



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

What They Are Saying:

PARCC Data is “Valuable” and “Powerful”

“Scores will be used to identify strengths and gaps in the curriculum, improve student learning and support instruction”

Haworth Director of Elementary Education Paul Wolford: “The data that we received from PARCC is much more valuable, it breaks the students' performance into sub-skill sets and it tracks their growth along this path for college and career readiness...” (Marc Lightdale, “Haworth education officials release results from new mandated test,” [Northern Valley Suburbanite](#), 1/28/16)

Ramapo/Indian Hills Regional High School Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Articulation David Sutherland: “We are trying to get the message out why it is important to us as a district for students to take the test...PARCC provides us with details on how the student is performing.” (Marsha Stolz, “Local school officials weigh in on suggested changes to state test,” [Franklin Lakes-Oakland Suburban News](#), 1/29/16)

Closter Superintendent Joanne Newberry: “I think the students were very prepared and they took it seriously. The fact that they did so well shows how hard they worked how bright they really are...” (Caitlyn Bahrenburg, “Closter education leaders pleased with results on new test,” [Northern Valley Suburbanite](#), 12/31/15)

West Milford Interim Superintendent Anthony Riscica: “We talk about being a better school district. We talk about having our students prepared for careers in the 21st century workforce ... and going to college. We can't do this if we don't participate in the testing.” (David M. Zimmer, “West Milford schools plan PR push to boost PARCC participation,” [Suburban Trends](#), 3/7/16)

- **Riscica:** “By resisting this test, we are doing nothing more than hurting our children and hurting the district.”

New Jersey's Teacher of the Year in 2009 and Lawrence Township Public Schools Elementary School Teacher Jeanne Muzi: “Students who take the PARCC are being asked to answer questions that entail a variety of levels of cognitive demand and require complex thinking skills...Regardless of the name of the test, isn't this what we want our students to be able to do?” (Adam Clark, “Is PARCC a good test? See what teachers' study found,” [Star-Ledger](#), 12/22/15)

Little Falls Superintendent Tracey Marinelli: “The way to use the PARCC results is to study where our strengths and weaknesses are and implement a strategy...” (Jason Moussab, “Little Falls school board get look at PARCC scores,” [Passaic Valley Today](#), 12/24/15)

Warren Township School District Interim Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Nastus: “This is the first time that New Jersey has participated in a test that will provide us not only with sample items, but with an actual item analysis that shows us how our students perform in specific areas...Analyzing this information helps us to see patterns of performance which, in turn, helps us to understand our curricular strengths and areas of focus.” (Meredith Mannino, “State testing hot topic at school meeting,” [Echoes~Sentinel](#), 11/30/15)

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Cedar Grove Superintendent Michael Fetherman: "...what's most important is using this data to form our understanding of our strengths and gaps in our curriculum and instructional practices." (P.J. Candido, "PARCC results for the Cedar Grove school district are in," [Verona-Cedar Grove Times](#), 12/14/15)

- **Fetherman:** "He said PARCC will allow the district to reflect on the student's strengths and weaknesses by having access to real test questions."

Warren Township School District Curriculum Director William Kimmick: "This is the first time that we're having sample questions that we can compare to what's been taught during the school year...With PARCC scoring, item analysis can take place to identify potential patterns related to specific standards." (Meredith Mannino, "State testing hot topic at school meeting," [Echoes~Sentinel](#), 11/30/15)

New Jersey's Teacher of the Year in 2010 and Nutley Public Schools gifted and talented specialist Maryann Woods-Murphy: "The most important takeaway from the study for parents, students and teachers is that these tests can be useful tools to help us all understand how our children are thinking..." (Adam Clark, "Is PARCC a good test? See what teachers' study found," [Star-Ledger](#), 12/22/15)

Upper Township Superintendent Vincent Palmieri: "[The individual report] information will allow teachers to identify students' strengths and weaknesses and develop strategies to help them...It gives teachers and administrators a list of students and overall scores and a list of areas where they did well, where they did OK, and where they need help...They will be able to quickly make decisions on where their strengths and non-strengths are. Teachers used to do it by hand." (Columb Higgins, "Upper Township students compare well in PARCC test results, says superintendent," [Shore News Today](#), 12/16/15)

- **Palmieri:** "It's pretty powerful stuff...The staff will be able to break down into reading components, an individual student and individual question. That is meaningful information to us."

Rumson Superintendent Dr. John Bormann: "PARCC is designed to more closely assess the performance of our students, and is a more realistic measurement when compared to other tests – such as NJ ASK – that have existed in the past." ("Rumson Hosts Parents' PARCC Session," [Redbank Green](#), 1/19/16)

- **Bormann:** "This year's focus is on analyzing PARCC data and identifying patterns that will inform our curriculum and teaching methods..."

