

Carroll County Public Schools

Guidelines for the Identification of the Text-to-Speech Accessibility Feature for PARCC Mathematics Assessment

On the PARCC assessments, accessibility features are tools that are built into the assessment system that can be used by any student taking the assessments. A relatively small number of students will require additional accessibility features for their particular needs.

These guidelines are intended to help Carroll County Public Schools' instructional staff in the identification of the text-to-speech accessibility feature for the PARCC Mathematics Assessment.

These guidelines were developed based on guidance from the Maryland State Department of Education and the *PARCC ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES AND ACCOMMODATIONS MANUAL: Guidance for Districts and Decision-Making Teams to Ensure that PARCC Summative Assessments Produce Valid Results for All Students* produced by the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (Fifth Edition, 09/02/2016).

- I. Selection of the text-to-speech accessibility feature must be made on an individual student basis.
 1. The selection will be made based on the student's education-related needs and preferences by an informal team, which may include the: Student (as appropriate); Parent/guardian; and Student's primary educator in the subject of the assessment.
 2. The use of text-to-speech cannot be made solely for assessment purposes. Consideration should be given to text-to-speech only if a student consistently uses it and finds it helpful during instruction and when engaging in individual work.
 3. The decision to select text-to-speech must be based on observations and stated preferences by the student or parent/guardian regarding a student's testing needs that have been determined to increase access during instruction and assessment.
 4. The student must practice using this feature, either in a classroom or real world application or setting.
- II. Any documentation used to support the decision to select the text-to-speech feature should be maintained.
- III. The student's testing needs should be reviewed at least annually, and revised as appropriate, to reflect current education-related needs or preferences.

Any questions regarding these guidelines should be addressed to Lisa Busher, Supervisor of Accountability and Assessment, 410-386-1514, labushe@carrollk12.org.