

LONG HILL TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

PARCC results 'amazing, exceptional'

School district exceeds state averages in most areas; full presentation on web site

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EDWIN ACEVEDO

LONG HILL TWP. - "Amazing" and "exceptional" were two words the grades K-8 school district's leader used repeatedly to describe how well students performed in the second year of the state's mandated testing system.

Superintendent Edwin Acevedo made a detailed presentation about Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) results at the Monday, Oct. 24 Board of Education meeting.

"I think PARCC is here to stay," said Acevedo. "But it is an election year, so we don't know if that will continue."

Board President Nicholas Stevens credited Acevedo for his "very detailed and multi-view presentation" of PARCC data. He thanked teachers, administrators and students for their efforts.

Spring 2016 marked the

second time PARCC testing was administered, allowing school officials to compare with the spring 2015 results.

Students took English Language Arts and Literacy (ELA) assessments in grades 3-11, Mathematics assessments in grades 3-8 and end-of-course assessments in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II.

In his Oct. 24 presentation, Acevedo boasted about how Long Hill students performed on the 2016 PARCC assessments as compared to the state average.

"We did exceptionally well in literacy," said Acevedo. "We had beautiful numbers. Our students and teachers worked very hard and it showed in the results."

Considerably more Long

Hill students "met or exceeded" expectations in the ELA testing as compared to the state average:

Grade 3: District 69.6%, State 47.6%.

Grade 4: District 70.7%, State 53.5%.

Grade 5: District 64.7%, State 53.2%.

Grade 6: District 80.0%, State 52.3%.

Grade 7: District 89.4%, State 56.3%.

Grade 8: District 89.1%, State 55.2%.

Most of Long Hill's results in the math testing were positive, although Acevedo said the district must improve its grade 8 numbers. Some eighth graders participated in the Algebra I assessment in place of the eighth grade math assessment; thus, the grade 8 math outcomes are not representative of that grade's performance as a whole.

Here are the percentage of Long Hill students who "met or exceeded" expectations

in the math testing as compared to the state average:

Grade 3: District 75.9%, State 51.7%.

Grade 4: District 69.4%, State 46.6%.

Grade 5: District 70.6%, State 47.2%.

Grade 6: District 58.4%, State 43.0%.

Grade 7: District 65.6%, State 38.7%.

Grade 8: District 10.3%, State 25.6%.

Algebra I: District 81.6%, State 41.2%.

Geometry: District 100% (one student tested), State 27.0%.

Consistent Students

Acevedo presented a "longitudinal" analysis showing how the same group of students performed between the 2015 and 2016 PARCC administrations.

"Our district did an amazing job," the superintendent said. "Our students are consistent."

These are the percent-

ages of Long Hill students, by current grade level, who passed in 2015 and 2016:

Grade 5 ELA: 69% in 2015, 71% in 2016.

Grade 5 Math: 64% in 2015, 69% in 2016.

Grade 6 ELA: 67% in 2015, 65% in 2016.

Grade 6 Math: 72% in 2015, 71% in 2016.

Grade 7 ELA: 69% in 2015, 80% in 2016.

Grade 7 Math: 63% in 2015, 59% in 2016.

Grade 8 ELA: 82% in 2015, 89% in 2016.

Grade 8 Math: 73% in 2015, 66% in 2016.

Despite "slight dips" in a few areas, Acevedo said Long Hill students "did very, very well" overall as the district's percentages surpassed averages of New Jersey and an eight-state PARCC consortium in all categories.

In most areas, higher percentages of Long Hill students have passed the PARCC tests than state and PARCC consortium averages.

Among highlights was grade 7 math, with 89% of Long Hill students passing.

A notable exception is the grade 8 math results, which have been considerably lower than New Jersey and PARCC consortium averages in 2015 and 2016.

"This is an area where we're going to focus a lot of our energy," said Acevedo.

Administrators are reviewing the PARCC data to help identify steps the district can take to improve student achievement, the superintendent added.

The superintendent said he can make a presentation about the PARCC results through local Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs).

"I will be available and 'go on the road', so to speak, and answer any questions from the community," said Acevedo.

The full presentation of Long Hill's PARCC results has been posted on the school district's website.