

YOUR CHILD'S PARCC SCORE:

5 THINGS A TEACHER WANTS YOU TO KNOW

By

Barbara LaSaracina

Math Teacher

National Teacher of the Year 2001



PARCC score reports are on their way home to parents.

As a State Teacher of the Year, here are some important facts I want parents to know:

1. This year's results are a new baseline: Scores will rise over time.

States across the country have raised the academic bar for students. This was the very first assessment of new, higher expectations. Scores may look lower, but it doesn't mean your child did not improve or learned less. It is a baseline from which scores will likely rise once they become more familiar with the new standards.

2. Scores do not impact GPA or grades.

Assessments are just one measure of knowledge to determine whether a student is meeting expectations. Other important measures, such as report card grades, classwork, and assignments, together form an overall picture of student performance.

3. The results give teachers important information to support your child.

One of the reasons teachers support this test is because it gives us a much deeper level of information about your child's academic progress. We can use the information to identify where students are achieving and where they need extra support. This detail helps us determine where we can enhance our classwork to meet students' needs, or provide enrichment. Talk to your child's teacher about how you can work together to best support your child's academic goals.

4. The results give you the information you need to support your child.

The goal of these assessments is to ensure students get on, and stay on, the right path so that they graduate high school well prepared for college and a career. The reports give parents the valuable information they need to support their child's academic progress. Use them to have meaningful conversations with your child's teachers.

5. A new study by the National Network of State Teachers of the Year found the new tests to be a richer measure than prior state tests.

Parents should rest assured that some of our nation's best teachers have closely examined this new assessment. [The National Network of State Teachers of the Year \(NNSTOY\)](#) recently brought together almost a dozen state Teachers of the Year to compare PARCC to older state tests. They agreed that PARCC is a richer measure than previous state tests. Here are some reasons why:

- It better reflects the range of reading and math knowledge and skills all students should master.
- The questions better reflect the full range of cognitive complexity in a balanced way.
- It is better aligned with the kinds of strong instructional practices, and thereby better support great teaching and learning throughout the school year.

You can visit www.UnderstandTheScore.org to learn more about what is on the score report, how to interpret results, and what you can do to support your child's academic success.