



Dear Parent/Guardian,

In the coming months, New Jersey will administer the third-year of the PARCC test in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. The test was first administered in 2015 and replaced the NJ ASK and HSPA tests. It matches the content and skills outlined in the standards that guide instruction in the classroom and provides valuable information about student learning. We are committed to providing accurate information to parents and families in our community, as well as clarifying any misperceptions about the value of student participation in statewide assessments.

The PARCC test provides a deeper level of information about student progress than previous tests, which makes it a valuable tool to measure student performance. PARCC identifies the areas in each subject where a student needs additional support and where he or she has mastered the content and can be challenged to go deeper into the subject matter—information that is useful for parents, teachers, students, and school administrators.

As a parent, you can use the information you learn about your child's performance to support your child at home and guide a discussion with their child's teacher to identify what, if any, additional support is necessary in school. Teachers use the information to guide their instruction and provide more personalized activities and learning opportunities for students. Students can work on the areas where improvement is needed to ensure they are staying on track to be successful in the next grade. In areas where students excel, teachers can provide appropriately challenging work to ensure students continue to be engaged in school and advance their knowledge.

No single test can give a complete picture of achievement, but when it is combined with student grades and teacher reports, it can provide important information about student progress. With this year's scores, you will be able to compare your child's performance this year to previous year's and track your child's progress over time. In addition, the PARCC test is the best way to ensure that traditionally underserved students—those receiving special education or English as a Second Language services, low-income, and minority students—are not overlooked.

When a student does not participate in the annual state test, we all lose valuable information. We are committed to student achievement, and the PARCC test raises the bar for our students to ensure they are on the path to success.

We are confident that with the quality instruction delivered by our dedicated educators, and your support, our students can meet and exceed these expectations. I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher/school/administrator with any questions you may have about the PARCC test or your child's progress.

Thank you,

John J. Hurley, Superintendent