



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Nearly 99 Percent of Students Took State Tests Last School Year**

### ***ODE to Release Additional Information on Student Participation in State Tests***

COLUMBUS, OH – The Ohio Department of Education said today that nearly 99 percent of students took the state tests last school year (2014-2015). While virtually all students participated, the department said based on feedback from stakeholders that it will include additional information regarding the impact of students who did not participate in the tests. The data will be included only one time — in the 2014-2015 Ohio School Report Cards.

“Teachers, parents, superintendents and education leaders believe that all students should take the tests, and their communities are better served when achievement is measured. After collaborating with education stakeholders and our partners in the General Assembly, we also know it’s important to provide schools and communities with additional information on the impact of student participation on the report cards,” said Interim State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Lonny J. Rivera.

Last year’s tests, created by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), replaced the previous Ohio Achievement Assessments used from 2004-2014. The PARCC tests were administered for only one year. Addressing the concerns of educators and communities, Ohio is transitioning to new, Ohio-developed assessments in the 2015-2016 school year and beyond.

Even during the unique circumstances of the 2014-2015 school year, the vast majority of Ohio students participated in state assessments. A very small percentage of districts and community schools experienced a substantial decrease in student participation. Most report card measures are not directly impacted by student participation. Under state and federal law, Ohio calculates a Performance Index score and corresponding letter grade that includes all students.

For the 2014-2015 report card only, the department will be sharing additional information on Ohio School Report Cards regarding the impact of student participation. The department will share a modified achievement measure score and grade, which will be calculated using a similar method to the Performance Index and include only students who participated in state tests. The information will be displayed on the State Report Card to be released on Feb. 25.

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