



Meeting Location
188 Crest Haven Rd.
Cape May Court House
New Jersey 08210

September 28, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached you will find a resolution entitled; "Resolution of the Cape May County Administrators Association Concerning the Educational Impact of the PARCC Assessment". This was adopted by the Cape May County Administrators Association at its meeting on September 14, 2016. This resolution represents the position of the Association in its entirety, and was drafted utilizing notes from committee meetings of NJASA, CMCAA roundtables, as well as other documents, artifacts, and research.

The aim of this resolution is to identify global concerns of superintendents and other stakeholders within public education around the PARCC, and frame them in a manner that it will be considered for duplication across all 21 superintendents' county roundtables, as well as by any other educational entities and/or advocates of public education. The CMCAA maintains a willingness to partner with the NJDOE as well as other policy makers and legislators, to create the best possible environment for the education of all students, and to maintain and expand upon the outstanding reputation of public education that New Jersey has worked so hard to establish. Please share the resolution as you see appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JKK", is enclosed in a rectangular box with a thin black border.

J. Kenyon Kummings
Superintendent, Wildwood Public Schools
NJASA Legislative Committee representative for Cape May County

JKK/jmp

**RESOLUTION OF THE CAPE MAY COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION
CONCERNING THE EDUCATIONAL IMPACT OF THE PARCC ASSESSMENT**

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2014, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) stated that there are no formal procedures for parents to opt their children out of the 2015 administration of the PARCC assessment and implied that district Chief School Administrators (CSAs) take punitive action against parents who choose to opt out; and

WHEREAS, CSAs released public statements to their communities following the October, 30, 2014 memo, based on the Commissioner's guidance, that opting out of PARCC is not permitted and could result in disciplinary action; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the NJDOE gave conflicting testimony on opt outs at the State Board of Education meeting on January 7, 2015 and implied that school leaders should accommodate opt-outs; and

WHEREAS, the seemingly inconsistent guidance provided by NJDOE officials to CSAs continues to disrupt the educational environment of school districts by providing inaccurate and/or incomplete information regarding the diagnostic value of the assessment and the most recent untimely August 31, 2016 NJDOE Broadcast announcing the change in mSGP percentages for teacher and principal evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOE required districts and charter schools whose spring 2015 PARCC participation rates were below 95% of eligible test takers to create a corrective action plan detailing how they will increase participation rates for this spring's PARCC; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOE exacerbates district scheduling and time constraints by providing late notice of field testing that not only further disrupts the educational environment of school districts but causes additional human and financial resources to be expended to re-design the assessment schedule and communicate the revised schedule to faculty, students and parents; and

WHEREAS, the majority of states have now dropped the high school exit exam as a requirement for graduation from high school; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey public schools have one of the highest high school graduation rates and highest ratings on the National Assessment of Educational Progress and the National Bureau of Economics Research and research members of the American Educational Research Association have found that high school exit exams increase incarceration rates and have no influence on employment and wages; and

WHEREAS, research by the College Board clearly suggests that high school grade point average is a better indicator of first-year college success and later persistence through college than the SAT and approximately 1,000 colleges and universities do not require either ACT or SAT results or make submitting the scores optional for students; and

WHEREAS, the format and timing of the PARCC assessment has changed since the spring administration in 2015, in that the 2014-2015 school year was designated by the NJDOE as a “New Baseline” year that contained two PARCC assessment windows, the results of which were aggregated to determine final performance; and

WHEREAS, in the 2015-2016 school year, the PARCC assessment consisted of one assessment window to determine a final performance; and

WHEREAS, the validity of the comparison between the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years will now be compromised due to the change in the structure of the delivery and overall design of the PARCC assessment; and

WHEREAS, students, schools, teachers, administrators, and districts will still be held accountable for performance based on the results of this compromised comparison of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years’ PARCC assessment data, and student participation rates over which districts have little control; and

