



# Glen Rock High School

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Dear Parent,

As you may know, New Jersey Schools will be administering the third year of PARCC Assessments this spring for students in Grades 9-11. The high school testing window is from April 17-25. If your child took the PARCC assessments last year, you should have received an individualized score report. Last year, I appealed to you to encourage your child to take this assessment seriously. I want to thank you for your efforts, as we saw a marked increase in participation. We still, however, have not met the participation benchmarks, set forth by the state. We again had to develop an action plan, in the hopes of attaining the expected 95% participation rate.

It is important that you have a clear understanding of the ties this test has to graduation, both now and in the future. Students graduating as members of the classes of 2017, 2018, and 2019 can meet graduation assessment requirements through a variety of ways, including:

- 1) Achieving passing scores on certain PARCC assessments;
- 2) Achieving certain scores on alternative assessments such as the PSAT, SAT, ACT or ASVAB; or
- 3) The submission by the district of a student portfolio through the Department of Education's portfolio appeals process.

(Special Education students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) that specify an alternative way to demonstrate proficiencies will continue to follow the graduation requirements set forth in their IEPs.)

The Class of 2020 (current 9<sup>th</sup> grade students) can demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency through the same alternative means as students in the classes of 2017 through 2019, provided that students in the Class of 2020 take all PARCC assessments associated with the high-school level courses for which they are eligible. These changes became effective as of August 3, 2016, the date the State Board of Education adopted the amendments to the high school graduation requirements. "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high school-level course for which there is a PARCC test. This includes all of these courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11. In other words, in order to meet the graduation requirements, **all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students must take the PARCC assessment for the English Language Arts and Mathematics classes in which they are enrolled.**

The Class of 2020 (current 9<sup>th</sup> grade students) can demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency through the same alternative means as students in the classes of 2017 through 2019, provided that students in the Class of 2020 take all PARCC assessments associated with the high-school level courses for which they are eligible. These changes became effective as of August 3, 2016, the date the State Board of Education adopted the amendments to the high school graduation requirements. "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high school-level course for which there is a PARCC test. This includes all of these courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11. In other words, in order to meet the graduation requirements, **all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students must take the PARCC assessment for the English Language Arts and Mathematics classes in which they are enrolled.**

For the Class of 2021 (current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students) and thereafter, students who have not demonstrated proficiency on the ELA 10 and Algebra 1 assessments, and have taken all PARCC assessments associated with the high school level courses for which they were eligible, can demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency by meeting the criteria of the portfolio appeals process. Alternate assessments will no longer be accepted in meeting the graduation assessment requirement.



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It is important that parents understand that 2017 PARCC test results will be used in making decisions with regard to class placements and honors programs. It is also important to understand that many colleges are using PARCC results in their placement decisions as well.

Since the New Jersey Department of Education requires student participation in these assessments, there is no approved "opt out" by which parents can elect to have their child(ren) exempted from taking the test. Dr. Valenti's recent letter sent under separate cover detailed the specifics of this process.

Should you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's counselor or me.

*Sincerely,*

**John Arlotta**