



March 31, 2017

Dear CPS Families,

We firmly believe that every family in Chicago should have information about how well their schools are performing. In 2013, CPS adopted the School Quality Rating Policy (SQRP), an equitable, comprehensive tool for evaluating school performance and sharing that information with families. In addition to giving families valuable performance information, SQRP also provides a long-term view of progress for the district.

SQRP uses several factors to measure school success, including student attendance, school culture and academic growth. Students' performance on standardized tests also contributes to their school's overall SQRP rating.

With this in mind, I want to inform you about how schools' SQRP will be calculated in the coming school year. CPS plans to continue to use the NWEA MAP exam for students in 2nd through 8th grade for at least another year to ensure consistency in our accountability measurements, pending Board approval. We've heard from many principals who have effectively used the NWEA to show consistent progress across the long-term, as well as use its tools to monitor students' progress. Additionally, with the state's contract with PARCC expiring next year, CPS is not willing to put all our stakes in that assessment until we see a longer-term commitment from the state of Illinois.

We also want to inform you that NWEA will continue to be used for selective enrollment in the next school year, as well as promotion in grades 3, 6 and 8 – as we have done in previous years.

Finally, CPS will continue to look for opportunities to reduce unnecessary testing of students. If you have any questions about NWEA MAP or the changes to SQRP, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janice K. Jackson
Chief Education Officer
Chicago Public Schools

