



October 1, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In the Spring of 2018, children in Grades 3-8, across the State, participated in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests to measure their academic progress with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Evaluating the results from statewide testing can be a helpful tool in measuring your child's success in school, and it is just one of the many ways your child's teachers and administrators can determine whether he or she is on track for the next grade or ready for college. New Jersey has had statewide tests for decades, and they have served as a small, but important part of assessing our students' annual progress.

The results of the fourth-year administration of PARCC are encouraging. Overall, more students have participated each year, and the percentage of students in the lower ends of the performance scale (Levels 1 and 2) has been declining, while slowly rising at the upper levels (Levels 4 and 5), in both mathematics and English Language Arts.

As was the case last year, this year's scores are being returned much sooner to schools and parents. The faster turnaround gives educators a greater opportunity to use the results to tailor classroom instruction to support individual students.

The Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for the PARCC assessments were developed based on feedback from parents and educators. The ISRs are in English language arts and mathematics. A written explanation indicates where your child is doing well and where he or she may need additional help. There are also charts and graphics that show you how well your child is performing in relation to the [New Jersey Student Learning Standards](#), and how your child's performance compares to other students in his or her school, district and state.

For more information about your child's ISR, you can visit UnderstandTheScore.org. Additional resources to help support your child can be found on the [NJDOE Office of Assessments webpage](#).

Should you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

Joseph Isola
Superintendent of Schools