

PASS 2: Key Points for Principals to Welcome Parents & Families

Parent Academy for Student Success #2 Measure What Matters: Assessing Student Learning and The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers Assessment (PARCC)

Principals may want to consider using some of the points below when communicating with parents about the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers Assessment (PARCC).

Our superintendent and members of the board of education have given you their commitment to support your sons and daughters as we move into this new time of change in education. I am also committed to providing your sons and daughters with every opportunity to become prepared for success and enjoy his or her learning on the path to graduation, college and the workforce.

- Decades of research confirm that when parents and families are informed and supported as partners in student learning and assessment, they can be very effective at helping their child learn and demonstrate new knowledge and skills.
- The purpose of this PASS event is to bring together parents and educators to discuss the benefits of the updated teaching, learning, and assessment system of the Common Core State Standards and PARCC assessments.
- In general, the term assessment refers to the wide variety of tools and methods that educators use to measure and document the learning progress and skill acquisition of students. While assessments are often thought of as traditional tests, educators actually use many different assessment tools and methods to learn if and how students are learning. Just as academic lessons have different functions, assessments are designed to measure specific elements of learning.
- Teachers need to assess whether students are learning at expected levels or need extra help, and they need to determine whether instructional programs and practices are working.
- I'm very proud to tell you that as we work with your children to increase their knowledge, we are also focusing on teaching students *about* their own learning process and how to effectively demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have learned. Old models of education rewarded students for simply memorizing and reciting facts. However, memorization does not help students apply their new knowledge to other situations or meet the needs of the workplace.
- Assessment results can provide insight into how well students have learned new concepts and how well they can apply that information and learning process to other problem-solving activities. With regular assessment and feedback, students will learn how that new information is relevant to their career, and we want to talk about that with you.
- Developing strong home/school partnerships to support student learning is not a luxury -- it is an integral component of student achievement, because all high school graduates should be ready to enroll in college courses or similar technical coursework without remediation.
- Tonight we are going to discuss the benefits of the updated teaching, learning and assessment system of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers Assessment (PARCC).
- We will also answer any of your questions or concerns, and we will look at ways that we can partner to ensure that your child reaches his or her greatest potential.

- Just a few more things before we get started with the agenda, I urge you to visit our website to find the documents from tonight and to share them with other parents that couldn't be with us.

If you haven't been there before, our website is: _____

- I want to let you know that the PTA has great information on assessment and PARCC on their website at PTA.org and they have mobile alerts: Text PTA to 97779.
- The final thing that I want to remind you about is the testing schedule and what we have done here at _____ to support PARCC readiness.