



What They Are Saying:

Higher Education Voices Say PARCC is a “Valuable Tool” and a “Much-Needed Benchmark”

Thomas Kean, Former Governor of New Jersey and Former President of Drew University: “The PARCC scores provide a new and much-needed benchmark, one that more closely aligns with the higher quality education standards we have set and measures skills like critical thinking, persuasive writing and problem-solving. This new benchmark will give us more honest and accurate assessments of how well students comprehend and are able to apply these skills. And if we are being really honest, the National Assessment of Educational Progress has been telling us we've needed a better measure for years. (Tom Kean, “PARCC scores will help N.J. close 'honesty gap' in education,” [Newark Star-Ledger](#), 10/26/15)

President of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges Lawrence Nespoli: “The PARCC score reports are such a valuable tool that in 2016, New Jersey's community colleges plan to use them as one of their placement tools in addition to Accuplacer, the SAT and the ACT, among other measures. Specifically, students who choose to attend community colleges and score 4 or 5 on PARCC will be placed into college-level courses. For students who score in the 3 range on PARCC, the community colleges may accept the score as long as the students have demonstrated other indicators of readiness, such as having earned a good grade-point average. There has never been a more important time to turn our attention toward college readiness. We have a long way to go to ensure that, but with high standards, aligned assessments and student-specific achievement data, we're on the right track.” (Lawrence Nespoli, “PARCC puts students on right path to enter college,” [Star-Ledger Guest Column](#), 4/6/16)

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), and Higher Ed for Higher Standards (HEHS): “For the first time, scores on high school assessments will have a meaningful connection to college and career success. Students who meet college readiness standards will be more prepared for successful transition into credit-bearing college coursework and training opportunities. Standards for these tests have been raised to reflect real expectations of college and career readiness and provide a more accurate assessment of student readiness for the demands of postsecondary life. This partnership marks a new way of approaching remedial education by taking needed actionable steps to raise the bar for academic and career success.” (David Conner, “ACCT and AACC Partner with Higher Ed for Higher Standards,” [AACC](#), 10/15/15)

President Emeritus of the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association Paul E. Lingenfelter: “PARCC assessments, administered through high school and aligned with the requirements for success in college, provide feedback to students long before high school graduation. High school students and their teachers will know well in advance whether they are prepared or on track to being prepared for college-credit bearing courses. If they are ready, students will face less placement testing and will save money by avoiding required remedial courses that do not count toward a degree or certificate. If not, they will have guidance to identify the gaps in the knowledge and skills they need and time to fill the gaps while still in high school.” (Paul E. Lingenfelter, “A leap toward postsecondary success,” [Denver Post](#), 3/26/15)

The State University of New York Chancellor Nancy Zimpher: “Parents need to know these assessments are just one of our tools to support college readiness, not the whole toolbox...We will have no way to track our progress and improve our tools without annual assessments.” (Nancy Zimpher, “Opting Out of Our Future,” [Big Ideas](#), 4/13/15)

David C. Hespe, Former Burlington County College President and Current New Jersey Education Commissioner: “Parents should expect a new test that can help improve their local schools. They should expect to get meaningful feedback on how their child is progressing academically. That's what PARCC is designed to do. Since we must test, let's make it a good one. Let's make it one that measures critical thinking, problem solving and analytical skills — not just rote memorization and multiple-choice guesses. Let's make it one that's technology-rich, with questions that are reviewed by no less than 30 educators and testing experts. Parents deserve the best resources the state has available to make sure that their children can thrive in their academics, and PARCC is the most advanced tool that New Jersey education has had at its disposal.” (David C. Hespe, “State education chief defends PARCC,” [Asbury Park Press](#), 2/22/15)