions, for those who take the test seriously. The Journey Maps were riddled with "I'm going to drop out" quotes.



Students are fed up with the amount of testing that occurs throughout the year. They see the value in some tests, but not in others.

"AP tests are coming fast, and we just wasted a whole week."



Students experience relief after the conclusion of the PARCC and are pleased to get back to their normal routine.

"Thank God they're done."



For some students, the pressure and emphasis on PARCC results in burnout and resignation.

"My brain has officially stopped processing."