

Drummond Montessori School  
Local School Council  
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Superintendent Tony Smith  
Illinois State Board of Education  
100 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Springfield, IL 62777

Chief Education Officer Dr. Janice Jackson  
Chicago Public Schools  
42 W. Madison  
Chicago, IL 60602

Chief Executive Officer Forrest Claypool  
Chicago Public Schools  
42 W. Madison  
Chicago, IL 60602

Network Chief Harold Johnson  
Network 6, Chicago Public Schools  
2245 W. Jackson  
Chicago, IL 60612

February 27, 2017

Dear Superintendent Smith, CEO Claypool, Chief Education Officer Jackson, and Chief Johnson,

We write in our role as the Local School Council of Drummond Montessori School, a Chicago Public School serving children from preschool through eighth grade, regarding the implementation of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test as our school.

The Drummond LSC opposes the administration of the PARCC test. Drummond students already take the MAP (NWEA) assessment annually. This assessment serves as the district wide assessment, on which grade promotion and selective high school admittance is based. Currently, the PARCC test serves no purpose and two to three weeks of the school year are devoted to this test. The PARCC test also drives a narrowing of the school curriculum. Teachers spend more time teaching to the test, to the detriment of a well-rounded Montessori curriculum.

In addition, the on-going concerns that PARCC is not reliable or verifiable continue without resolve. The cut scores are arbitrary and the process of how cut scores are determined is not transparent.

Although we oppose the PARCC, we recognize parents' and guardians' right to make educational decisions for the child. The decisions made and communicated to schools by those adults should be respected, regardless of whether they choose to have their child take the test or not. We support efforts to have the Illinois legislature pass legislation that allows parents or guardians to opt their children out of high-stakes testing and believe that all students should be treated with respect and kindness regardless of whether they take a particular test.

Respectfully,

Drummond Local School Council  
Megan Judy, Chair