



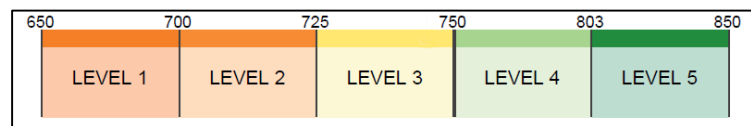
Interpreting the PARCC Test Score Report

At the December 5th 'Franklin's Finest Curriculum Expo & District Showcase' district administrators presented an overview of the PARCC assessments and its interpretation of individual student report (ISR). In the coming weeks, a formal presentation of the test results, its scoring methodology and interpretation of ISRs will be given to the Board of Education and public at a BOE meeting.

The PARCC parent resource website, <http://understandthescore.org/>, reminds parents that *"the PARCC test was designed to provide clear information on your child's progress toward meeting grade level expectations and mastering important skills like critical thinking. The score report gives you a snapshot of how your child is progressing and shows where he or she excels or needs more support. This information, along with grades, teacher feedback and scores on other tests, will help give a more complete picture of how well your child is performing academically."*

The PARCC test was administered for the first time during the 2014-2015 school year; hence, its scores will represent a new baseline for future tests. According to school administrators and PARCC officials "this first year's scores will identify where students excel and where they need additional support, so that progress can be measured moving forward." They also acknowledge that the PARCC tests are more rigorous than the traditional state tests, and are focused on skills students' skills that were not measured on previous state tests; these skill sets include critical thinking, problem solving, persuasive writing and reasoning. Because the PARCC tests measure these complex skills, which are different from previous state tests, scores on the PARCC test will look lower; however, the results cannot be compared to previous assessment results. Instead, the state data can be compared against the PARCC data to provide a barometer of New Jersey student performance. FHS students' PARCC performance will be compared to that of students from ten states (Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, and Rhode Island) and DC.

The student score report which parents will receive presents an overview of a student's subject-level performance in English language arts/literacy and mathematics, as well as an overall score. The overall score will determine a student's performance level, which is an indication of how well the student met grade level expectations. Parents will receive two reports – one for the English Language Arts/Literacy test and one for the mathematics test. A student's overall score (out of a possible 850) and performance level (1-5) gives a quick glimpse of whether he or she is on-track with grade-level expectations. There are five performance levels, with the top two indicating a strong grasp of grade level standards and readiness for the next step in a student's educational development." Level 1 indicates the greatest need for improvement and Level 5 indicates the strongest performance.



There five PARCC performance levels are:

Level 5 – Distinguished Command

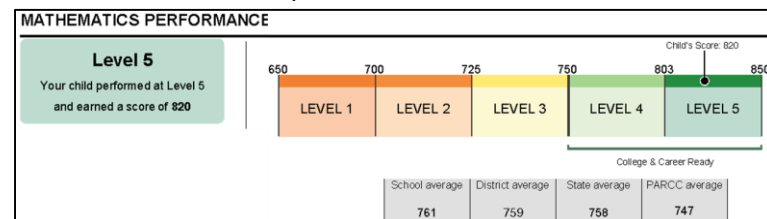
Level 4 – Strong Command

Level 3 – Moderate Command

Level 2 – Partial Command

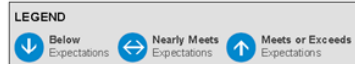
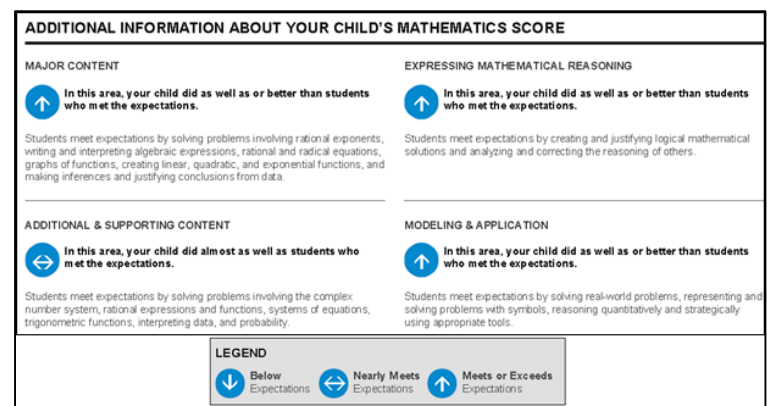
Level 1 – No work shown to Minimal Command

The Overall Performance section of the score report allows parents to compare their child's overall PARCC test score to the average score for children in the same grade level in their child's school, school district, state or across the country.