Ocean City School District Director of Academic Services Curt Nath: "The PARCC results provide one piece of important data in the determination of our students' progress and will provide the school district with the ability to analyze our students' outcomes at standards level." (Camille Sailer, "PARCC Test Results Paint Mixed Picture For County Schools," [Cape May Herald.com](#), 2/11/16)

- **Nath:** "Of most importance, the data will allow us to better understand our strengths and gaps in our curriculum and instructional practices."

Millburn Assistant Superintendent Kyle Arlington: "For the first time we can look at the test questions, review the student work together, and see how the students did or did not meet expectations..." (Matthew Kadosh, "Officials: Despite test refusals, Millburn PARCC results favorable," [The Item of Millburn and Short Hills](#), 1/13/16)

Vineland Testing Coordinator Jim Scanlon: "Principals are summarizing the scores for their buildings and sharing it with their teachers...The teachers analyzing their pupils' scores and discussing a plan of action with their students' parents...It's a great conversation tool..." (Deborah M. Marko, "Vineland school district PARCC results are in," [The Daily Journal](#), 2/18/16)

- **Scanlon:** "Everything is computerized today – the fact we've gone pretty much fully computerized for the test is a good thing, that's where the future is going..."

- **Scanlon:** “The PARCC test is not just to prepare our students for college; it’s not just to prepare them for trade school — it’s really to prepare them for anything they choose to do when they graduate...”

Millburn Assistant Superintendent Michael Ryan: “We all know and believe the assessments should provide students, teachers and families with actionable data.” (Matthew Kadosh, “Officials: Despite test refusals, Millburn PARCC results favorable,” [The Item of Millburn and Short Hills](#), 1/13/16)

Madison School District Director of Curriculum Matthew Mingle: “Right now as a district we are looking at what we have. What’s good, where we need to dig deeper in curriculum.” (Jacquie Dinsmore, “Madison PARCC Results Delivered By Board Of Ed,” [Tap into Madison](#), 12/9/15)

Passaic Valley High School Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction Jared Fowler: “It allows you to really highlight what needs improvement.” (Tina Pappas, “PV school board briefed on its first PARCC scores,” [Passaic Valley Today](#), 12/17/15)

Edgewater Supervisor of Instruction and Curriculum Karen Husser, and Testing Coordinator Marissa Fleming: “The released scores will be used to identify strengths and gaps in the curriculum, improve student learning and support instruction...” (Svetlana Shkolnikova, “PARCC deemed a success in Edgewater,” [Edgewater Review](#), 12/18/15)

Tenafly School District Assistant Superintendent Barbara Laudicina: “According to Laudicina, district principals and supervisors have begun analyzing the results and interpreting the data they have gathered to improve student performance and identify students’ strengths.” (Caitlyn Bahrenburg, “Tenafly students surpass averages on new standardized tests,” [Northern Valley Suburbanite](#), 12/24/15)

Ridgedale Middle School Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction Brian Silkensen: “Analyzing the results, Silkensen told the Board of Education the scores allow the district to look at “areas of strength” - - and those that need to be addressed. He emphasized that the data from the test will be used to guide instruction in the school district.” (Christine Lee, “Florham Park schools’ test scores exceed state averages,” [Florham Park Eagle](#), 1/5/16)

Montgomery Director of Data, Assessment and Accountability Damian Pappa: “The PARCC assessments focus on the skills students need today, including critical thinking, problem solving and reasoning...” (Lea Kahn, MONTGOMERY: Township’s students outperform peers in statewide PARCC tests,” [Princeton Packet](#), 1/21/16)

Franklin Lakes Director of Curriculum and Instruction Liesel Steines: “Steines emphasized that the results from the PARCC test, along with students’ overall educational learning experiences, including classroom performance, contribute to the bigger picture of the school district’s evaluation of academic success and progress.” (Frank McMahon, “Franklin Lakes reports first K-8 PARCC results,” [Franklin Lakes-Oakland Suburban News](#), 1/14/16)

Millington School Principal Jennifer Dawson: “Dawson said with these scores, the principals and faculty plan to take what they’ve received and identify ways to help teachers develop a better curriculum for the PARCC testing.” (Eric Hostettler, “Long Hill Board hears encouraging test results,” [Echoes - Sentinel](#), 2/18/16)

- **Dawson:** “We’re going to learn what we can from first-year results, do an item analysis of test questions, help teachers understand standards more fully, and make sure we are helping the teachers by identifying which ways we can support them...”

Long Hill Interim Superintendent John Petrelli: “There is a lot of work to be done here but the positive part of this test is that it has changed instruction. There is more integration between teacher and students and there is more information on how the students do on their performance.” (Eric Hostettler, “Long Hill Board hears encouraging test results,” [Echoes - Sentinel](#), 2/18/16)

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Rockaway Valley School: “RVS students performed better than all New Jersey students meeting expectations (Level 4) plus exceeding expectations (Level 5) in all areas except for fifth-grade math... The staff is being proactive and has started having math in fifth and sixth grades eight times a week instead of five.” (Gail Bottone , “Boonton Township’s Rockaway Valley School performs well on PARCC,” [Neighbor News \(Boonton edition\)](#), 1/13/16)

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