



East Providence School Department



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Kathryn M. Crowley
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Celeste Bowler, Asst. Supt.
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Dear Parent:

As testing time draws near again, I would like to address some of the issues from the past.

First, there is Common Core. Common Core standards are simply that, a set of literacy and math skills determined by a national group of educators to be the skills needed for academic success. In the past, the standards were set by each state.

Common Core was an attempt to bring the best from each state into one comprehensive set of standards. It is unlikely, should Common Core be abandoned, Rhode Island would adopt standards significantly different than those found in Common Core.

Then there is PARCC testing. PARCC stands for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. The PARCC tests are aligned to the Common Core standards and are designed to determine how well students are developing the skills listed in the Common Core standards.

Education is a complex endeavor. There are numerous factors involved in helping students achieve to the best of their abilities. One key factor is having a well written curriculum. East Providence educators have been working diligently on a curriculum based on the Common Core standards. The second factor is teachers teaching the written curriculum. Again, East Providence educators are receiving professional development to assure they have the skills and knowledge necessary to teach the written curriculum. A third key is a means of measuring how well students are achieving the standards. This is the function of the PARCC testing.

Does East Providence have a well written curriculum? Are teachers teaching that curriculum? Are students learning what the well written curriculum suggests they need to know and do? Are these three key components of education aligned?

The PARCC test results provide East Providence educators with an assessment of how well students are learning. Now, as educators, we know there are many factors impacting test outcomes including technology, attendance, poverty, health and others. And, of course, there is the classroom. It is the educators' job to determine how well students are achieving and what needs to be improved. And, not unlike the Common Core, should PARCC testing be abandoned it would have to be replaced with something not significantly different. In East Providence, we are looking to PARCC testing as a means to improve education for our students. With that in mind, we ask all parents to encourage their children to look forward to PARCC testing to improve East Providence schools and the education provided to each student. If every student did their best on the PARCC tests, East Providence educators would have a solid tool to better serve every student.

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Crowley
Superintendent of Schools

11/30/16

The East Providence School Department, in partnership with families and the community, is committed to provide a comprehensive, inclusive program of academic excellence in a safe, nurturing environment preparing all students to become responsible, life-long learners able to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

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