



# Consolidated School District 158

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650 Academic Drive  
Algonquin, Illinois 60102  
(847) 659-6158 • [www.district158.org](http://www.district158.org)

February 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This spring, District 158 will administer the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments to students in grades 3-8 and students in high school English I and Algebra I courses.

The purpose of this letter is to outline some of the details of the assessments and answer some frequently asked questions.

### *What is PARCC?*

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is the new state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students enrolled in a public school district. PARCC assesses the New Illinois Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core and will be administered to students in English Language Arts and mathematics. Formerly, students took the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE).

### *When and how will the tests be given?*

The testing will take place during two, 4-week windows:

- Performance-based assessments, between March 2 and March 20, 2015
- End-of-year assessments, from April 27 to May 22, 2015.

The total amount of time students will spend taking exams is less than 10 hours. Students in grades 3-5 and high school English I will take paper-based exams. Students in grades 6-8 and in high school Algebra I will take computer-based exams. Students requiring accommodations may receive paper-based exams.

### *Can I opt my student out of testing?*

All Illinois school districts have been instructed by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) that they are required to administer the PARCC. The District is unable to provide alternate space or activities for students refusing to take the exam. Parents with concerns or questions about the exam are encouraged to contact their building administrator to discuss them.

### *How will the District use the results of these exams?*

The Illinois State Board of Education projects that you will receive information about your child's performance on the state tests next fall. In addition, a summary of the district results is typically reported on the School Report Card by the end of October. These results, along with information from our local assessments, are used to guide school improvement.



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### *What can I do to prepare for the exams?*

To promote your child's best performance we ask that you:

- Make sure, if possible, that your child attends school and arrives on time on the days of testing
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before testing
- Provide a healthy breakfast on the mornings of testing
- Remind your child to ask the teacher questions if he/she does not understand the test directions
- Let your child know that you have confidence in his/her ability to do his/her best
- Advise your child not to worry about the test—just to do the best he/she can
- Provide a healthy snack on the days that your child will be testing.

In addition, PARCC has compiled several resources for parents including FAQs, a glossary, sample test questions, and more at <http://parcconline.org/for-parents>.

### *Where can I find more information about PARCC?*

The ISBE has created a Parents' Guide to New Assessment in Illinois, available at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/parcc/parcc-pta-guide-0214.pdf>.

The PARCC national website includes an abundance of information and resources at <http://parcconline.org/>.

Please contact your child's teacher or building administrator if you need further information about these tests. We remain committed to providing students with a positive experience during this first year of PARCC implementation, and we will continue to share information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Michelle George  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction