



Tina M. Kane, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Office of the Superintendent

40 Media Line Road, Suite 204
Newtown Square, Pennsylvania 19073
Main: (610) 359-4256 • Fax: (610) 723-3340
Email: tkane@mnsd.org

March 16, 2021

Dear Marple Newtown School District Families,

This communication is intended to share information about the Pennsylvania state assessments.

Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)

In accordance with Pennsylvania and federal accountability requirements, PDE is moving forward with the administration of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

Who takes the Assessments?

All public schools in Pennsylvania are mandated to participate in the PSSA and Keystone Exams. Every Pennsylvania student in grades 3 through 8 is assessed in English Language Arts and Math. Every Pennsylvania student in grades 4 and 8 is assessed in science. The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments for Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.

When is the Testing Window? The spring testing windows would be:

- **Keystone Exams** at the High School: May 17 – May 28, 2021
- **Keystone Exams** at the Middle School: June 1- June 11, 2021
- **PSSA** at the Middle School: May 12 - May 27, 2021
- **PSSA** at the Elementary Schools: May 24- June 8, 2021

What happens if the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) Invites a State Waiver?

If the USDE changes direction and invites state waivers from school year 2020-21 assessment administration, PDE will carefully consider such an option and will likely quickly survey local education agency leadership to gather data that could inform such a waiver request.

School and Grade Specific Details

School Principals will communicate with families the specific details related to the dates, times, and other related testing information in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,
Tina M. Kane, Ed.D.