

February 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In the coming months schools across New Jersey will administer the PARCC assessment in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for Grades 3-11. Our district's 2017 testing window is **March 27-May 19, 2017**. Specific information pertaining to your child's school and grade will be sent to you by the principal prior to testing. The actual time and days for testing vary across grade levels and may reflect a shorter window than above.

PARCC provides a deeper level of information about student progress than previous tests which makes it a valuable tool to measure student performance. The assessment identifies areas where a student may need additional support as well as where he or she has mastered the content and can be challenged to go deeper into the subject matter. No single test can give a complete picture of achievement, but when combined with course grades and teacher reports, a clearer understanding of individual student progress is gained and performance can be monitored over time.

As per directives from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and to be compliant with Federal requirements, Toms River Regional Schools will schedule all students in grades 3 – 11 to take all required state assessments as per N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1, N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 (a) (b), and District policies 2622 Pupil Assessment and 5200 Attendance related to student participation in state assessments. Since PARCC is part of the mandated educational program, schools are not required to provide an alternative educational program for students who do not participate in the statewide assessment.

The Toms River Regional School District prides itself on treating all children with dignity and respect on a daily basis. Our goal is to ensure a testing environment that follows all protocols and procedures and is not disruptive to the students taking the assessments. We are committed to student achievement and the PARCC assessment 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.

If you should have any questions regarding PARCC, please do not hesitate to visit our PARCC FAQ webpage at <http://www.trschools.com>. Also, a full explanation of the testing graduation requirements by graduation year can be found on the NJDOE's website <http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment>.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to your child's education.

Sincerely,

Estee Mailot

Estee Mailot, Ed.D.

Director of Funded Programs/District Test Coordinator