



## Margate City School District

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PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) is a state-mandated test that school districts are required to administer. The information provided by the PARCC assessments will provide both schools and parents important information about a student's progress toward meeting the goal of being college or career ready. The data derived from the assessment will be utilized to pinpoint areas of difficulty and customize instruction accordingly. In addition, parents should be aware that some high schools request PARCC scores for acceptance into their programs. The New Jersey State Department of Education has left it up to local school districts to address situations in which parents refuse the test on behalf of their children.

In the Margate School District, we recognize that a sensible, fair, and child-centered set of protocols for those parents who refuse to have their children tested is in the best interest of all students. We also recognize that clearly communicating those protocols in advance will avoid unnecessary confusion and misinformation as the testing dates approach. **In outlining the protocols below, we are not endorsing a refusal to test.** Rather, our goal is to minimize stress for children and families, enable our school to plan appropriately for space and other logistical considerations on the days of testing, and to enhance the smooth implementation of the PARCC assessments that we are legally required to administer.

### **PROTOCOL FOR PARENTS WHO REFUSE TO ALLOW THEIR CHILDREN TO TAKE THE MANDATED PARCC STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS:**

#### **STATEMENT**

- Parents must submit a written statement TO THEIR CHILD'S PRINCIPAL prior to the actual dates of testing documenting a refusal for their children to participate in the PARCC assessments. We strongly urge parents contemplating the submission of such a statement to do so prior to **MARCH 31st** so that our schools may plan accordingly. Statements would, of course, be accepted after that date but later submission may hamper the implementation of the accommodations outlined below. We encourage you to retain a copy of your written statement.

#### **STUDENTS**

- Children in the elementary and middle school grades whose parents have submitted a written statement of refusal and who attend school on a PARCC testing day will be marked present for the day. All students are *required* and encouraged to attend school even if their parents have submitted refusals. During the testing period, "refusal" children will be located in a room separate from the testing environment and will be asked to complete an alternative, appropriate assignment independently and quietly while supervised by a staff member. The length of each test will vary every day, and we encourage those children not sitting for the test to bring a favorite book or other materials to read quietly during that time in case they complete their school work.

## **ATTENDANCE**

- Children whose parents have NOT submitted a written statement of refusal but who are not present on the days of the assessments will be marked absent and will sit for the PARCC make up sessions as scheduled. Similarly, children whose parents have not submitted a written statement of refusal and who arrive at school after the testing is completed will be marked tardy for the day and absent for the test. Those children will also be required to sit for the PARCC make up sessions as scheduled.
- Children whose parents have submitted a written statement of refusal who do not attend school during testing will be marked absent. Those children will NOT be required to sit for the PARCC make up sessions. It is important to note that the regular attendance policy for excused and unexcused absences remains in effect for all students whether or not they are taking the test. Thus, even if parents refuse to have their children participate in the PARCC assessments, children should be sent to school on time on the testing days unless there is a verified reason not to do so (doctor's note for illness and other good cause as deemed by the administration).

## **RECORDING AND REPORTING**

- In the past, when parents chose not to allow their children to take the state-mandated assessments, the school was required to record the test as a “void” and to include the student's ID number on an “irregularity” report. Please be assured that whatever record-keeping measures the State requires of the district will not affect a refusing student's class grades or attendance records.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- For more information on the test, please visit [www.parcconline.org](http://www.parcconline.org)