



Freehold Regional High School District

Eleven Pine Street, Englishtown, NJ 07726

December 20, 2016

RE: New Jersey Statewide Assessment Participation Requirements

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The statewide student high school graduation assessment (PARCC), will be administered in our schools beginning the week of March 27, 2017. The dates you can expect your child/children to be tested will be posted by the individual high schools in February. New Jersey's educational accountability system, like other states, includes high school graduation assessments as one of the tools used to improve statewide teaching and learning. Under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, each state is required to annually measure the academic achievement of not less than 95% of its students through participation in state assessments. The New Jersey Department of Education, pursuant to state law and regulation, requires students to take statewide assessments as scheduled in their schools. Students who have not taken or not met the passing benchmarks set for the PARCC state assessments may encounter difficulty earning the proficiency determination required for a New Jersey high school diploma under the present state high school graduation assessment requirements.

Counseling and administrative staff at all six high schools have been conducting comprehensive reviews of all student records to ensure that your child is on the pathway to a high school diploma. New Jersey has specific rules for the graduation assessment requirements for the classes of 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. Please identify the graduating class for your child/children and carefully review the statewide graduation assessment requirements [here](#).

Special Note: If you are the parent/guardian of a current grade nine student who did not participate in the PARCC Algebra I/Geometry assessments while in middle school, or did participate in the course PARCC assessment but did not meet passing benchmarks, we are expecting guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education on how to resolve the high school graduation assessment requirement for your child and we will inform you as soon as clarification is released.

If your grade nine child is presently enrolled in Geometry or Algebra II, your child must participate in the PARCC assessment this spring 2017. According to current state rules, failure to participate in the PARCC course assessment will impact your child's access to substitute assessments and the portfolio appeal to demonstrate proficiency in the case that your child does not meet the passing benchmark on the PARCC assessment.

District staff will work together with you to ensure that your child satisfies all state high school graduation assessment diploma requirements for his/her graduation year. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to the counseling and/or administrative staff at the school where your child or children are enrolled.

Thank you.