

10 Reasons to Refuse the PARCC Test for Your Child in Illinois

1. High-stakes standardized testing takes an emotional toll on students.

- The PARCC is unlike any test you took as a child. It is unprecedented in its level of standardization and in the punitive measures attached to testing performance.
- The PARCC is a timed exam and unfamiliar to students in form and content.
- The stress of high-stakes test taking produces anxiety and may be even more challenging for students who already experience anxiety, students with special learning needs, and ESL students.

2. The PARCC Test drives the standardization of learning.

- The Common Core State Standards, which support the PARCC, have narrowed state curriculum to fit the demands of the test.
- Untested subjects are deprioritized or dropped altogether. PARCC will lead schools to further deemphasize arts, music, and physical education.
- This unprecedented level of standardization cannot accommodate student differences in need, ability and interests.

3. Test prep means less quality instructional time in schools.

- PARCC is longer than previously administered tests.
- PARCC means more testing beginning at younger ages.

4. The PARCC test is a fundamentally flawed assessment.

- There is no evidence that PARCC prepares students for college or careers.

- Not enough sample tests, practice tests, or exemplars have been released.
- The expectation that many or most students will perform poorly on the test is public knowledge.
- Because Illinois students are already tested and assessed throughout the school year, the PARCC is unnecessary.

5. Schools around the state of Illinois are unprepared to take a high stakes exam.

- Never before have so many students taken an online exam simultaneously.
- Districts have continually reported schools' IT infrastructure cannot support PARCC administration.
- The rush to implement the PARCC does not make sense for our schools.

6. PARCC is a cash cow for testing companies such as Pearson, Inc.

- Technology and testing companies – not educators – have funded and organized the rush to develop and implement the Common Core and PARCC.
- States have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on Common Core and PARCC.
- Pearson is a private company which will have access to student data with very little oversight. Pearson may sell personal data related to individual children who have taken the PARCC.

7. School districts have been bullied into accepting PARCC and the Common Core – and residents have been failed by their elected leaders who signed on to it.

- When Chicago Public Schools announced they could not and would not administer PARCC this year, they were threatened with losing up to \$1 billion in funding.
- Schools and school districts across the country have been forced to comply with federal and state mandates around PARCC or risk lose millions of dollars in funding.
- Illinois policy makers have endorsed Common Core and PARCC without diligently investigating what is at stake and without asking the right questions.
- National “messaging” around the Common Core and PARCC has been carefully crafted to conceal problems and to appeal to parents and teachers.

8. PARCC test scores will be used to justify punitive measures.

- Per “No Child Left Behind” and other school reform measures, test scores are used to fire teachers, hold students back and close down schools.
- These actions are disruptive and are unsettling to the communities that have to endure them.
- These measures disproportionately impact under-resourced communities and students of color.

9. There is no legal precedent for forcing a student to take a standardized test.

- To opt your child out, all you need to do is inform your school’s principal.
- Tell school administration that students who opt out should not be penalized in any way and should be allowed to participate in quiet, productive activities during test time.

10. Now is the time!

- More people are questioning PARCC than ever before - teachers, students and parents around the country have begun to speak out against high stakes testing.
- Boycotts and other actions against high stakes testing have galvanized communities to fight for justice in education.
- Given the large number of problems with the test, many schools will not be held accountable based on test results this year. This is a lower-stakes opportunity to boycott the test and to build momentum for bigger boycotts to stop the damaging “accountability” provisions in the years to come.
- Even if your school tends to meet AYP or other defined goals, the same cannot be said for all schools – especially those in under-resourced areas and disproportionately those populated by students of color. We need to stand up for all children who are experiencing an unprecedented transformation of the learning experience via the expansion of high stakes testing.

OUR CHILDREN ARE MORE THAN A SCORE!

PLEASE check out:

www.morethanascorchicago.org

www.unitedoptout.com

www.dianeravitch.net

www.fairtest.org

www.iamaneducator.com

www.allianceforchildhood.com

This leaflet has been distributed by parents on the “Park the PARCC Evanston” Facebook page. Join our page!