



Mario J. Andrade, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 18, 2015

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Bristol, RI 02809

Dear Ms. [Redacted],

The District is in receipt of correspondence from you requesting that your child, [Redacted], a student in our public school system, be opted out of Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) statewide assessment program.

We have asked both our legal counsel and legal counsel at the Rhode Island Department of Education to review the legal rights and responsibilities of both parents and school districts regarding the opt-out matter. Each has separately come to the conclusion that parents have no legal right to opt their children out of any state assessment. Also, both have concluded that the Bristol Warren Regional School District has no legal right to opt out of the statewide assessment system.

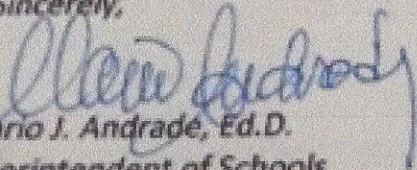
Therefore, I cannot honor your request to opt your child out of the PARCC statewide assessment program. However, based on your request, the District will acknowledge nonparticipation of your child in the spring 2015 PARCC assessments. Please contact your child's building administrator for details regarding alternative assignments.

District employees, parents and other stakeholders in public education all have the obligation and duty to ensure that our students meet the expectations and proficiency standards as measured by current and future State and local assessments. Our students must be adequately prepared to compete and excel in secondary and higher education settings requiring college and career ready knowledge emphasizing content mastery as well as its application.

Good teachers and administrators utilize assessment data virtually every day to help students learn and grow academically. Furthermore, it is likely that data from the PARCC assessments will be utilized in determining graduation requirements for the class of 2017 and beyond. Your child could be at a distinct academic disadvantage in the near future if she doesn't actively participate in the assessment system.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact my office to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,


Mario J. Andrade, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Vka
Christine Homen, Principal, Kickemuit Middle School