

# Burrillville School Department

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November 9, 2015

Dear Parents/Staff:

We are writing to inform you that the 2014-2015 PARCC results will be available to schools for internal preliminary review on November 9 and will be available to the public on November 17, 2015 on the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) website, <http://www.ride.ri.gov>. To support all members of our school community, the Burrillville School Department has created an informational slide presentation that is available on our district website, [www.bsd-ri.net](http://www.bsd-ri.net). The information presented on our website provides community leaders, parents, teachers and students with interpretive guidance and links to further information.

As we move forward, it is clear that PARCC testing will continue. Our district is pleased with the latest RIDE adjustments that include a shift to one testing period in May that is at least 90 minutes shorter at each grade level. We are pleased that accountability does not affect student graduation until at least 2020. Finally, we are pleased that the privacy of student information has become a priority for all stakeholders. Many groups including the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association (RISSA) whose resolution states the following called for these changes. "RESOLVED: RISSA calls for a moratorium on the use of any new State Assessment including the PARCC, as a graduation requirement and for educator evaluation until specific criteria approved by RISSA and other stakeholders are developed and met including, but not limited to, validity, reliability, standard setting, and the opportunity to learn the Common Core State Standards assessed by PARCC."

Our Burrillville School Department Policy (P1730a) states, "Student performance will consistently meet or exceed the performance of previous years as exemplified in state and local assessments." In order to meet that expectation, our district strategic plan challenges us as follows: "The district in partnership with building level teams, will clarify and document the interconnectedness between RtI, PBIS, ILP, PLP, common course assessment, progress monitoring, NECAP data, PARCC data, other district data monitoring software, teacher professional growth plans, and the improvement in student achievement and teacher

effectiveness.” There is no easy way to ensure that we serve the educational needs of each student fully. What is clear is that quality data plays a key role. As we continue to work with the state, our professional organizations, and our community members to redefine how best to assess student learning, I strongly encourage you to advise your child to take this year’s PARCC assessment with fidelity. As RISSA states, our goal should be to “ensure all students demonstrate proficiency with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in post-secondary education, careers, and citizenship within a global society.” Only solid data from a solid cross section of our school community will provide the stakeholders mentioned the information they need to reach our collective goal of fair and reasonable testing.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any school or district leader. As always, we are here to serve you and your child(ren).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lois E. Short".

Lois Short

Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Professional Development  
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Cc: School Committee