



Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires all school districts to administer the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) in English language arts, mathematics, and science. The dates of the testing window have been expanded into the fall by the PA Department of Education (PDE) to provide schools more flexibility regarding when to administer the assessment. The only choice any district can make is deciding not if, but **when** we will administer the test.

Like many neighboring districts, Haverford will administer these assessments in late spring. The primary reason for this decision is our strong desire to start the 2021-2022 school year off as typically as possible with a focus on forming community, establishing a positive culture within the classrooms and building relationships. Delaying these assessments to the fall would require us to complete the PSSA in September, and it has never been our practice to begin the school year with a state assessment. A fall assessment would also mean that students would take a second set of PSSAs in April/May of that same school year.

Haverford will be administering the 20-21 PSSAs during the dates listed below.

Assessment	Dates	Grades
English Language Arts	May 13, 14 & 17, 2021	Grades 3-8
Mathematics	May 19 & 20, 2021	Grades 3-8
Science	May 24 & 25, 2021	Grades 4 and 8
Make-ups	By May 29, 2021	

Chapter 4 of school code provides language and procedures for parents/guardians to opt-out of testing due to religious reasons. This process includes signing a confidentiality agreement, reviewing the assessment booklets, and signing an affidavit to the superintendent indicating your religious objection. Please contact your building principal to schedule this process.

Parents/Guardians also have the right of refusal to participate in this assessment process. This request must be provided to the building principal in writing (an email is sufficient) indicating the student's name, grade level and your refusal for them to participate in the assessment. Students who do not participate in the PSSA assessment will have a negative impact on the school's participation rate. Additional information can be found on the [website](#) for the Pennsylvania Department of Education.



Additionally, please review these very important [PDE policies linked on our website](#) to fully understand the state-testing program:

- Information for Parents/Guardians (Q/A)
- Code of Conduct for Test Takers
- Use of cell phones/electronic devices
- Pennsylvania Calculator Policy

Assessment scores represent a snapshot in time of student performance and should not be considered the sole indicator of student achievement. Data obtained from each assessment serves as one of the tools for planning school programs, designing curriculum and instruction and providing information to the public.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Sara Christianson
Director of Learning & Assessment