

LEGISLATION DEALING WITH PARCC AND TEACHER EVALUATION ON THE MOVE

The momentum created by NJEA members concerned about high-stakes testing continues to motivate legislators to take action with the following legislation:

Evaluation:

S-2668, legislation that would eliminate the use of test scores from teacher evaluation as required in TEACHNJ, has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Jeff Van Drew. The Assembly companion, A-4122 passed in the full Assembly in September.

S-2668/A-4122 recognizes that our students are more than just a test score. In fact, it reflects the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which allows states to move away from the use of high-stakes test scores for both teachers and students by removing the requirement that states use standardized test scores in teacher evaluation. Instead, ESSA requires states to use multiple measures and a new indicator of student success.

PARCC:

State Senator Nia Gill and Assemblywoman Mila Jasey have introduced concurrent resolutions that would allow the state legislature – through a simple majority vote of both houses – to overturn the regulations that require the passage of PARCC as a graduation requirement.

SCR-132 (Gill) and ACR-215 (Jasey) clarifies that State Board of Education regulations (adopted in August) that require students take and pass the PARCC test are not consistent with current legislation that determines standards for high school graduation.

If passed, the resolution directs the State Board of Education to amend or withdraw the regulations within 30 days, or the Legislature may pass another concurrent resolution to invalidate the regulations.

TAKE ACTION:

Call your member of the Senate today and ask them to co-sponsor S-2668 and SCR-132.

For S-2668 explain the negative impact high-stakes testing can have on students and teachers:

- The federal Every Student Succeeds Act does not require the use of test scores in teacher evaluation;
- Removing test scores from teacher evaluation will ensure teachers can teach the whole child, and leave ample time for the arts and other non-tested subjects.

For SCR-132, remind legislators that:

- State law regarding high school graduation standards refer to a single, comprehensive graduation assessment given in the 11th grade.
- The State Board of Education regulations requiring students to demonstrate proficiency on PARCC ELA 10 and Algebra I are inconsistent with the intention of the P.L.1979 law that

established a program of standards for graduation from high school, including a Statewide assessment test in reading, writing and computational skills.

- PARCC tests as authorized under the new regulations are two separate tests, PARCC ELA 10 and Algebra I, given at the end of the relevant course.
- For the classes of 2016-2020, if a student does not demonstrate proficiency on the ELA 10 or Algebra I assessments – the regulations offer no option for retesting using these exams – instead students may use an alternative third-party assessment such as the SAT, PSAT, ACT other PARCC assessments or a portfolio appeal.
- For the class of 2021, students can use an alternative assessment to show proficiency *only* after they have taken all applicable high school end-of-course PARCC assessments for courses in which they are enrolled.

When you finish calling your member of the Senate, please call your member of the Assembly and ask them to co-sponsor ACR-215 using the same talking points for SCR-132.

We are making real progress on these issues thanks to the advocacy of members like you, so please **TAKE ACTION** today!