

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Barbara Sargent, Readington School District
bsargent@readington.k12.nj.us
908/534-2195

STUDENT PARCC RESULTS

Barbara Sargent, Superintendent of Schools

This past spring, all New Jersey public schools administered a new standardized assessment to students in grades 3 through 12. The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test is an online test that replaced the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) and the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA), and matches the rigorous content and skills outlined in the new core standards that are guiding instruction. These new tests measure more complex, real-world skills such as critical-thinking, writing, and problem solving. New Jersey was one of 12 states participating in the PARCC assessment this past year.

PARCC uses five performance levels that delineate the knowledge, skills, and practices students are able to demonstrate, with Levels 4 and 5 considered to be passing:

- Level 1 – Did not meet expectations
- Level 2 – Partially met expectations
- Level 3 – Approached expectations
- Level 4 – Met expectations
- Level 5 – Exceeded expectations

Results from the spring assessments are now available and the news is quite good for Readington Township School District. With more than 95% of our students taking the PARCC assessment, the test results for Literacy show that Readington students outperformed their peers at the state level at every grade level by as much as 25 percentage points. Students in grade 4, 5, and 6 did exceptionally well, with more than 70% achieving a Level 4 or 5 on the Literacy Assessment.

In Mathematics, Readington students outperformed their peers at the state level in grades 3 through 6 by as much as 29 percentage points. Many of our 7th and 8th graders are enrolled in Algebra I and Algebra II and, therefore, took the PARCC assessment for Algebra I or Algebra II, so it is difficult to draw valid comparisons for 7th and 8th grade Math PARCC data. In Algebra I, however, 81% of our Readington students achieved a Level 4 or 5. In Algebra II, 89% of our Readington students achieved a Level 4 or 5 and no student scored at Level 1 or 2. These are outstanding results for our students and for the dedicated teachers who work with them every day.

Comparative data across county and similarly achieving districts is not available, but this will not deter our educators from analyzing the data and working to address instructional gaps that may be present. The PARCC tests are more rigorous than the previous ASK tests and, as happens with every new test, scores will improve as teachers and students become more familiar with the standards and acquire the skills and knowledge to meet them. Readington Township residents and parents can be confident in the rich educational experiences being provided to students – and in the high quality of instruction in our schools. Our faculty and staff work incredibly hard, and we are grateful for the support this community provides. Our assessment data continues to demonstrate that our students are performing at high levels and we continue to maintain a keen focus on student achievement, teacher training, and preparing our school community for continued positive academic performance.

A full presentation of the district's assessment results for 2014-15 is available on the district website at <http://www.readington.k12.nj.us/Page/5142>.