

Downers Grove school districts wait to draw conclusions on PARCC results

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

DOWNERS GROVE – School districts in Illinois are getting a first look at the results of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers test.

Students in third through eighth grades, as well as some high school freshmen, took the test for the first

time last school year, replacing the Illinois Standard Achievement Test and the Prairie State Achievement Exam as part of the state's move to Common Core standards.

Because of the more stringent scoring standards and a lack of previous PARCC test results for comparison, administrators for Downers Grove school districts said they are not ready to come

to any conclusions based on the results.

"The state superintendent is encouraging parents not to over-interpret these first-time test results," Downers Grove School District 58 Superintendent Kari Cremascoli said.

For Community High School District 99, the test is a bigger change because

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See the results

Results for districts and schools throughout the state are available at www.illinois-reportcard.com. The school report card breaks down results into subsections such as grade level and student demographics.

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the previous standardized tests were given to juniors instead of freshmen.

Results from districts with Downers Grove students included:

- For Community High School District 99, 42 percent of students met or exceeded expectations on the test, including 46 percent of students in English Language Arts and 36 percent in Mathematics.

- For Downers Grove School District 58, 43 percent of students met or exceeded expectations on the test, including 47 percent in English Language Arts and 38 percent in Mathematics.

- For Center Cass School District 66, 48 percent of students met or exceeded expectations on the test, including 51 percent in English Language Arts and 45 percent in Mathematics.

- For Darien Public School

District 61, 44 percent of students met or exceeded expectations on the test, including 49 percent in English Language Arts and 39 percent in Mathematics.

For all grade levels statewide, 33 percent of students met or exceeded standards on the test, including 38 percent in English Language Arts and 28 percent in Mathematics.

District 99 Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Gina Ziccardi said the results give the district some baseline data, but it will take several years of testing to give the scores context.

Cremascoli said her district is waiting for more information from the Illinois State Board of Education and the PARCC consortium to determine how to analyze the data.

"At this point, we will not be using PARCC assessment scores to make any instructional decisions for students," she said.