



Date: Mar 20, 2017

From: Adam Larsen, Assistant Superintendent

To: Board of Education

Cc: Thomas Mahoney, Superintendent

Re: Mar 2017 Board Report

## PARCC 2017

The 2017 PARCC exam began for students on March 6<sup>th</sup>. We have been engaged in preparations for this assessment for several months, and now that we are in our third year of implementation, it has again gone quite smoothly for us.

The test has changed very little from 2016 to 2017. From 2015 to 2016, the test was reduced from two separate sessions to just one, and the 2017 test remains just one session. The testing window is open for about 6 weeks. It is broken down into testing units along the following schedule and unit times:



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Test Security  
and Administration  
Policies

**Table 2.1 Unit Testing Times for Grades 3–5**

Subject(s)	Unit	Section	Unit Testing Time (Minutes)
Mathematics Grade 3 Mathematics Grade 4 Mathematics Grade 5	Unit 1	Non-calculator	60
	Unit 2	Non-calculator	60
	Unit 3	Non-calculator	60
	Unit 4	Non-calculator	60
ELA/Literacy Grade 3*	Unit 1		90
	Unit 2		75
	Unit 3		90
ELA/Literacy Grade 4* ELA/Literacy Grade 5*	Unit 1		90
	Unit 2		90
	Unit 3		90

\*Some schools will be selected for field testing in English language arts/literacy for the spring administration. If a school is selected, some students will take an additional unit: a field test task (unit time = 90 minutes). Additional information will be provided to selected schools. Refer to **Appendix G** for more information.

**Table 2.2 Unit Testing Times for Grades 6–8**

Subject(s)	Unit	Section	Unit Testing Time (Minutes)
Mathematics Grade 6 Mathematics Grade 8	Unit 1	Non-calculator	80
	Unit 2	Calculator	80
	Unit 3	Calculator	80
Mathematics Grade 7	Unit 1	Non-calculator	80
		Calculator	
	Unit 2	Calculator	80
	Unit 3	Calculator	80
ELA/Literacy Grade 6* ELA/Literacy Grade 7* ELA/Literacy Grade 8*	Unit 1		110
	Unit 2		110
	Unit 3		90

\*Some schools will be selected for field testing in English language arts/literacy for the spring administration. If a school is selected, some students will take an additional unit: a field test task (unit time = 110 minutes). Additional information will be provided to selected schools. Refer to **Appendix G** for more information.

**Table 2.3 Unit Testing Times for High School**

Subject(s)/Course(s)	Unit	Section	Unit Testing Time (Minutes)
Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Integrated Mathematics I, II, III	Unit 1	Non-calculator	90
		Calculator	
	Unit 2	Calculator	90
	Unit 3	Calculator	90
ELA/Literacy Grade 9* ELA/Literacy Grade 10* ELA/Literacy Grade 11*	Unit 1		110
	Unit 2		110
	Unit 3		90

\*Some schools will be selected for field testing in English language arts/literacy for the spring administration. If a school is selected, some students will take an additional unit: a field test task (unit time = 110 minutes). Additional information will be provided to selected schools. Refer to **Appendix G** for more information.



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Our technology team, especially Steve Stinson, has performed admirably in preparing our systems to handle this assessment. We began assessment on March 6<sup>th</sup> with very few issues, and anything that has cropped up has been handled very quickly. Our proctor teams at both schools have adapted well to the changes on their end, and Ben Hickerson and Jo Cermak have worked hard to bring proctors up to speed on what they need to know to administer the test.

We look forward to receiving the data more quickly again this year, as both PARCC and ISBE have streamlined processes throughout the assessment. After the 2017 administration, we will have 3 years of data, which should allow us to be drawing trendlike conclusions about our student achievement. As far as we know, PARCC is here to stay, so we will use the assessment for program evaluation and instructional planning as we see fit.

## Illinois Science Assessment

The Illinois Science Assessment will be in its second year this spring. Despite the required quick turnaround and little information shared with us prior to having to give it, our implementation went quite well in 2016. However, we are yet to receive data from the 2016 test. Because of the Illinois budget crisis, the funding has not been properly allocated to score the assessment and summarize the data. The current word is that the 2016 and 2017 administrations will be scored together, and that we should receive information for both assessments in summer or fall of 2017.



## Freshman Failure Rate

One of the metrics that we track for the purposes of intervention is the count of F grades received during the first year of high school. The reason we track this is because students who fail even one core class during their first year are much more likely to drop out of high school prior to graduation. In a study of Chicago high school students, only 22% of freshmen who failed at least one core class graduated within four years, while students who were considered “on-track” graduated at a rate of 81% (Allensworth & Easton, 2007). We have made it extremely hard for students to fail during this critical year, with interventions such as Hawks Take Flight and the overall Freshman Team structure in place to make sure that struggling students are identified early.

