



# Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District

135 East Avenue, Woodstown, NJ 08098

**Thomas A. Coleman, Jr.**

Superintendent of Schools  
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In the spring of 2017, New Jersey will administer the third-year of the PARCC test in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for grades 3-11. The test was first administered in 2015 and replaced the NJ ASK and HSPA tests. It matches the content and skills outlined in the New Jersey Learning Standards that guide instruction in the classroom and provides valuable information about student learning.

Recently, the State Board of Education approved updated state regulations for the high school graduation assessments requirements in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for the Classes of 2017 through 2021 and beyond. Students graduating as members of the Class of 2017 through 2019 can meet graduation requirements through a variety of ways, including: achieving a passing score on certain PARCC assessments; achieving certain scores on alternative assessments such as SAT, PSAT, Accuplacer; or the submission by the district of a student portfolio through the Department's portfolio appeals process.

The Class of 2020 (this year's 9<sup>th</sup> graders) can demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency through the same alternative means as those in the Classes of 2017 through 2019, provided those students in the Class of 2020 take all end-of-course PARCC assessments for which they are eligible.

For the Class of 2021 (this year's 8<sup>th</sup> graders) and thereafter, students must demonstrate proficiency on the ELA 10 and Algebra 1 assessments to meet graduation requirements.

PARCC testing provides us with data to facilitate our ability to track how well our programs are preparing kids to meet the demands of the Common Core Standards. The district, like the state, does not maintain any opt-out policies for this required testing. If, however, a family chooses to keep their child from participating in this assessment, the district will not force a child who refuses to test to sit for the exam. The district requires the parents and guardians of any student that is refusing to test to have a meeting with the building principal to discuss their decision as the PARCC provides our district with valuable information regarding a student's learning. To facilitate the test coordination and administration process, we ask our families to notify the district ten days prior to the test administration via letter or email communication to the school principal. Students refusing to test will be placed in an alternative location so that they can complete work independently; you may reference WPRSD BOE policy 6147 for additional information.

## Spring 2017 PARCC Testing Window

Grades 9-11: March 27 - April 7

Grades 6-8: April 24 - May 8

Grades 3-5: April 19 - May 3



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Thank you for your cooperation and support as we approach the 2017 administration of the PARCC. Please know that the Woodstown-Piles Grove Regional School District stands by our commitment of maintaining high standards for all children as we simultaneously continue to adjust our curriculum and programs intentionally to bring our students to their full potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Coleman, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Thomas A. Coleman, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools