

Parent Resource Packet for Districts and Schools

[Introduction](#)

[Methods of Engaging Parents](#)

[Resources to Share with Parents](#)

[Appendix A](#)

Introduction

A parent is a child’s first and most important teacher, and children benefit academically when parents and educators collaborate. As we continue to raise our expectations for students, it is even more important than ever that schools and districts work alongside parents to increase student achievement. Moreover, we know that recent changes to our standards, curricula and assessments can be confusing for parents who may have inaccurate or incomplete information.

Therefore, it is incumbent on our schools and districts to:

- Provide parents with accurate information about the work their children are taking on in school.
- Clear up misconceptions that parents may have about this work.
- Empower parents by providing them with the resources and tools they need to be active participants in and advocates for their children’s education.
- Give parents a space to be heard and a voice in their children’s education.

Many districts and schools in Louisiana and across the United States are already taking action to ensure they are working as allies alongside their students’ parents to improve our schools and raise students’ academic achievement. The purpose of this guide is to collate some of these strategies and provide districts and schools with ideas and resources to engage parents effectively.

Methods of Engaging Parents

Engagement Structure	Description	Examples and Resources
Parent Meetings	All across the country, districts and schools are hosting meetings to help address parents’ questions and concerns regarding CCSS. These meetings, often co-led by a combination of the Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer, principal or head of curriculum, focus on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Addressing parents’ misconceptions and questions2. Teaching parents some of the new methods and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ouachita Junior High School is hosting a series of parent nights focused on Common Core and PARCC. Click here for materials from these meetings including the letter they sent to parents and the agenda.• *NEW* PARCC s recently

	<p>approaches that their children are learning in school</p> <p>3. Giving parents a venue to have their voices heard</p> <p>Some of these meetings focus specifically on Common Core math, which parents have found particularly sticky.</p>	<p>developed a packet of customizable resources that can be shared with parents and families to help them better understand the PARCC assessment system and how it will be used.</p>
Homework Hotlines and “Cheat Sheets”	<p>Helping with homework is one way that parents can and want to be involved in their children’s education. It is understandable that parents can become flustered when their children return from school with homework that looks very different than what they themselves were exposed to in school. Some schools and teachers are offering homework hotlines and homework “cheat sheets” to demystify these new approaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lafayette’s Eureka guide for parents • Calcasieu’s Homework Help Center for parents
Parent Guides	<p>Many of the existing guides for educators that cover topics such as assessments, CCSS, and curricula are often too detailed or complicated for parents. Many districts and schools have found success creating short, simple, jargon-free resources for parents to help them make sense of these topics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council of the Great City Schools Parent Roadmaps • Council for Great City Schools videos • PARCC's 2-page summary for parents
Parent Websites	<p>Websites can be a good way to share information and resources with parents. These websites should be simple, clear and easy for parents to navigate.</p>	<p>Lafayette Parish School System has created a comprehensive Parent Command Center that includes information and resources such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A homework portal • Math and ELA resources • A parent portal that allows parents to check a child’s attendance, grades, assignments and more.

Resources to Share with Parents

There are also many pre-existing resources that districts and schools can share with parents to address questions and equip parents with the information they need to help their children. Please see [Appendix A](#) for more resources.

General Resources

Provide parents with information they need to be involved in their children’s education in meaningful ways.

1. [Louisiana's Family Support Toolbox](#): Features our standards, Common Core parent guides, practice tests and assessment guides.
2. [National PTA Parents' Guides to Student Success](#): Created for grades K-8 high school English language arts/literacy and mathematics these guides provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning at each grade in order to be prepared for college and career.

[PARCC Resources](#)

Help parents understand the assessment their children will take at the end of the year and how they can work alongside teachers to make sure their children are prepared.

1. PARCC recently developed a packet of resources that can be shared with parents and families to help them better understand the PARCC assessment system and how it will be used. All the materials located below can be downloaded and customized with your school's or district's logo and then converted into PDFs for distribution. Areas for customization are colored red within the documents and each resource was developed with a specific grade band--elementary, middle or high school--in mind.
 - Short Overview: [Elementary](#), [Middle](#) and [High School](#)
 - Long Overview: [Elementary](#), [Middle](#) and [High School](#)
 - Overview PowerPoint: [Elementary](#), [Middle](#) and [High School](#)
 - Tips for Hosting a Parent and Family Night: [Elementary](#), [Middle](#) and [High School](#)
2. [A New Vision of Assessment](#): a concise (2-page), accessible summary of PARCC for parents.
3. [Expanding Access — A Parent's Guide](#): Learn why the PARCC assessment accommodates all students.
4. [Sample PARCC Items](#): The samples presented here are designed to shine a light on important elements of the CCSS and to show how critical content in the standards may appear in PARCC's next-generation, technology-based assessments.

Math Resources

Demystify CCSS math for parents and equip them to help with math homework.

1. Eureka Math Module Guides
2. [Khan Academy](#): Extensive video library, interactive challenges, and assessments in Math. Also covers Science and other subjects (4-12)

Appendix A

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3. [Student Achievement Partners: Top 8 Questions Parents Ask Teachers about the Common Core State Standards](#)
4. [Council for Great City Schools: videos](#) explaining the Common Core State Standards, [ELA Road Maps](#) (K-8, high school), and [Math Road Maps](#) (K-8, high school)
5. [Stand for Children's Stand UP](#) (Stand University for Parents): a research-based, ten-week family engagement program for parents of elementary school children. Stand UP focuses on parental role-definition, parent-school relationships, understanding and acting on student data and grades, and specific strategies to help students learn at home.

PARCC Resources:

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 - Overview PowerPoint: [Elementary](#), [Middle](#) and [High School](#)
 - Tips for Hosting a Parent and Family Night: [Elementary](#), [Middle](#) and [High School](#)
1. [A New Vision of Assessment PPT](#): a concise (2-page), accessible summary of PARCC for parents; learn how PARCC is different from current assessments. ([Document version](#)).
2. [Expanding Access — A Parent's Guide](#): Learn why the PARCC assessment accommodates all students.
3. [PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual](#): Learn about what your child's district is doing to ensure that the PARCC mid-year, performance-based, and end-of-year assessments provide valid results for all participating students.
4. [Sample PARCC Items](#): The samples presented here are designed to shine a light on important elements of the CCSS and to show how critical content in the standards may appear in PARCC's next-generation, technology-based assessments.
5. [PARCC FAQs](#): See frequently asked questions about the PARCC assessment.
6. [PARCC Fact Sheet](#): Learn more about the PARCC assessment.
7. [PARCC Glossary](#): Learn the terms used to talk about the PARCC assessment.

8. [PARCC Overview PowerPoint](#): An overview of the PARCC assessment, including a description of why the new assessments ensure our students are prepared for college and their careers.

Math Resources

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1. Eureka Math Module Guides
2. [Khan Academy](#): Extensive video library, interactive challenges, and assessments in Math. Also covers Science and other subjects (4-12).
3. [Webmath](#): a math-help web site that generates answers to specific math questions and problems. In addition to the answers, Webmath also shows the student how to arrive at the answer.
4. [Math Milestones](#): This site has short video clips to illustrate math, reading and writing milestones for each grade level. They show important skills students should be working on in specific grade levels.
5. [Math Playground](#): Math games and problem solving activities that support student learning.