WHEREAS, the preparation for, and administration of the PARCC assessment consumes a great volume of valuable instructional time and resources with no demonstrable instructionally valuable return, (i.e., that the assessment would be diagnostic at the student level); and

WHEREAS, results from empirical studies conducted during the last four years have consistently demonstrated that student results on New Jersey state mandated tests of skills and knowledge at all grade levels can be predicted by community and family census data.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cape May County Administrators Association (“the association”)

(1) Urges the NJDOE to conduct a top down review of the entire premise of state mandated standardized high school exit exams; as well as the entire premise of high stakes standardized assessments in grades 3-12, with focus on cost, value, validity, and disruption by said assessments to the instructional environment of schools; and this association further

(2) Urges the NJDOE to explore other statewide assessments, in which the local districts share leadership for assessment with the state, along the lines of the Nebraska STARS programs that operated from 2000 to 2009, or The New York Standards Performance Consortium; and this association further

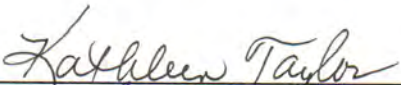
(3) Urges the NJDOE to review the accountability put upon districts, schools and faculty based on the PARCC assessment system that has not been proven to be a valid measurement of an effective instructional program; and this association further

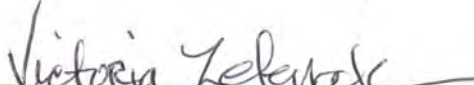
(4) Urges the NJDOE to perform an inquiry of the damage to the instructional programs of school districts caused by the PARCC assessment system, and to determine the value to the taxpayers of New Jersey of the PARCC assessment.

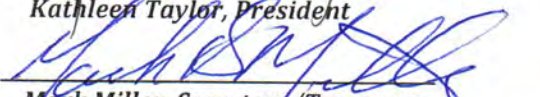
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be certified and submitted to our State Representatives, The New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey School Boards Association, The New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, local municipal leaders, the board secretaries of each school district in the county, the County Office of Education, and the Office of the Commissioner of Education.

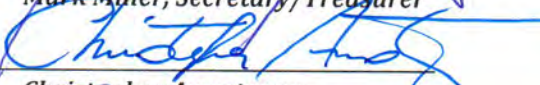
CERTIFICATION

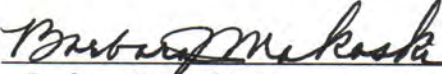
I, **Kathleen Taylor, President** of the Cape May County Administrators Association, in the County of Cape May, and the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true copy of the original resolution duly passed and adopted by the Cape May County Administrators Association at a meeting held on the 14 day of Sept, 2016.

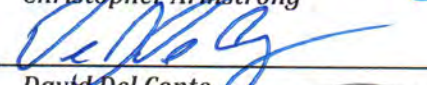

Kathleen Taylor, President

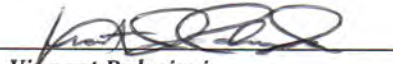

Victoria Zelenak, Vice President



Mark Miller, Secretary/Treasurer



Christopher Armstrong

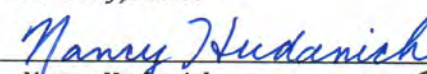

Barbara Makoski

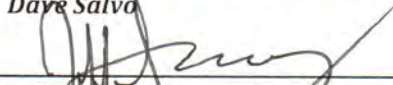

David Del Conte

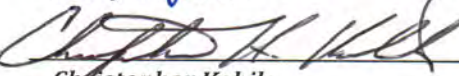

Vincent Palmieri

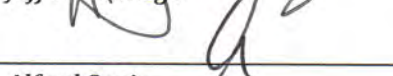

Anthony Devico


Dave Salvo

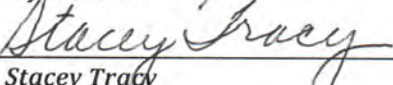

Nancy Hudanich


Jeff Samaniego


Christopher Kobik


Alfred Savio


J. Kenyon Kummings


Stacey Tracy

Dated: 9/14/16