



# North Arlington Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

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## 2017 PARCC Participation (Grades 3-11)

March 6, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In the coming weeks, New Jersey will administer the third-year of the PARCC assessment in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. The test was first administrated in 2015 and replaced the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) and High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA). 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 you with accurate information, as well as clarifying any misperceptions about the value of student participation in statewide assessments.

The PARCC assessment 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 about your child(ren)'s performance to support your child(ren) at home and guide a discussion with his/her/their 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.

Our staff recognizes that 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(ren)'s past performances or simply use this year as a foundation in case your child(ren) has/have never taken the PARCC assessment in prior years.

In addition to the benefits of monitoring your child(ren)'s progress, it is also important to note that the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has recently updated the graduation requirements for students in the graduating classes of 2017 through 2021 and beyond, which can be found at the following link: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parents/GradReq.pdf>. As you will see, the NJDOE will be requiring all students to not only take all PARCC assessments in high school, but also receive a valid score to be eligible for the pathways to graduation. With this knowledge at hand, having your child(ren) participate in the earlier grades will only better familiarize him/her/them with the online platform to ensure improved navigation and continued progress year after year.

As always, thank you for your anticipated cooperation. Please contact your child(ren)'s building principal(s) if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen M. Yurchak, Ed.D.  
Superintends of Schools