



Malberg Administration Building
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Dear Parent/Guardian,

As one of the largest school districts in New Jersey, Cherry Hill is preparing to administer the PARCC assessments to nearly 8,000 students during the PARCC End of Year Assessment (EOY) period, March 27, 2017 through May 19, 2017. The logistical demands of administering the assessment while mitigating the overall impact on the instructional program, are daunting, yet achievable.

The PARCC assessments have been developed as tools to measure students' individual levels of progression toward meeting the goals outlined in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. These standards serve as the foundational basis for the New Jersey Model Curriculum and for Cherry Hill's own district approved curriculum. The measures of performance from the PARCC assessments will be used as a diagnostic tool in addressing areas of strength and areas of needed growth for each student. The measures of performance will in no way, be used as the singular tool in making decisions about a student's success and they will not impact a student's progression to the next grade level.

Participation in the statewide assessment is a part of the educational program of a child who is enrolled in the public school system, as established in NJSA 18A:7C-1 and NJAC 6A:8-4.1(a) and (b). This statutory requirement has been reiterated by the Acting Commissioner of Education, Kimberly Harrington, and by the New Jersey State Board of Education. While Pearson is the company that has been commissioned to produce the PARCC assessments, the guidelines regarding protocol for administration of the assessments are disseminated by the Department of Education. Students in the class of 2020 and beyond are required to take the PARCC assessments for both English language arts and Mathematics.

As an educational community, we have continued to examine our plans for the administration of the PARCC assessment. For the 2017 administration of the PARCC assessments, a child whose parents/guardians refuse will be placed in an alternate location and will be permitted to read silently or to complete independent work. Parents/guardians will be required to submit their notice of refusal in writing by Friday, March 3, 2017 to the building principal. This deadline will provide the district appropriate time to respond and prepare for the 2017 PARCC administration with specific attention to verifying that all Eleventh and Twelfth grade students who are refusing PARCC have fulfilled the State graduation requirement and for those who have not provide support towards that end.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact your building principal.

Regards,


Dr. Joseph N. Meloche
Superintendent