

Good afternoon,

My name is Yarold Bautista. I am currently a sophomore at Laurel High School, where I am an honor roll student who has been involved in Student Government, ROTC, STEM Club, and Future Business Leaders of America, as well as Dual Enrollment. I wanted to share with you some of my experiences with PARCC testing.

Personally I have yet to hear a single good opinion about PARCC from either my friends or my teachers. Instead, we complain about the duration, the content, and the format of the test. Testing is emotionally and physically draining, overly time-consuming, saps the fun out of learning, and takes the freedom out of curriculum since teachers have to prepare their students for a test that they know absolutely nothing about.

Some teachers now consider changing careers because "this is definitely not education anymore," and I agree since it seems counter-intuitive to take students out of class for so much time; I missed about 13 hours of class time during a 2-week span just to take a couple tests that are highly controversial and ineffective. I mean, the passing percent for these tests statewide is in the thirties. I feel like a guinea pig.

Has anyone even considered that this test does the most harm to lower income and primarily minority districts and counties? For an online test, what else could happen for a school whose technology is badly lacking? For us, this test has been going on daily since April 10th. And it just finished. Does this happen in Howard County? At my school, we have had a lot more remedial tests because we have a lot other concerns which comes with the territory of having so many lower socioeconomic students. More tests do not make us smarter. As a wise farmer once said, "You can't fatten a pig by weighing it."

I don't know about you but if one or more of the institutions that I am supposed to oversee is being partially deprived of its primary purpose then I would do everything in my power to end this problem at its root.

Today I get the opportunity to speak out for all of the students, all of the teachers and all of the parents that have tried again and again (and failed) to voice their concerns about the effectiveness of this test, so don't consider this just my opinion, but rather the opinion of a large majority of the people involved in the Maryland school system. Thank you for your time.

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- Hi my name is Angelique Mondesir, and I'm a student at Laurel High School.
- Today I'm here to talk about the PARCC Test
- There are plenty things that i can talk about but today I'm going to focus on one topic which is time that is being lost

REASON #1 Personal effect

- During PARCC testing, my grades dropped in all my classes
- Algebra 2 pulled me out for 2 days from 7:45 to 12:00
- English 11 pulled me out for 2 days from 7:45 to 12:45
- That was 18 hours in the testing room
- Because I was testing during school, I had to miss 11 of my regular classes:
 - Twice: AP psychology, Algebra 2, World History, leadership skills, speech
 - Once: English 11
- Because of all of this time lost, When I returned to class i had to struggle to pick them back up. Multiple times, here was how my day went
 - I came to school an hour early (7am) in order to make up tests and classwork.
 - After school, I went directly to my job at Famous Dave's.
 - I spent three hours making up homework after getting home after 11pm from my job.
 - That is essentially a 19-hour workday, 4 of which is due to testing.

REASON #2 Test Material

- When i took my Algebra 2 PARCC at the end of April, I was upset to see some questions that we would cover only later in the school year. We took a test on a subject that we had only received $\frac{3}{4}$ of the material.
- I was even more upset to find trigonometry and pre-calculus questions on the Algebra 2 test.
- How can my Algebra 2 score be accurate if i haven't finish taking the class or even taken pre-calculus or trigonometry?

REASON #3 Teachers

- As much as i enjoy having a day off when my teacher proctors a test and sub is in the room, the novelty quickly wears off, and the educational result is disastrous.
- In my school, there were 24 days where teachers are coming in and out of class because of PARCC testing. According to the school memo, teachers had to proctor 472 PARCC tests. Other teachers had to cover their classes 1,043 times.
- On 3 separate days, 75% of my teachers were proctoring instead of teaching us.
- Then, of course, there were the days when so many of my classmates were taking tests that my teacher was unable to teach what was planned.

Conclusion

- You're looking at a student with a 3.6 GPA. I once loved school but am now discouraged and stressed due to all of these tests. What will you do about it?

Good afternoon board members. My name is Sydney Houston. I am a student at Laurel High School in Prince George's County. I am on the principal's honor roll, a student athlete, an SGA member as well as a member of the National Social Studies honor society. I took two PARCC tests this year and I am here to tell you that the PARCC test is not working and that it should be eradicated. PARCC stands for Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. Many students and teachers, however, would agree with me when I say that it does the exact opposite.

As students we test under duress. We as students are very confused as to whether we even need these tests to graduate. Our teachers are confused as well. PARCC is so secretive and for what reason? Teachers aren't even allowed to look at the test, and when they receive our scores they get our name and a number and they don't know what it represents. A teacher gets a score for a student they taught English 10, but they will never teach that student again. Our score sheets give us the number we scored and a bar to show where our level is and they give the averages at the school, district, and state levels and a paragraph on how you can use the number you are given to determine where your student is academically. Now this is a very nondescript and hazy representation of what a student "knows" based on the results of the test. Compare this to the PSAT score report which tells you your average, where you fall on the benchmark for college readiness, your percentile, the questions you got right and wrong as well as a website where you can go to see the question itself and understand the problem and why you got it right or wrong. Education is effective because we grow and learn; the PSAT shows us where we need to grow and what skills that need a boost. The PARCC tells us our name and a number and where we are on a scale of 1-5. As students we learn more from our mistakes. How can we improve if we don't know what's wrong?

This test is meant to evaluate if we the students are college and career ready but many skills that make someone college ready cannot be measured by selecting A or B. Skills that require practice like prioritizing, responsibility, time management these things are all necessary to be college and career ready but can't be measured by a standardized test. Students must have a general love of learning to succeed and testing is taking that away. PARCC is testing our endurance to sit for hours not whether or not we're ready for college. The English 10 PARCC (pilot) takes 7 hours and 20 minutes overall; that's ten minutes shy of the MCAT the medical school entrance exam. The LSAT takes 5 hours and the GRE to enter graduate school only takes 3 hours and 45 minutes. How is testing us effective if you're still testing the test itself?

The results of the 2016 PARCC should have been a wake up call for the state. When 38% of students received a passing score of a 4 or 5 that should say something about the test, not the students. Laurel High School's pass rate for the Algebra 1 PARCC was 1.7% which rounds up to about 2%. If 98% of students failed is something wrong with the test or the students? The Baltimore Sun article in 2015 said it best "students should not be leaving the test in tears" and PARCC has the ability to make students feel like failures. You can't give a standardized test to students who don't have standardized minds.