



THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Dear Families,

Happy holidays to you and your loved ones. As we look to 2015, I am reminded of the incredible progress our students have made this year. 2014 was not without challenges, but we have and will continue to ensure that every child in the Newark Public Schools (NPS) district has access to an excellent school, and that every parent has a voice in that process. With this in mind, I'd like to share two important updates regarding the One Newark universal enrollment process and the upcoming PARCC assessment with you and your family.

Universal Enrollment

One Newark Enrolls, the City's universal enrollment process, for the 2015-2016 school year begins on January 6th. This process provides one central application and match system for all district and most charter schools, allowing all Newark families equal opportunity in applying for schools across the District.

In preparation for the New Year, we want to make sure that you have the information you need to make the best decision for your family.

Remember, not every student needs to participate in One Newark Enrolls. Only students who would like to attend a public school in Newark that they do not currently attend must submit an application for the 2015-2016 school year. The following families will need to participate in the process:

- Students who currently attend schools that do not offer the next grade. For example, all 8th graders must apply for 9th grade seats, and all students in early learning centers that do not offer kindergarten must apply for kindergarten seats in a K-5, K-6, or K-8 school.
- Students who are enrolling in a Newark public school for the first time, and who would like to attend a district school, participating charter school, or private pre-kindergarten provider.
- Students who want to move to a different school that better fits their needs.

We know that picking the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Therefore, we want to make sure that you are fully aware of your school options. Please take the time to review the following resources:

- To find information about district schools: <http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/>
- To find Information about charter schools: <http://ncsfund.org>
- Plan to attend citywide school fairs that start on January 10, 2015.

If you participate in the One Newark Enrolls process for the 2015-2016 school year, there are a few key things to keep in mind:

- You will need to complete the application either online or by paper copy. The application opens January 6th and closes February 6th.
- Families who submit a One Newark Enrolls application will receive letters about their school match in March 2015.
- The application will allow you to choose up to 8 schools that you would like your child to attend. You will rank these schools in order of preference, listing your top choice as number one, and your

last as number eight. Please rank as many schools as you can, because the more schools you choose, the more likely you are to receive a match.

- Once you receive a match letter in the mail, you must register your child at their new school.

We are committed to making school enrollment a great experience for families and students. Speak to someone at your school if you have questions or need assistance. You can also reach out to our Contact Center at (973) 733-7333 or email us at info@newarkenrolls.org.

PARCC Assessment/Test

This spring NPS, along with districts across the country, will implement a new test called the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC will replace the existing statewide assessments, like the NJASK in 3rd through 8th grades and HSPA in high school. This assessment will be different in two ways: 1) it will only be administered online; and 2) it will be more difficult than previously administered standardized exams (i.e. NJASK and HSPA).

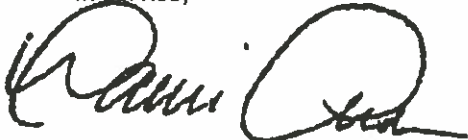
Unlike standardized tests administered in the past, the PARCC assessment will only be administered online. Online assessments are new to our schools, and NPS has been working diligently to prepare schools (purchasing new devices and strengthening our technology infrastructure), teachers (training on the technology and test format), and students (offering sample tests using the online format). By March, we are confident everyone, especially our students, will be comfortable with the online format.

About three years ago NPS, along with other districts in NJ and across the country, adopted the national Common Core State Standards. These standards establish consistent guidelines for what students need to know in order to succeed in college and careers. PARCC tests students based on the Common Core State Standards. These standards focus on developing critical thinking skills as well as tackling more complex readings and more challenging math problems. The results from the PARCC assessment will provide all of us – families, teachers, and administrators - with a sense of what we need to do to better support our students to ensure they are ready for college & career.

We encourage you to learn more about the Common Core State Standards as well as the PARCC assessment. Visit our website: www.nps.k12.nj.us/PARCCready for more information and resources. We will also be hosting information sessions at each school in the New Year, please plan to attend.

We look forward to working with you and your family, and addressing any questions or concerns you may have about enrollment, assessments or any other matter pertaining to your child's success. Please do not hesitate to contact NPS' Contact Center at (973) 733-7333 with any questions.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cami', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Cami