



BLAIRSVILLE ELEMENTARY

106 School Lane, Blairsville, PA 15717

Mr. Brian Higginbotham, Principal



April 3th, 2025

Dear BES families:

During the months of April & May, all students in grades 3 through 5 are required to take the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). The results of these assessments provide valuable data used for program planning and drive instruction to bridge gaps in student achievement.

Students in grades 3-5 will take the English Language Arts and Math PSSAs. Each PSSA subject area is made up of multiple-choice, selected response, and constructed response questions written to align with Pennsylvania's Academic Standards. These standards serve as benchmarks for what students should be able to understand at varying grade levels.

As part of the commonwealth's transition to the new STEELS standards (Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy & Sustainability), the 2025 PSSA Science assessment will be administered in grade 5 and will no longer be administered in grade 4. This spring's Science assessment will be administered as a census field test. Individual student data and reports will not include Science results this spring. The data from the 2025 census field test will be used to produce the 2026 Science PSSA that will be fully aligned to the STEELS standards. As a result, the 5th grade Science PSSAs will be administered online this year to further prepare students for the Commonwealth's requirements for all students to participate in standardized testing online starting next school year.

Blairsville Elementary School students will be participating in the state assessments as outlined below:

PSSA Test	Test Dates	Grade Levels
English Language Arts	April 22, 23, 24	3, 4, 5
Math	April 28, 29	3, 4, 5
Science	April 30 & May 1	5

In addition to this letter, important information pertaining to electronic devices, a FAQ sheet for parents/guardians, Calculator Policy, and a Code of Conduct for Test Takers is available to review from our school's webpage. Please review this information with your child prior to the testing window.

Finally, please refrain from scheduling any appointments during our testing window. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. We are committed to supporting our BES students and their families in every way we can. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Higginbotham or Mr. Schillow with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brian S. Higginbotham

Brian S. Higginbotham
Principal, Blairsville Elementary School
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