



*What They Are Saying:*

## **PARCC Data is Helping Educators Improve “Classroom Instruction to Support Students”**

**West Essex Regional School District Director of Curriculum and Instruction Ryan Gupta:** “PARCC is great because it breaks down every question and gives us data to look at...We can look at that data and see what everyone understood well, and we can see where students struggle, then use that data to make adjustments.” (Derek Allen, “West Essex schools standardized test scores surge,” [The Progress](#), 10/17/16)

**Carlstadt Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction Allison Evans:** “With scores being released earlier than the previous year, the district and teachers will be able to use knowledge gained from the data to understand where instruction needs to be driven and what individual students need...” (Kaitlyn Kanzler, “South Bergen students score high in PARCC,” [South Bergenite](#), 10/13/16)

**East Rutherford Superintendent Giovanni Giancaspro:** “With the results in hand, this allowed the district to plan professional development days in an effort to utilize the PARCC test results.” (Kaitlyn Kanzler, “South Bergen students score high in PARCC,” [South Bergenite](#), 10/13/16)

**Montville Township Public School Assistant Superintendents Dr. Casey Shorter and Andrea Woodring:** “...said that the PARCC results are very helpful for curriculum development and planning instruction because it provides more data than any other test, including the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK.) PARCC gives specific information on each question of the test, and the results are a great benefit providing feedback used in crafting instruction.” (Gail Bottone, “Annual report outlines Montville Twp. student performance and accomplishments,” [Neighbor News \(Montvale edition\)](#), 10/26/16)

**Lyndhurst Superintendent Shauna DeMarco:** “It’s never about preparing the kids for a test...One of the big things is we teach to the standards. If you teach to the standards, when tested, that’s going to result in the [higher] PARCC assessment scores. We’re never teaching to the test.” (Kaitlyn Kanzler, “South Bergen students score high in PARCC,” [South Bergenite](#), 10/13/16)

- **DeMarco:** “The PARCC testing data drives some of the district’s curriculum. Some changes to Lyndhurst’s programming included more technology-based assessments, a re-evaluated course program and a modified general education course...”

**Jackson Superintendent Stephen Genco:** “Evaluating the results from PARCC testing can be a helpful tool in measuring your child’s success in school, and it is just one of the many ways our teachers [and] administrators can determine whether he or she is on track to being college- and career-ready.” (Jennifer Peacock, “PARCC Scores Up In Jackson,” [Macromedia Publication](#), 9/30/16)

- **Genco:** “New Jersey has had statewide tests for decades, and they have served as a small, but important part of assessing our students’ annual progress.”
- **Genco:** “We are pleased that we are receiving these scores from the state much sooner than we have in the past. The faster turnaround gives educators a greater opportunity to use the results of these and other assessments and observations to tailor classroom instruction to support individual students.”

**Hoboken Superintendent Dr. Christine Johnson:** "...said that the district will not be teaching to pass the test but rather teaching to ensure the success of the students both in future job markets and college programs which require the literacy skills tested in the PARCC assessment." (Marilyn Baer, "Hoboken Public Schools receive final test scores," [Hudson Reporter](#), 10/23/16)

- **Johnson:** "There's more writing on the PARCC assessment...There is a lot of reading on the PARCC assessment and this assessment really challenges both our faculty and our students to raise the bar and push a lot harder."
- **Johnson:** "...said that through curriculum initiatives and general overhaul of increased rigor, engagement, and expectation, the students will be more challenged and the educational experience will be more rewarding."

**Rockaway Valley School Assistant Principal and District Testing Coordinator Dr. Lia Lendis:** "Of most importance is using this [PARCC] data to inform our understanding of our strengths and gaps in our curriculum and instructional practices. We've been working to implement our new standards in earnest for approximately two to three years, and this is the first set of assessments that are aligned to those standards. Unlike our prior assessments, PARCC will provide the district with the ability to analyze our students' outcomes at standards level. Thus, we'll be able to reflect on our particular strengths and weaknesses." ("Boonton Twp. schools' PARCC results explained," [Neighbor News \(Boonton edition\)](#), 10/26/16)

**Becton Regional High School Superintendent Louise Clarke:** "...said the district hopes to use the data collected from the PARCC scores to help students with appropriate interventions." (Kaitlyn Kanzler, "South Bergen students score high in PARCC," [South Bergenite](#), 10/13/16)

**Rutherford Superintendent Jack Hurley:** "Part of the beauty of the test is that it does give us a lot of data on individual standards..." (Kaitlyn Kanzler, "South Bergen students score high in PARCC," [South Bergenite](#), 10/13/16)

