

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's results from last spring on a new state test in English language arts and math—known as the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test—are attached to this letter.

These new, online tests were designed to match the content and skills outlined in the new standards that are guiding instruction every day in classrooms across Camden and New Jersey. These new tests moved away from fill-in-the bubble tests and asked questions that require students to explain their answers. The results from PARCC are one piece of your child's overall educational learning experience, including performance in the classroom, that provides a broader picture of his or her academic success and progress towards graduating high school ready to succeed at college-level work.

Your child's performance level, as well as the school and District's performance levels, may look lower this year. These new tests measure more complex, real-world skills such as critical-thinking, writing, and problem solving. For these reasons, these scores cannot be compared to previous test scores. Instead, they are setting a new, more accurate baseline from which progress can be measured moving forward.

This first year of testing is a transition year. This year, you are receiving your child's report in the late fall, but the goal for next year is to have results available during the summer.

I hope you will find that the attached report provides you with more detailed information about your child's learning. Each subject is broken down into categories of skills and content to identify where a student is doing well and where he or she needs some additional help.

We encourage you to talk to your child's teacher for additional information on how your child is performing in class as well as discuss how he or she can be further supported in school. In addition, you can find grade-level learning resources that can be accessed at these websites:

- Video explaining the score reports: <http://www.understandthescore.org/>
- Additional resources for parents: <http://www.bealearninghero.org/>
- Information about PARCC: <http://www.parcconline.org/resources/parent-resources>
- New Jersey-specific information: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/>

If you have any questions, please contact your Community School Coordinator or your principal.

Sincerely,

Paymon Rouhanifard
Superintendent

Katrina McCombs
Deputy Superintendent