

**Guidance on Testing Multiple
Grades/Courses Concurrently in the
Same Testing Environment**

The purpose of this appendix is to provide additional guidance for schools that wish to schedule multiple testing grades/courses of students in the same testing environment¹ at the same time.

Schools may schedule different grades/courses of students in the same environment at the same time, provided that the unit testing time, content area, and administration script are the same. For example, for the English Language Arts/Literacy Unit 1, students in grades 9, 10 and 11 may be combined into the same testing environment because all grades have the same unit testing time and use the same administration script. Grade 3 paper-based testing (PBT) must be separate from grades 4 and 5 because the administration directions differ due to different testing materials (i.e., grade 3 has test booklets, but grades 4 and 5 have test booklets and answer documents). However, grade 3 computer-based testing (CBT) can be in the same environment as grades 4 and 5, since the directions and materials are the same. Guidance on which grades can be combined into the same testing environment is provided on pages 2 through 3.

A **separate** testing environment is needed for:

- Paper-based and computer-based (Administration scripts are different.)
- English language arts/literacy and mathematics. (Testing times and administration scripts are different.)
- Spanish form for mathematics.
- Student directions read aloud in a language other than English (As a reminder, there are translated administration scripts for 12 different languages for PARCC, available at dc.mypearsonsupport.com.)

Note: Schools cannot combine students with the Human Reader accommodation across grades/courses. For example, Grade 4 students with a Human Reader can be tested together, but Grade 4 and Grade 5 students with a Human Reader accommodation cannot be tested concurrently in the same testing environment.

English Language Arts/Literacy—Computer-Based Testing

ELA/L Unit	Grades that May Be Grouped Together	Unit Testing Time (minutes)
Unit 1	Grade 3	75
	Grade 4, Grade 5	90
	Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	90
	Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11	90
Unit 2	Grade 3	75
	Grade 4, Grade 5	90
	Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	90
	Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11	90

¹ Testing environment is defined as a room or location where secure PARCC testing occurs (e.g., a classroom, library, media center, computer lab).

English Language Arts/Literacy—Paper-Based Testing

ELA/L Unit	Grades that May Be Grouped Together	Unit Testing Time (minutes)
Unit 1	Grade 3	75
	Grade 4, Grade 5	90
	Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	90
	Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11	90
Unit 2	Grade 3	75
	Grade 4, Grade 5	90
	Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	90
	Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11	90

Mathematics—Computer-Based Testing

Unit	Grades/Courses that May Be Grouped Together	Unit Testing Time (minutes)
Unit 1	Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5	60
	Grade 6 & Grade 7 (<i>non-calculator/calculator unit</i>), Grade 8	60
	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (<i>non-calculator/calculator unit</i>)	90
Unit 2	Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5	60
	Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	60
	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II	90
Unit 3	Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5	60
	Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	60

Mathematics – Paper-Based Testing

Unit	Grades/Courses that May Be Grouped Together	Unit Testing Time (minutes)
Unit 1	Grade 3 (Grade 3 PBT Mathematics cannot be administered in the same environment as grades 4 and 5 due to the difference in test materials causing differences in directions.)	60
	Grade 4, Grade 5	60
	Grade 6, Grade 7 (<i>non-calculator/calculator unit</i>), Grade 8	60
	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II	90
Unit 2	Grade 3 (Grade 3 PBT Mathematics cannot be administered in the same environment as grades 4 and 5 due to the difference in test materials causing differences in directions.)	60
	Grade 4, Grade 5	60
	Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	60
	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II	90
Unit 3	Grade 3 (Grade 3 PBT Mathematics cannot be administered in the same environment as grades 4 and 5 due to the difference in test materials causing differences in directions.)	60
	Grade 4, Grade 5	60
	Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8	60