

OXFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL

17 Kent Street

Oxford, N.J. 07863

908-453-4101

www.oxfordcentral.org

Mr. Robert Magnuson
Chief School Administrator

Ms. Nancy DeRiso
Business Administrator

Ms. Milissa Dachisen
Director of Special Services/VP

Oxford Central School Students are C.O.R.R.E.C.T.

March 10, 2017

Dear Oxford Central School Parents and Guardians,

There continues to be many sources touting the ability of parents and students to choose to "refuse" to participate in the statewide assessment program known as the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). For those who are unaware, the Oxford Township School District is mandated under N.J.A.C. N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 to administer the upcoming PARCC assessment.

Thus, the New Jersey Department of Education has left it up to local school districts to address situations in which parents refuse the test for their child. I feel there should not be an "opt-out" or "parent refusal" and I expect, as we have seen in the past that all students in grades 3-8 will be in attendance on the appropriate days and take the assessments for their grade level. The OCS testing window will be April 24-May 16, 2017.

It is my position, that the Oxford Central School will implement a logical and respectful set of protocols for those parents who choose not to have their child assessed. I hope that by proactively sharing these protocols we will address concerns for some parents. This is NOT an endorsement for the refusal of the test. It is our way to acknowledge and respect a parent's right to be actively involved in their child's education.

Protocols for parents who refuse to allow their child to take the PARCC standardized assessment:

Parents are requested to provide a letter with a signature to the Main Office prior to the actual dates of the testing stating that it is their intention to refuse to permit their child to take the PARCC assessment. Please provide your letter prior to March 31, 2017, so that we can plan accordingly. Letters of refusal will be accepted after that date, but will hamper the implementation of the accommodations.

It is important that we establish clear procedures for the PARCC Assessment testing sessions:

1. Students in attendance during regular assessment days will complete each section of the Assessment (April 24-May 16, 2017).
2. Students who are absent during the regular assessment days will complete each section of the assessment upon their return to school during the makeup testing sessions.
3. All students will be testing in various testing centers with their homeroom class. In the event that a student refuses or a parent refuses to have their child take the test, he or she will be provided with an alternate educational activity which will consist of, but not limited to, self-selected and self-guided reading material in an alternative location.
4. Student absences during the April 24, - May 16th testing windows will be addressed in accordance to the District Attendance policy.

Our students in grades 3-8 whose parent(s) have submitted a written statement of refusal and who attend school on a PARCC testing day will be marked present for the day. During the testing periods, those children will be located in a room separate from the "testing environment", and will be asked to read or work independently and quietly while supervised by a staff member. The testing day will last between 50-100 minutes. We encourage those children not sitting for the test to bring a book or other materials to read during that time.

ATTENDANCE

Children whose parent(s) have NOT submitted a written statement of intent and who are not present on the day of the assessment will be marked absent and will sit for the PARCC make-up test as scheduled. Similarly, children whose parent(s) have not submitted a written statement of intent and who arrive at school after the testing is completed, will be marked tardy for the day and absent for the test. Those children will be required to sit for the PARCC makeup test as scheduled.

Children whose parent(s) have submitted a written statement of intent and who do not attend school during testing will be marked absent. Those children will NOT be required to sit for the PARCC makeup test. The reason these children will be marked absent is because even though the PARCC testing is taking place on that day, the testing takes between 50-100 minutes and is not the only activity occurring throughout the day. Similarly, children whose parent(s) have submitted a written statement of intent and who arrive at school after the testing will be marked tardy. They will not be required to sit for the makeup PARCC test. If you choose for your child not to take the PARCC test, we encourage you to send your child to school on time on the testing days unless there is a verified reason not to (e.g., illness, doctor appointment).

Please visit the PARCC website for more detailed information about PARCC. Our hope is to ensure that all families are appropriately informed about this assessment.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Magnuson
Chief School Administrator