



KINNELON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Diane DiGiuseppe
Superintendent

Dear Parent(s),

I am writing to provide you with a timely update about a very important matter in our school district. Recently, there have been questions asked by parents with regard to their children refusing to take the upcoming PARCC assessment as well as requests by parents to have their children opt out of taking the assessments. I would like to share some information about the PARCC assessment.

Like all NJ school districts, we are required to administer this state-mandated assessment. According to New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:8-4.1, students in grades 3-12 are required to take all statewide assessments as scheduled.

In addition to state mandates there are federal impacts under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind/ NCLB) which require that we meet the 95% participation rate. Our schools will not meet the Annual Progress Targets set forth by NCLB if fewer than ninety-five percent (95%) of our students participate in the state assessments. As such, our district's performance ratings may be impacted at the state and federal level.

The Kinnelon Board of Education recognizes that the PARCC assessments are aligned to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, & Technical Subjects, and Mathematics. We also recognize that these standards are beneficial to our students as they prescribe rich and rigorous content. Also important to note is that the Common Core, the Next Generation Science Standards and the PARCC assessments demand a change in instructional methods which reflects 21st Century skills and emphasizes critical thinking skills in addition to content knowledge. Kinnelon teachers have been implementing the Common Core State Standards since 2010. We are confident that our teachers deliver this content clearly and with an understanding of the needs of each student in his/her classroom. At this time, we are confident and comfortable with our students' abilities to be successful on these assessments during this baseline setting year.

There are no ramifications for sitting for the PARCC assessment this year and we hope to have all of our students participate so we can gauge how well we are doing in educating our students in this rich and rigorous content. Due to the timing of the assessment scores, they will not be used for placement into GOAL, Jump Start Math, or accelerated and honors courses in 2015-16. The Kinnelon Public Schools will administer the test to all students in grades 3-8 and all qualifying students in grades 9-12 as mandated by both state statute and federal law.

There is more information about the PARCC assessments and the testing schedule on the Kinnelon Public Schools' district website. If you would like to learn more about the PARCC assessment in Kinnelon, please join us on February 26, 2015 for the Board of Education meeting. Board meetings are held at 8:00 PM in the Kinnelon High School auditorium. Individual questions can be addressed to the following email: PARCCassessments@kinnelon.org.

Sincerely,

Diane DiGiuseppe
Superintendent of Schools