

WILLINGBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WILLINGBORO, NEW JERSEY 08046-2847



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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Willingboro Public Schools will administer the state testing program in December-January to high school students and March -May to students in grades 3 through 11. The computer-based test, the PARCC assessment (“Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers”), is the same statewide assessment that was utilized last year. There will be no PARCC testing prior to 3rd grade.

Our district has prepared for the transition to PARCC by upgrading its technology, working with the teachers who will administer the test, and preparing students for the conversion to a computer-based examination. Our students and teachers have had previous experience with PARCC when it was administered last year.

At each grade level, PARCC will measure student progress toward the state standards in mathematics and language arts. State academic standards are goals for what we want our children to know and be able to do at each grade level. The state standards to be measured by are called the Common Core State Standards. While these math and language arts standards were recently adjusted, New Jersey’s public schools have had standards-based education for two decades.

For your child, test-day preparation should include a good night’s sleep and a nutritious breakfast. Encourage your child to do his or her best, but not to worry about “failing” the test. PARCC results will not be used for promotion or report card grades.

On the following page are answers to questions we have received from parents about the new PARCC exams, including testing results and participation. Rest assured that we have taken every step possible to ensure a smooth administration of the exam for the educational benefit of your children.

Please contact **Ansar Saalih** or **Jennifer Brandon** at **609-835-8600** if you need additional information about our district’s participation in the state testing program.

Yours in education,

Dr. Ronald G. Taylor,
Superintendent of Schools

Willingboro Public Schools District's PARCC Assessments: What You Need to Know

How will the students take the test?

The PARCC tests are designed to be taken on a computer. This mirrors the movement toward computer-based testing, which will also affect college admissions tests and high school equivalency exams in the future. Students will enter responses on the computer or device, but will have pencil and paper handy to formulate responses beforehand if they choose to do so.

How will our schools use the PARCC results?

The PARCC results will enable our district to evaluate the effectiveness of its education program in mathematics and language arts and to consider adjustments.

PARCC is more in-depth than the previous state tests. It measures student progress toward *all* grade-level standards in language arts and mathematics, rather than just a sampling of the standards.

PARCC results will help teachers pinpoint areas in which an *individual student* needs more attention. For example, test data will enable an elementary school teacher to know if a student requires attention in a specific application, such as multiplication and division, in addition to his or her overall progress toward grade-level math standards. PARCC results can also guide teachers to individualize instruction for *students who exceed* grade-level standards.

For parents, PARCC will provide individualized information on their children's progress toward meeting academic standards. The PARCC test results will *not* be used to determine promotion or report card grades.

What happens if I refuse to let my child take the test?

New Jersey statute and regulation state that all students *shall* take the statewide assessment, which is now the PARCC test. We strongly encourage you to make sure your child participates in PARCC. The information obtained through the assessment will determine how we can improve our school district's education program and help your child reach his or her full academic potential.

The following procedure shall be adhered for any case of test refusal:

- Parents/Guardians who do not send their child to school on a day of testing will receive a phone call from the attendance officer. Absences will be treated as they normally would;
- An indication that a student will not be taking the test, as a reason for the absence, will be treated as an unexcused absence;
- Students who were absent for test administration will be expected to be present and to take the test on a makeup date;
- Students who attend school but refuse to take the test will first be directed to take the test. Students who continue to refuse will be asked to sit quietly for the remainder of the testing timeframe. No alternate instructional activity will be provided;
- Any disruption will be handled in accordance with the student code of conduct; and
- Testing protocols will be followed and test booklets will be coded/reported accordingly.

It should be noted that per established testing procedures per the State of New Jersey Department of Education, once a student completes the test or the designated section of the test, students are permitted to read quietly. Policy dictates that the School Testing Coordinator will use reasonable judgment as to the need and availability of an alternate testing area for students who refuse to take the state mandated assessment. Such an area may or may not be provided dependent upon need.