This above performance graphic from a representative score report provides information about how a student perform on the Mathematics assessment. It shows that the student's score of 820 (out of 850) demonstrates that he/she met or exceeded expectations, has a great understanding of the topic and is well-prepared for the next grade level; hence a **Level 5** attainment. The report also shows the averages of the student's school, district and state as well as the PARCC states average. Recall that the student's data is compared to his/her cohorts in the same grade at the same school, across the school district, around the state, and the entire PARCC consortium states – FHS students test scores are compared with those of Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, and Rhode Island and the District of Columbia.

There is an 'Additional Information' section of the score report which breaks down a child's overall performance into specific skills and shows how the child's performance is compared to students at his/her level or students on grade level.



The icons next to each section show whether the child is above, below, or near students performing on grade level. Each section includes a description of the specific skills in that area that demonstrate a clear understanding of the standards in that grade level. For instance, a student at a Level 3 for Modeling and Application can apply math strategies and reasoning to solve real world problems.

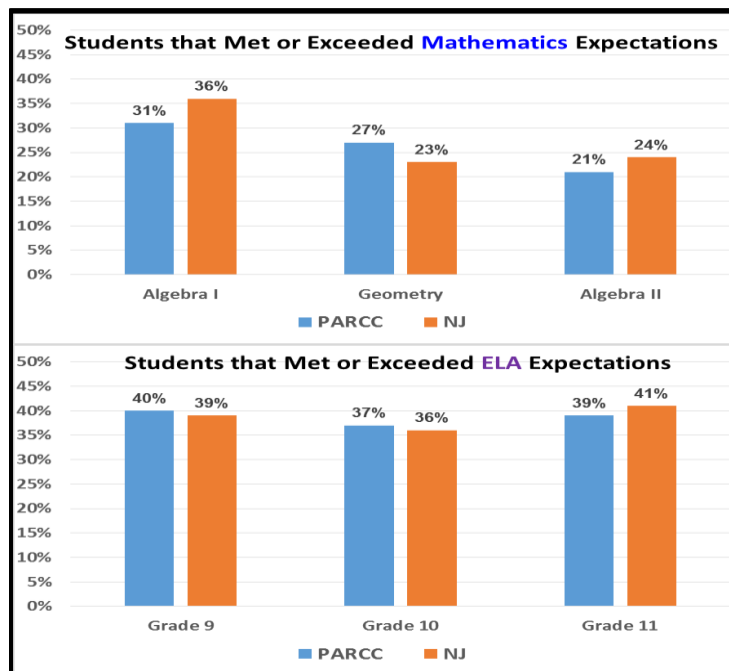
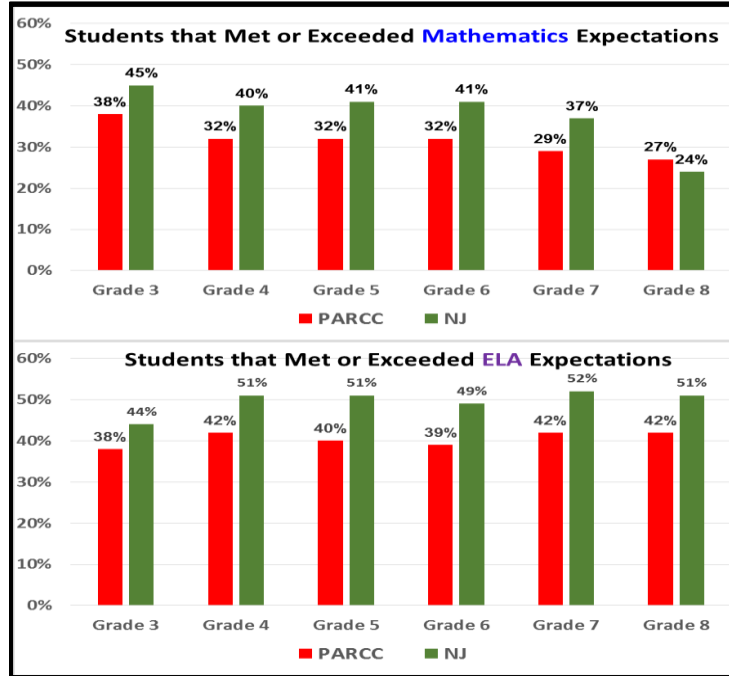
After reviewing and reading their child's report, parents will be able to identify their child's strengths and needs. Using this information, they are encouraged to meet with their child's teacher to discuss the PARCC score report. If your child struggled in certain areas, ask your child's teacher how to get them back on track, including practicing skills at home and identifying resources for extra help. If your child excelled in certain areas, ask your child's teacher how to continue to challenge them, including enrichment activities or advanced coursework.



