

September 2016

Dear DCPS families,

Last week, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) released student scores for the District of Columbia on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC). In the coming weeks, you will receive a comprehensive report from OSSE with your child's individual scores.

Over the last decade, DCPS has experienced consistent gains on almost every measure of success, from increasing graduation rates and Advanced Placement scores to increasing student enrollment and student satisfaction. This year-over-year improvement shows me that we are making the right investments at DCPS. Our focus on teachers and school leaders, Common Core-aligned curriculum, and work to engage families and communities is working.

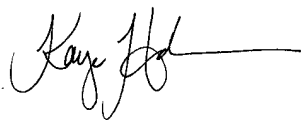
Our PARCC results give us one more indication that we are headed in the right direction. They also show that we still have a lot of work to do to ensure we are preparing all students for success in college and a career. PARCC was specifically built to measure the skills that students need to be successful in the future. We have aligned our efforts, including our curriculum and our teacher training, with the same goal in mind: equip every child with the skills she needs for success. As a result, we can use our PARCC outcomes to evaluate if our strategies are effectively preparing our students for a bright future. What I see in these results is clear. We are using the right strategies, but we still need to do more.

As a parent, I encourage you to look at your student's PARCC results and ask the same questions. Is my student on track for future success? What are her strengths? What are his challenges? What can we focus on to make sure she continues to make progress. Of course PARCC results are not the only thing you should use to answer these questions. You should look at your student's grades and teacher reports to get a full picture of your child's work.

We share the same goal: we want our children to have a rich experience in school while they are gaining the skills they need for success. The PARCC results give us one piece of information that we can all use to see if we are meeting that goal. Like you, we will use all the information that we have to make improvements that increase the chance of our children's future success.

I am proud of our shared success and I am proud to have you as a partner in your child's education.

With appreciation,



Kaya Henderson  
Chancellor, DC Public Schools