

PARCC Testing: Frequently Asked Questions - Student Refusals

1. **May a parent or guardian opt a child out of testing?**

No. The Illinois State Board of Education does not recognize the right of a parent or guardian to refuse participation in testing on a child's behalf. ISBE has made it clear that all students must be provided the opportunity to participate in required yearly testing.

2. **May a student refuse to participate in PARCC testing?**

Yes. At each instance a unit of the test is presented to the student, the student may communicate to a test administrator, verbally or in writing that they will not be participating in a particular PARCC unit.

3. **If a student refuses to test on one unit, does the test administrator have to present the following units to the student?**

Per ISBE, a student must be presented the opportunity to participate in *each* unit of the test. A prior refusal does not change a school's responsibility to present the student with the additional opportunity to participate.

4. **What should test administrators do with students who refuse while other students are testing?**

Students who refuse to test should be removed to another section of the room or to another location. Students who refuse to participate may:

- be provided a silent, self-guided activity in the classroom (in a content area other than what is being assessed).
- be removed to another supervised location to engage in quiet self-directed activities.

Note: if the student remains in the testing room, the activity the student is engaging in should not be in the same subject that is being tested.

5. **May a teacher advocate for students to refuse to test?**

No, teachers may not engage in this advocacy during work time or on school property. This would be a violation of both ISBE and CPS professional responsibilities and may be subject to disciplinary action (see [here](#) for ISBE). Such advocacy would subject the employee to discipline by the Chicago Board of Education.

6. **May a teacher refuse to administer the PARCC test?**

No. Teachers must perform their professional responsibilities and assigned job duties, including administration of PARCC. Employees who refuse to administer PARCC will be disciplined by the Chicago Board of Education.

7. **May the school principal prohibit a parent or other community member from handing leaflets, advocating PARCC refusal, to students or parents on school grounds?**

Yes. School staff should direct parents or community members that distributing leaflets to elementary school children on school grounds is not permitted. School officials may call the police if the individual refuses to stop.

8. **What should a Network Chief or principal do if a principal or teacher refuses to administer the PARCC test?**

If a teacher/principal refuses to administer the PARCC test, their supervisor (principal or Network Chief) must:

- Use the email template provided to notify the employee of the violation, and
- Notify their direct supervisor (principal notifies their Network Chief; Network Chief notifies the Office of Network Support;).