



MICUA

Maryland Independent College  
and University Association

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **K12 AND HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERS ARE COMMITTED TO HIGHER STANDARDS TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS**

#### ***ORGANIZATIONS SEE PARCC SCORES SETTING NEW BASELINE FOR GROWTH TO COLLEGE AND CAREER-READINESS***

CATONSVILLE, MD - The Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland (PSSAM), the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), the University System of Maryland (USM) and the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) applaud the first release of state-level, high school results on new state assessments.

Maryland's public schools and higher education institutions are among the finest in the nation. Higher expectations represent an opportunity for us to continue working together in ways that prepare students for success in the classroom, the workplace and in life.

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test results set a new baseline for academic growth and make more meaningful connections to post-secondary education and career success. We are committed to higher standards and want to emphasize that lower than expected scores on state tests are not cause for alarm.

With new standards and new assessments, it is not possible to make comparisons to previous test administrations. The Maryland College and Career Ready (K-12) Standards for these tests are more challenging and better prepare students for postsecondary education and employment.

All 24 of Maryland's public school systems are fully implementing higher standards and new state exams that will show each student's readiness for the next grade and academic growth over time. Maryland has a history of raising the bar and our students always grow to meet and exceed expectations with support from great educators and engaged parents.

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