Interpreting the PARCC Test Score Report

Performance of NJ Students

In a recent (02-Dec) 'PARCC Update: Measuring College and Career Readiness' presentation to the State Board of Education, NJDOE officials released PARCC testing data which demonstrates that NJ elementary school students' performance on the PARCC tests superseded that of students in the other PARCC states. However, when compared to the other PARCC states, the results for NJ high school students were not as strong as that of the elementary school.



References:

- <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parcc/scores/1415/guide.pdf>
- <http://parconline.org/assessments/test-design/performance-levels>
- <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parcc/scores/>

In summary, it's important to remember that a student's scores are an academic checkup and will provide information to help teachers and schools adjust instruction to meet your child's needs. PARCC officials cautioned that "the score reports provide more than just number scores; they also provide information about subsets of skills that show where your child excels and where he or she may need more support. Parents can use this information to support their children every day at home. For example, if your child is excelling in reading, you might challenge him or her to read more challenging books, to analyze and report to you on the day's news from the newspaper or to research and dig deeper into subjects of interest. If your child needs to improve in a certain subject area, talk to his or her teacher about additional support and materials, or use our online resources to locate activities you can use to reinforce learning at home. You can also use everyday moments as educational opportunities to enhance your child's learning. For example, if your child is struggling with fractions, have him or her help you in the kitchen and use measuring cups to help explain the relationship of parts to a whole."

The following is an excerpt from "A Teacher's View on PARCC's Score Reports" written by Marti Shirley, a 13-year teacher in both rural districts and the Chicago suburb who currently teaches mathematics and is team leader in Mattoon, Ill.

"...the best part of this report for me is that it shows my students compared to students in a variety of settings. I know how they are doing compared to their peers in the building, the district, the state and other states across the nation. It shows their preparedness on a level beyond my classroom.

This is only the first year of the test; do not be discouraged if your students' performance was not what you anticipated. Think about your first year teaching; did your students master the concepts as well as the students you taught last year? This is my 13th year and I know for certain the students I teach now are developing a much stronger number sense and ability to problem solve than those my first year teaching. We have raised the bar for our students and it will take time for all the transformations needed in our classrooms and in student learning to occur.

Remember, this report is just one snapshot of a student's ability; it should be used to guide instruction and identify areas for improvement. As the 2016 PARCC testing approaches, this report will help guide more personalized instruction and more meaningful curriculum. PARCC is not a test one can teach to; it is truly a measure of students' knowledge and ability.

Mark your Calendar

Dec 08	FHS PTSO Meeting; FHS Library @ 7:00 PM
Dec 08	FHS - Piano Recital; 7:00 PM
Dec 12	ACT @ FHS
Dec 17	BOE Meeting; FMS Cafeteria, 7:30 PM
Dec 24 - 31	School Closed
Jan 01	School Closed
Jan 07	BOE Reorganization Meeting; FMS Cafeteria, 7:30 PM
Jan 08	FHS - Drama II One Act Plays; FHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM
Jan 12	FHS PTSO Meeting; FHS Library @ 7:00 PM
Jan 15 - 16	FHS - Drama III/IV
Jan 18	School Closed; MLK Day
Jan 20	FHS Band Concert; FHS Auditorium @ 7:00 PM
Jan 21	FHS Winter Spring; FHS Auditorium @ 7:00 PM
Jan 22	FHS Dance Showcase; FHS Auditorium @ 7:00 PM
Jan 23	SAT
Jan 28	FHS Orchestra Concert; FHS Auditorium @ 7:00 PM
Jan 29 - 30	FHS Winter Cabaret; FHS Auditorium @ 7:30 PM