



**A Parent's Guide to Understanding the PARCC Assessments**

## What is PARCC?

**PARCC** is The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. It is a group of states that has worked cooperatively to develop assessments that measure whether students are on track to be successful in postsecondary pursuits in college and/or careers. New Jersey and the other PARCC states had adopted new, more rigorous academic standards most recently in 2014. However, the standards in language arts and math underwent an additional review in 2015 with adoption by the New Jersey State Board of Education in May 2016 of the revised New Jersey Learning Standards, (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/>).

**The** PARCC consortia of states developed high-quality assessments reflecting those standards. These high quality, online computer-based assessments in Mathematics and English/Language Arts Literacy provide students, parents, teachers, and schools better information on whether students are on track in their learning. Presently in high school, students enrolled in the following courses are administered a PARCC assessment: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, English/Language Arts Literacy- grade 9, English/Language Arts Literacy- grade 10, and English/Language Arts Literacy- grade 11. To view practice tests and other parent resources, please visit: <http://www.parcconline.org/resources/parent-resources>

## Why PARCC?

**The** PARCC tests measure student understanding of concepts, reasoning, writing, and problem-solving. On August 3, 2016, the State Board of Education approved updated state regulations for the high school graduation assessments requirements in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for the Classes of 2016 through 2021 and beyond. For detailed information, please visit, <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parents/GradReq.pdf>

## Are PARCC results used for placement purposes?

**The** Freehold Regional High School District is committed to empowering all students to develop passions in rigorous courses and programs. While assessment data often contributes to that effort by informing recommendations for support and placement, it is the philosophy of the district to not rely upon just one indicator for placement purposes.

**We** will provide instructional support for students who do not achieve minimal mastery scores on the PARCC assessments.

**All** students are registered, scheduled, and are expected to participate in the PARCC assessments as required by state and federal regulations. All members of the Class of 2020 must take all PARCC assessments associated with the high school level courses for which they are enrolled and .eligible

## When is PARCC testing for our students?

**For** most students\* in the Freehold Regional High School District, testing will begin March 27, 2017 and conclude by May 19, 2017. When your student is scheduled to test during the testing window is determined by the high school administration.

**Student use of a cell phone or any electronic mobile device during a PARCC test session is strictly prohibited. No student is to be in possession of a cellphone or any electronic mobile device during a PARCC test session. Possession of a cellphone or any electronic mobile device during a PARCC test session AND/OR use of that device to photograph and/or transmit an image of PARCC test content, will result in the Principal or his/her designee confiscating the cellphone or electronic mobile device and enforcing appropriate disciplinary action as outlined in the district's Student Code of Conduct.**

\*A small group of our students will be PARCC testing according to the fall and spring block administration dates. The high school administration will directly contact the parents/guardians of these students.

## Where is the PARCC testing for our students?

**Almost** all in-district enrolled students will be administered the online computer-based assessments within our school buildings. Students on home-bound instruction will be administered paper-based PARCC assessments as well as students with specific IEP or 504 accommodations for paper-based testing. Students enrolled in an out-of-district placement will be administered the PARCC assessments at their individual placement venue or testing will be arranged through their home high school administrators.

## When will the 2016 PARCC scores be available to parents?

**The** district mailed home individual student PARCC score reports on September 16, 2016. For more information on score reports, please visit <http://understandthescore.org/>

### **Translated** score reports

PARCC has translated the sample score reports into 11 different languages, and parents may visit, <http://www.parcconline.org/resources/educator-resources/sample-score-reports>

## May a student refuse to participate in the PARCC assessments?

**Freehold** Regional High School District places its top priority on assisting ALL students to maximize their potential, preparing them to navigate an evolving global society. Gathering individual academic progress data on our students supports that mission goal. The New Jersey Department of Education, pursuant to state and federal law, requires that all students participate in the statewide assessment program.

**The** PARCC testing program provides an opportunity for students to satisfy the New Jersey high school graduation assessment requirement and to experience the type of online assessment format that they are likely to encounter very soon

with the ACT, SAT, and Advanced Placement examinations.

**The** following procedure is to be followed by Class of 2018 and Class of 2019 students who choose not to participate in PARCC testing in spring 2017:

**Parents** must submit a written communication no later than March 13, 2017 to the principal of the high school stating that their student will not participate in PARCC testing. **This is not an option for members of the Class of 2020- please see state guidance,** <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parents/GradReq.pdf>

Grades 10 and 11 students refusing to take the assessments will be instructed to report to a room location where he/she will be supervised during the testing session. If a student's regularly scheduled class is meeting during the test session, the student will be instructed to report to that room location. Students who refuse to participate in PARCC testing by not reporting to school will have their absence recorded as unexcused.

### **Is passing the PARCC assessments the only way to meet the state assessment requirement for graduation from high school for the Classes of 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020?**

**No.** New Jersey is utilizing transitional assessments as demonstrations of proficiency. The state has developed rules for accessing transitional assessments for graduation. The Class of 2020 has specific PARCC participation rules.

Please visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parents/GradReq.pdf>

### **New Jersey Department of Education Resource for Parents**

**The** New Jersey Department of Education maintains resources to help parents better understand the PARCC assessment system and how it will be used to provide teachers and families information about how students are doing and whether they are on track for their next academic steps. Please visit, <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parents/>