



Richmond County Public Schools

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DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT
JAMES G. SMITH, Ed.D.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
SARAH M. SCHMIDT, Ed.D.

August 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

All students enrolled in the Virginia public schools are expected to take the applicable state tests. The *Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, available online at www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/accreditation/soa.doc state:

“In kindergarten through eighth grade, where the administration of Virginia assessment program tests are required by the Board of Education, each student shall be expected to take the tests” and “each student in middle and secondary schools shall take all applicable end-of-course SOL tests following course instruction” (p. 9).

The regulations do not provide for what is sometimes referred to as an “opt out policy” for students regarding the Virginia assessments. If, however, parents refuse to have their student participate in one or more of the required Virginia assessments, the following procedures will be followed by RCPS:

- The parents will be informed that their student’s score report will reflect a score of “0” for any test that is refused.
- RCPS will request a written statement from parents indicating the specific test(s) the parents refuse to have their student complete. The document will be maintained in the student’s file as a record of the decision.
- To account for the student, a test record for the refused test(s) is to be submitted for scoring with the appropriate status coded to indicate the refusal to take the test.

Students are required to pass a certain number of EOC SOL assessments to graduate, therefore a parent refusing a required EOC assessment is essentially refusing to have their child graduate.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child’s guidance counselor, principal or Sarah Schmidt at sschmidt@richmond-county.k12.va.us or 804-333-3681.

Thank you,

Sarah M. Schmidt
Assistant Superintendent

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