



November 10, 2014

Dear Families,

This spring, the DC-CAS will be replaced with PARCC, a new test developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. This test will match what students are learning in school. It is aligned with the Common Core State Standards that we adopted in 2011 to raise the bar on student achievement and put all students on the pathway to success in college, career, and life.

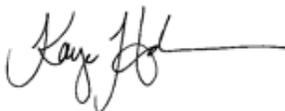
The new PARCC test will give students a better opportunity to show what they know in reading, writing, and math. It will also provide a better measure of your child's ability to think critically, problem solve creatively, and communicate clearly. The entire PARCC test will be taken on the computer. The questions will require written and interactive responses, like drawing a line on a graph or putting events from a story in the correct order.

This will be a big change from the types of tests students are familiar with taking. We are well prepared to help all students do their best. This new, more challenging test is a critical tool in helping your child achieve at the highest levels and better prepare for success in college and careers. The results will help you better understand what your child is learning and where we can help them improve.

I ask that you partner with us in supporting our students as they rise to this new challenge. There is more information about PARCC included with this letter. Please be sure to review test dates and which grades and subjects will be tested. If you have questions, please contact your child's school principal or email dcps.testing@dc.gov.

We are DCPS, and we can do this!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kaya Henderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kaya Henderson
Chancellor