Advantages of PARCC Assessments

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<th>PARCC Practices</th>
<th>Benefits of PARCC</th>
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<td>• Determine whether students are college and career ready or on track</td>
<td>• More thorough academic measurement tool.</td>
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<td>• Connect to the Common Core Standards</td>
<td>-age appropriate problem-solving, critical evaluations and higher-order thinking skills</td>
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<td>• Measure the full range of student performance, including that of high and low achieving students</td>
<td>• Keeps parents informed.</td>
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<td>• Provide educators data throughout the year to inform instruction</td>
<td>Provides parents with far more comprehensive information in child’s progress.</td>
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<td>• Create innovative 21st Century, technology-based assessments</td>
<td>• Improves instruction.</td>
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<td>• Measures critical thinking, writing, and problem-solving skills</td>
<td>Schools receive more detailed information to curtail instruction for both whole curriculums and individual students.</td>
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<td>• Create problems <em>worth</em> doing and texts <em>worth</em> reading</td>
<td>• Less testing.</td>
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<td>Detailed information of where student is struggling eliminates need for additional testing</td>
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<td>• Benefits of technology.</td>
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<td>PARCC is a computer-based assessment, mimicking where many assessments are going, SATs, GREs, etc.</td>
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<td>Results are returned more quickly.</td>
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<td>• Reduced College Remediation</td>
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<td>PARCC can help place students in credit bearing college classes and eliminate need for remedial college classes.</td>
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Resources and Tutorials

For PARCC Preparation
- Tutorial: http://parcc.pearson.com/tutorial/
- Sample Questions: http://parcc.pearson.com/sample-items/
- Released Test Items PARCC 14-15: https://prc.parconline.org/assessments/parcc-released-items

For Score Report Information
- Understanding the Score Report: http://understandthescore.org/help-your-child/resources-for-parents/
- Understanding Individual Student Report: http://understandthescore.org/
- Parent Guide to Score Reports: http://www.parconline.org/resources/parent-resources
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are PARCC assessments?
   The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments were created by a consortium of participating states. Most states voluntarily adopted new, more rigorous academic standards in 2010 and 2011 and teachers have been using them in their daily instruction. As a result, states needed high-quality assessments aligned to those standards that would test students of all academic levels on what they are learning.

2. Why should my child take PARCC?
   The assessments are designed to mirror instructional shifts within the classroom. Over time, the PARCC assessments will measure the growth your child is making towards being college and/or career ready. Teachers and parents will acquire a sense of how well students are learning the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). PARCC meets one of the state testing requirements for graduation without a cost to parents or guardians.

3. How has Clearview Regional High School District (CRHSD) prepared students for the PARCC experience?
   CRHSD curricula has been reviewed and is currently aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

4. What resources can I access to better understand my child’s score report?
   Parents and guardians have access to resources explaining and describing the Individual Score Reports.
   **Video for Understanding the Score Report**
   Brief video explaining the information on the report:
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67G12fhSXmA.
   **Sample Reports**
   English/Language Arts/Literacy and mathematics sample reports:
   Each student will receive a scale score from 650 to 850 and a performance level of 1 to 5.
   Please note the following performance level descriptions:
   - Level 1: Did not yet meet expectations
   - Level 2: Partially met expectations
   - Level 3: Approached expectations
   - Level 4: Met expectations
   - Level 5: Exceeded expectations

January 2016
5 How will the 2014-2015 results be used in my child’s school?

This is the first year of results for the new PARCC state assessments for students. The scores will set a new baseline for academic growth and allow schools to measure growth in the coming years. Teachers and parents will get a sense of how well students are learning the Common Core State Standards, as well as identifying students who may need additional instructional support.

6 Can PARCC scores be compared to previous New Jersey State Assessments (ASK / HSPA)?

No. This is a very different kind of assessment that asks students to analyze information and think critically. It includes additional item types that are more rigorous and does not rely solely on multiple choice items. The academic bar is being raised and asking more of our students, so we should expect to see scores improve over time as students increasingly master new skills and knowledge.

7 What are the changes to PARCC assessments in the 2015-2016 school year and when will the test be administered?

The two testing windows were consolidated into one and overall tests will be shorter by approximately 90 minutes. Students will take PARCC in English/Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics after they have completed 80% of the course in the school year. For the 2015-2016 school year, schools will administer the PARCC tests between April 4 and May 13 in the middle school and between April 11 and May 20 in the high school. Your child’s school will provide specific testing dates closer to the opening of the school system testing window.

8 What PARCC assessments will be administered during the 2015-2016 school year?

Students in the middle school will participate in the summative assessments administered in the spring for English/Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. Students completing Algebra I or Geometry at the middle school level will participate in the corresponding PARCC assessment. At the high school level, students enrolled in English I, English II, English III, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II will participate in the corresponding assessments.

9 Can my child opt out of the PARCC assessments?

Neither federal nor state law provides parents with an option regarding participation in the tests. The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 has required 95% of all students to be tested annually. Schools that don’t meet the standard could face implementation of a corrective action plan and possibly risk a loss of federal funding.

The vast majority of parents across the state of New Jersey had their child participate in last year’s administration of PARCC because they understood the benefits. PARCC will provide parents with an “academic check-up” about their child’s progress, and provide local schools with crucial information to improve classroom instruction. In those instances where parents refuse to have their children participate in the tests, local districts would apply their local policies.