

Dear Spartan Community,

The Deptford Township Board of Education in accordance with State law and regulations, 18A:7C-1 & 6A:8-4.1, requires all students to take statewide assessments. The Board of Education is cognizant of various concerns from parents, educators, and board members regarding the PARCC assessment. The Board of Education has had numerous discussions regarding these concerns, the impact on students and staff and the many changes that the NJ Department of Education has enacted over the past few years in regards to the PARCC Assessment. At the January 31, 2017 regular Board of Education meeting, the board passed a resolution addressing some of these concerns. More specifically, the resolution urges the NJ Department of Education to consider the following:

- Students with disabilities (those with an IEP or 504 Plan) are faced with an unfair disadvantage having to participate in a “one size fits all” approach to testing in circumstances outside of their typical accommodations and in meeting graduation requirements.
- The PARCC assessment currently accounts for 30% of Math and ELA teachers’ summative evaluations. This is a drastically high percentage to be used from a single test to evaluate a teacher’s success in a student’s academic year.
- PARCC costs: The mandated changes in the testing format came at quite an expense to the district. The board feels that the unfunded mandate, which now remains a constant budget item, placed an unnecessary hardship on the district.
- The PARCC assessment being used as a sole graduation testing requirement groups all students into having to show proficiency in the same manner. The elimination of alternate tests and methods may bring unnecessary stress and consequences to students.

The full resolution is available for you to read on our district website (www.deptford.k12.nj.us). While it is unknown what, if any, changes will be made by the state to the PARCC assessment based upon the submittal of this resolution, the board felt it necessary and important to put our community’s concerns into writing. The resolution passed by the board is designed to address specific concerns with the PARCC assessment. It is important to note that PARCC is a state mandated assessment and the Deptford School District will continue to administer PARCC, as there is no option to “opt-out”. Starting with the Class of 2021, (this year’s current eighth grade) students will need to meet the high school graduation assessment requirements by passing PARCC ELA Grade 10 and PARCC Algebra I. If students are unable to pass one or both of those assessments, they will be able to access the portfolio appeals process to meet the assessment requirements, **but only if they take all PARCC assessments associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible.**

Full information regarding this graduation requirement change is available on the district website. If you have any questions regarding this resolution, you can contact the Superintendent, Dr. Ford, at 856-232-2700.

Together in Spartan Pride,

Deptford Township Board of Education