

HHSD PARCC NEWSLETTER

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This week's focus for the PARCC Newsletter is to remove any misnomers that may exist regarding PARCC testing. The current high academic standards help students learn the skills that they need to succeed in their future, and the PARCC assessment will measure how well they have learned those skills. Most importantly, the results of the tests are also intended to help educators adjust instruction for individuals and groups of students.

Myths

Facts

National tests have little to do with New Jersey students.

The New Jersey State Board of Education chose to work with the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). New Jersey educators know our students best and continue to be involved in developing and refining items for the assessment.

PARCC assessments are untested and not valid.

Students and teachers provided feedback to the state and test developers about their experience with the test questions, accommodations for students with special needs and the testing software. The PARCC consortium used lessons learned from field-tests to ensure that the tests in the 2014-15 school year, and those to be administered in 2015-2016 are the best possible assessments.

Our students do not need new learning standards or new types of testing.

It is vital that our education system better prepare students by providing them with knowledge and new opportunities to develop and demonstrate their skills through new methods. We must think differently than in the past in order to prepare our young people for their future.

The PARCC assessment interferes with student privacy rights and will result in the collection and tracking of intrusive and inappropriate data on children.

Participation in PARCC does not require student-identifiable data sharing or reporting. The federal government does not have, and New Jersey will not provide, access to individual student-level data.

The state and federal governments require too much testing and it is taking valuable time away from teaching and learning.

Children, at most, will be testing for 7 total days, as they take one unit assessment per day. Inherently, 97% of the school year is focused on teaching and learning.

Taking PARCC tests cannot improve teaching and learning.

the PARCC data that the faculty and administrators receive after each year of testing has become an extraordinarily invaluable resource in articulating curriculum, identifying areas of strength and improvement, and increase pedagogy.

PARCC will require teachers to "teach to the test."

PARCC is designed for students to demonstrate their understanding of a concept, apply that knowledge, and use their skills to produce a result. Because PARCC is completely aligned with the standards, teaching a standards-aligned curriculum is the best way to put students in a position to succeed.

Significantly, PARCC participation at all grades levels is an important metric on how all NJ schools are evaluated by the NJDOE. The PARCC Participation Benchmark for schools is 95% of all students.