



New Jersey Senate
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Stephen M. Sweeney
Senate President

Kevin Drennan
Executive Director

April 27, 2015

Commissioner David Hespe
New Jersey Department of Education
100 River View Plaza
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Hespe:

This past year, students, teachers, and schools have stepped up to the challenge to raise educational standards in New Jersey. The department is using the assessments developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) to measure our schools' performance, and we are confident that the PARCC test will show that our teachers are highly effective.

The percentage that counted for teacher evaluation was decreased to 10% through legislative leadership and department regulations. This decrease showed a good faith effort to allow schools and teachers to adjust to the new statewide assessment over three years. We, as Legislators, always want to take a measured approach to policy. Teachers are the most important individuals when it comes to a child's educational experience and we must ensure that we are taking a responsible approach.

Today we are asking you, the Commissioner, to extend the 10% weight to next year as well. Please consider our request and we would be happy to speak more about these issues in the days to come.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sweeney".

Stephen M. Sweeney
Senate President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Teresa Ruiz".

M. Teresa Ruiz

Chair, Education Committee