

Clearview Regional High School District

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2016-17 PARCC Assessments - Parent Refusal Letter

I. Background

A. The New Jersey Department of Education requires public school districts to implement a Statewide assessment to evaluate student achievement. This requirement is consistent with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 et seq. The Board of Education is required to administer the applicable statewide assessments according to the schedule prescribed by the Commissioner.

B. State assessments provide parents with important information about their child's progress; detailed diagnostic information about each individual student's performance that educators, parents, and students can utilize to enhance foundational knowledge and student achievement; and include item analysis which will clarify a student's level of knowledge and understanding of a particular subject or area of a subject. The data derived from State assessments will be utilized by teachers and administrators to pinpoint areas of difficulty and customize instruction accordingly. Such data can be accessed and utilized as a student progresses to successive school levels.

C. Neither federal nor New Jersey administrative code allows for an opt-out provision for its state assessments. While that is state code, the district recognizes that some parents will still refuse to have their child take these required assessments. Please note that refusal for your child's participation in the PARCC assessments is subject to the Clearview BOE adopted policy #2622-Student Assessments. With regard to testing refusals, the policy reads, ***Parent refusals of their students' participation in the statewide assessment may prevent students from having access to all options to meet graduation assessment requirements including the portfolio appeal process.***

II. District Recommendation

A. Last year, the district made modifications to the administration of the PARCC assessments, which resulted in a more streamlined administration of the PARCC. We remain committed to the goal of administering PARCC with the least disruption to our academic programs. We believe that the PARCC itself is a better assessment of students' mastery of standards and preparation for college and careers than any previous state assessment. We also believe that the comprehensive PARCC data and student reports will provide us with additional information to better serve our students. We believe we can fulfill our state-assessment requirements both efficiently and effectively.

III. Verification of District's Responsibilities

- The District has provided the parents/guardians with information pertaining to the state's requirement to administer the PARCC assessment.
- The District has informed the parents/guardians that the District's recommendation is for students to participate in the PARCC assessment.
- The District has provided the parents/guardians information regarding the value that can be derived from the PARCC data.
- The District has posted and made available a copy of the Board's Student Assessment policy.

IV. Parent Refusal / Release

I, _____, the parents/guardians of _____, have reviewed all of the factors relating to the participation in the State-required PARCC assessments included both above and in the attached information.

By signing this, the parents/guardians release the Clearview Regional High School District (inclusive of its respective past, present and future officers, members, employees and agents) of and from any and all manner of actions and causes of actions, suits, debts, losses, claims and demands whatsoever in law or in equity, including but not limited to attorneys fees and costs, which they ever had, now have, or hereafter may have, by reason of or related directly or indirectly to this educational decision to refuse participation in the state-required assessment.

The parents/guardians understand that the student not participating in a statewide assessment will not be provided an alternative educational activity during the testing time.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Parent/Guardian (1)
Signature

Parent/Guardian (2)
Signature

Date