

Roxbury Township Public Schools

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Each year, state testing brings with it a host of emotions for students, teachers, and parents. One of the most important aspects of state testing that often gets lost in the dialogue is the value the results of those tests provide the district administration and teaching staff in evaluating our programs, curriculum, instructional practices, and instructional sequence. School districts have found that the PARCC testing provides some of the most useful data to achieve this goal, since the results provide information about progress toward specific standards in Evidence Statement Reports. While these reports are confidential, the public can access a [NJDOE presentation here](#) that discusses these reports and provides accompanying information about how they are used here in Roxbury and elsewhere to inform important programming decisions.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) continues to require public school students to be tested every year in mathematics and language arts (Grades 3 – 11) and science (Grades 4, 8, and Biology), and the NJDOE continues to use these tests as important [high school graduation requirements](#). The politics behind the implementation of this law, the standards, and the tests have evoked strong emotions causing some to choose not to take the tests. I would ask all members of our school community to try to see beyond the politics, and look to the valuable information that these tests provide our district so that we can continue to provide the best possible program for all students. It is important also to remember that these standardized tests only represent a moment in time and they do not represent a cumulative picture of a student, which is composed rather from many data points.

I would ask that you consider these tests an opportunity to display all the hard work that our teachers and students have completed in their teaching and learning while simultaneously providing an opportunity to evaluate, reflect upon, and celebrate the program provided to Roxbury students.

Here are some additional points to keep in mind:

- The testing will be scheduled by each individual school within their school day.
- Since the tests are based on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, there is no special preparation that the children need to undertake for the test; their regular classroom instruction has been addressing the standards every day and providing opportunities to apply their learning.

- While it is always important to ensure that children get plenty of rest and eat a nutritious breakfast, this is especially the case at testing time.

If you have any questions about your child’s educational achievement and/or progress, you should contact his or her teacher directly. If you have any particular questions about the PARCC (math/ELA) or NJ ASK (science), please feel free to contact me by e-mail at cseipp@roxbury.org or by phone at 973-584-6799.

I look forward to our district being able to self-assess and improve upon what we provide students. Roxbury is an amazing place to teach and learn. Thank you for the part you play in that process.

Sincerely,



Charles Seipp
Assistant Superintendent

PARCC Testing Dates	School
March 28 – 30	Eisenhower MS (Makeup testing April 10 – 13)
April 10 – 12	Roxbury HS (Makeup testing April 24 – 28)
April 25 – 28 (April 28 for 5 th Grade Only)	Lincoln/Roosevelt (Makeup Testing May 2 – 5)
May 2 – May 5	Franklin & Jefferson (Makeup Testing May 9 – 12)
May 9 – May 12	Nixon & Kennedy (Makeup Testing May 16 – 19)

NJASK Science Grades 4 & 8 – May 31, 2017
 NJBCT (Biology) – May 31, 2017 & June 1, 2017