

August 19, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In the spring, your child participated in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests to measure his or her academic progress with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Evaluating the results from PARCC testing can be a helpful tool in measuring your child's success in school, and it is just one of the many ways your child's teachers and administrators can determine whether he or she is on track to being college and career-ready. New Jersey has had statewide tests for decades, and they have served as a small, but important part of assessing our students' annual progress.

The results of the second-year administration of PARCC are encouraging. Overall, more students advanced into the highest scoring levels, indicating that they are on track to be ready for college and career when they graduate. Conversely, a greater percentage of students advanced beyond the lower ends of the proficiency spectrum, telling us that student gains are occurring across the board. There were also promising trends in student participation, as the overwhelming majority of students took all the tests.

This year's scores are also being returned much sooner to schools and parents. The faster turnaround gives educators a greater opportunity to use the results to tailor classroom instruction to support individual students.

The Individual Student Reports you will soon receive have been improved based on feedback from parents and educators. You will receive an individual score report in each subject that your child was enrolled in for English language arts and mathematics. A written explanation indicates where your child is doing well and where he or she may need additional help. There are also charts and graphics that show you how well your student is performing in relation to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/), and how your student's performance compares to other students in his or her school, district and state.

For more information about your child's Individual Student Report, you can visit UnderstandTheScore.org. Additional resources to help support your child can be found on the NJDOE website (www.state.nj.us/education/).

Should you have any questions, you may contact my office.

Sincerely,



Mark Toback, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools