

# Burrillville School Department

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Dear Parents and Teachers:

The Burrillville School Committee, in April of 2000, approved Policy 1730, which states:

*The Burrillville School Committee supports the following Goals and Objectives:*

- Goal 1:
- *High expectations will be the standard for the education program throughout the Burrillville School Department.*
  - *Student performance will consistently meet or exceed the performance of previous years as exemplified in state and local assessments.*
  - *The education program will be centered on a standards-based curriculum.*

In July, 2010, the Rhode Island Board of Regents voted to adopt the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Once adopted, the Rhode Island Department of Education established the following timeline for implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC):

- 2010-11 • Rhode Island adopts CCSS
- 2011-12 • Districts begin developing and transitioning curriculum to CCSS.
- 2012-13 • Study of standards and curriculum work continues.
- 2013-14 • The CCSS are fully implemented in all districts.
- 2014-15 • All schools fully implement a curriculum aligned to CCSS.  
• PARCC assessment is implemented statewide in grades 3 through 10.

As elected School Committee members, we are mandated under Rhode Island Education Law 16-2-9.3 which states:

*To provide for and assure the implementation of federal and state laws, the regulations of the board of regents for elementary and secondary education, and of local school policies, programs, and directives.*

There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the issue of standardized testing (PARCC Assessment). Please note that the Burrillville School Committee supports standardized testing as an instrument to enhance student performance, and to provide support to teachers to meet your child's needs. Standardized testing provides the teachers and the school district with important and valid data and is only one component to help every student achieve success. Standardized testing will not be used as an instrument to punish.

As the Superintendent has reiterated several times, it is the responsibility of the home, school, and community working together to provide the best opportunity for students to be successful.

An article written by Linda Borg, Providence Journal, Thursday, December 10, 2015 stated: "that the State Education Commissioner, Ken Wagner wants to postpone linking a standardized test to high school graduation to give RIDE time to decide how the new test will be used."

For the reasons listed in this letter, the School Committee respectfully requests that you support and stress with your children the importance of taking the PARCC Assessment. Our goal is to have 100% of the eligible students participate in the PARCC Assessment.

We are committed to improving teaching and learning. Standardized testing is only one component to enhance student success.

Thank you.



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Burrillville School Committee  
Mark Brizard, Chairman



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Dr. Frank Pallotta, Superintendent  
Burrillville School Department

1/13/16 Date