**Warren Superintendent Matthew Mingle:** "The superintendent is pleased with how district educators are using the PARCC results to better their classes. 'The fact that our teachers spend days digging into this data and asking themselves questions is something to be proud of and should not be taken lightly.'" (Eric Hostettler, "Warren students 'performed well' on PARCC exam," [Echoes-Sentinel](#), 10/30/16)

**North Arlington Superintendent Steven Yurchak:** "The district held its first District Evaluation Advisory Committee recently to review the importance of analyzing PARCC data. The panel will delve deeper into the PARCC data gathered at each school in an effort to identify areas the students performed well in and areas the district needs to focus on. 'Through a collaborative effort at our [District Evaluation Advisory Committee] meetings, we will all share best practices that are taking place within our school, which will translate to positive initiatives in the classroom,' Yurchak said." (Kaitlyn Kanzler, "South Bergen students score high in PARCC," [South Bergenite](#), 10/13/16)

**Riverdale School Principal Sean Bowe:** "...said the district, 'Will take a look at all sets of results so that we could analyze it from a curriculum standard perspective, and also get a clear idea of how students they are currently teaching - where they struggle and where they had their strengths.'" (Leslie Scott, "Riverdale School officials look to improve PARCC scores," [Suburban Trends](#), 10/17/16)

- **Bowe:** "...said this year the district is updating its English curriculum to be in line with the new curriculum model approved by the state Department of Education."
- **Bowe:** "...said the district will look at ways to improve the delivery of instruction throughout the school year, and it will also focus on improvements it can make to the math curriculum...We

found (that math is) an area where we were deficient in years past so we took that step to make sure that we were providing as much math instruction as we could..."

**Superintendent of Schools June Chang:** "...some of the [PARCC] results already are being used to improve instruction in basic skills and some classroom instruction." (Bob Faszczewski, "Year-Two PARCC Scores Show Summit Students Far Exceeding State and Consortium Peers," [TAPintoSummit](#), 10/21/16)

**Mine Hill Superintendent Lee Nittel:** "I think these are great results...Our teachers are doing what we've been asking them to do. They've been implementing programs. They've been filling the gaps with the new curriculum and that's why we're seeing better results each year." (Mike Montal, "Mine Hill School District superintendent reviews PARCC results with board of education," [Randolph Reporter](#), 10/1/16)

**Paterson Public Schools Chief Data, Accountability, and Technology Officer Jeron Campbell:** "...said he shared and discussed the data with district administrators. He said school principals will be provided breakdown of the data to make better decisions to improve academics in their buildings." (Jayed Rahman, "Majority of Paterson schools perform poorly on PARCC tests," [The Paterson Times](#), 10/25/16)

**Passaic Valley High School Assistant Principal Jared Fowler:** "...said there is a big push in the high school's math department to get students more practice and to use the computers in the classrooms in order to integrate PARCC-like assessments into daily lessons. He also added that rigor in the classroom also must correlate what's on the criteria for the test and 'raising the bar' in the classroom. He further added that high school will try to develop more group-styled tutoring for students, due to the limited number of tutors available, and also develop a 'peer tutoring' writing lab where students will be able trained and supervised by teachers in giving instruction to fellow students who need help." (Tina Pappas, "PV trustees say PARCC results comparable, but work still needs to be done," [Passaic Valley Today](#), 10/6/16)

**Clifton Curriculum Director Janina Kusielewicz:** "Next year the district will be able to perform 'cohort analyses,' which will track a student's personal growth one year to the next..." (Jessica Presinzano, "Clifton students show improvement on PARCC," [Clifton Journal](#), 10/28/16)

**Ridgewood Assistant Superintendent Stacie Poelstra:** "Poelstra showed an example of a child's performance report, which shows parents how their child performed in the tests compared to their peers in the school, district and state. Explaining that each parent had one sent to them, she said that the report gives a 'breakdown of each of those particular skills' and 'lets them know if their child met or exceeded the expectations, is close to meeting the expectations or is falling below the expectations.' She called it 'beneficial information for the parents,' since in the past, parents would just be sent their child's score with no explanation of how it compared to others' or what the child's strengths or weaknesses are. This allows the parents to help their children in areas that require assistance, whether by hiring a tutor or asking a teacher for extra help." (Matthew Schneider, "PARCC test results explained," [The Ridgewood News](#), 10/28/16)

**Ridgewood Board of Education Trustee Jim Morgan:** "...praised the testing, calling it a 'tool that can be used ... to guide future curriculum instruction.'" (Matthew Schneider, "PARCC test results explained," [The Ridgewood News](#), 10/28/16)