

Your Child's PARCC Score: 5 Things To Remember

Did your child take the PARCC last school year? If so, their test scores are coming home soon and there are some key points you might be interested in.



1. This assessment matters to the Latino community.

When aligned to high academic standards, state tests protect educational opportunities for all children. These assessments provide a common way of measuring how students are learning, regardless of their ethnicity or zip code. PARCC results give policy makers, parents and teachers a more accurate look at a child's academic progress.

For too long, low-income students, students with disabilities, and students of color have been held to lower educational expectations than their white counterparts. Lower expectations can have negative effects on the success of Latino students both while they are in high school and once they enter college or start a new job. Statewide annual assessments provide a common way of measuring student progress on state standards across classrooms, schools, and districts. This allows us to make sure that Latino students are being provided a high-quality education across the state. For the Latino community, assessments are critical.

2. Your child's score establishes a new baseline.

The academic bar has been raised for students throughout the country, and these new assessments are the first time that students have been tested on these higher expectations. The new assessments measure the skills students need after high school, such as: communication, teamwork, critical thinking, analytical writing and problem solving. While scores may look lower for some students, lower test scores do not mean your child did not improve or learned less than before. It is important to remember that these new assessments are testing students at a higher level, and their results are a new baseline from which scores will likely rise. As with any change, there is a period of adjustment as teachers and students get used to the new standards and tests.

3. The scores are only one measure of educational progress.

Assessments are just one part of understanding your child's educational progress. The results from the PARCC test combined with other measures, such as homework, report card grades, classwork, and updates from teachers, are critical elements when looking at how students are progressing. Talk with your child's teacher to understand their goals for the year and how you can support their learning at home.

4. The results give teachers important information to support your child.

The test results give teachers a deeper level of information than most previous tests; they break down student scores into categories, which helps teachers pinpoint where a student needs to improve so they can teach accordingly. Teachers can use the information to identify where students are achieving and where they need extra support.

5. The results equip you with information to advocate for your child.

The value of the score reports is that they are actionable. They give you and your child's teachers specific information needed to support your child's education. You can also use this information to advocate for your child's schooling experience. One website that provides you with more details about the score report is **UnderstandTheScore.org**. Here you can learn more about what is on the score report, how to interpret results, and what you can do to support your child. You will find links to information about each state's test and links to several great interactive resources that give you specific guidance on how to support your child. Soon NCLR will be launching our own rumboaltriunfo.com site. Please check back with us for more details and information.