These graphs are updated at the end of each semester, and the data are appended to a longitudinal study that tracks our progress. Two graphs follow. One shows the F counts for all students who are in grade 9. The other shows the same figure but excludes all students who are not in their first year of high school. These repeat students are in need of other intervention beyond what has already been provided during the first year.

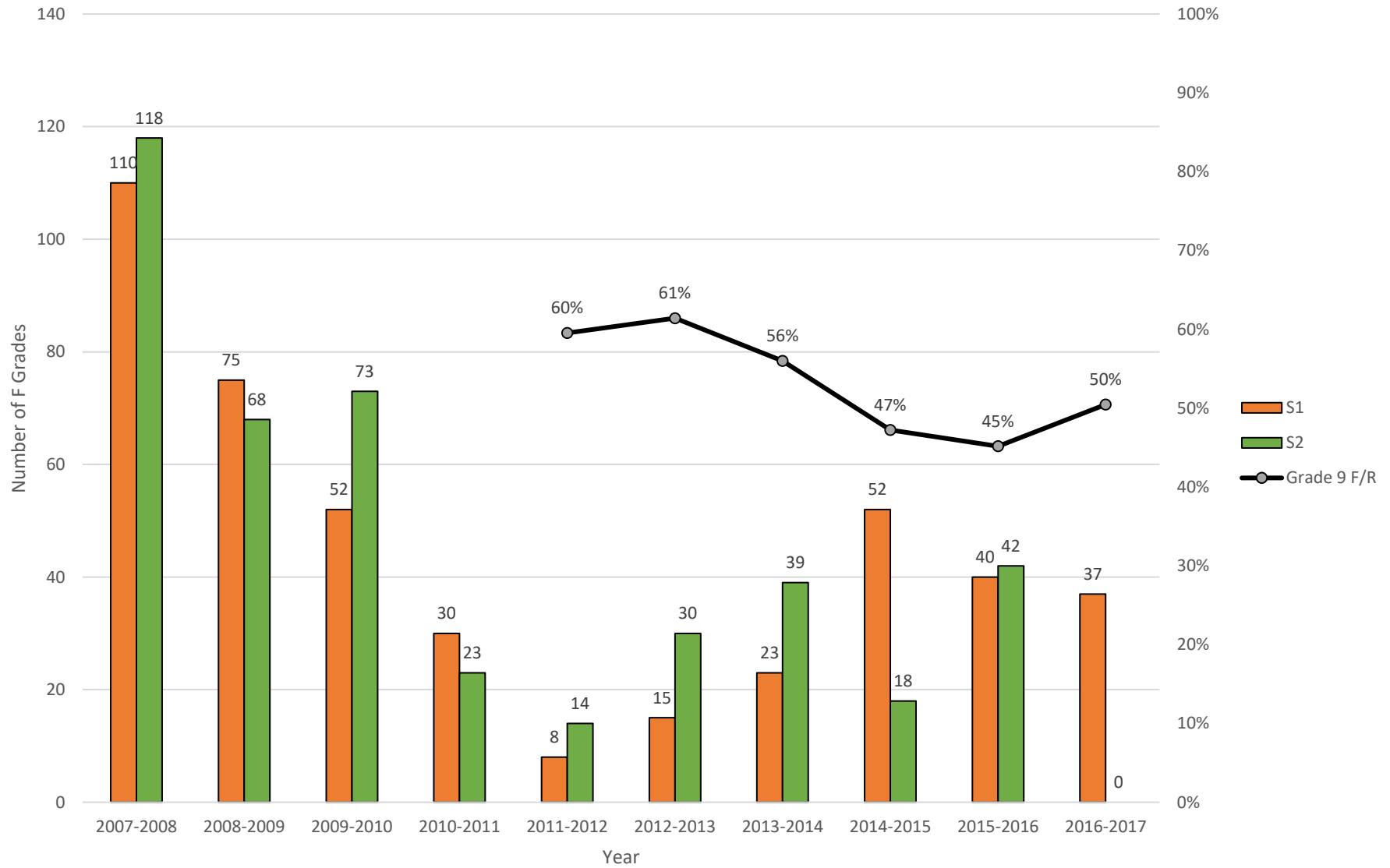
As is evident from the vertical bars, the interventions currently in place for first-year students are quite effective in reducing the failure rate. Our next area that needs some strategy work is the second year for students who did not earn enough credits to become sophomores.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adam P. Larsen'.

Adam P. Larsen  
Assistant Superintendent  
Oregon Community Unit School District 220

Oregon High School  
Grade 9 F Count  
by Year and Semester



Oregon High School  
Grade 9 F Count  
by Year and Semester

