



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

102 School Lane, Blairsville, PA 15717



April 1, 2025

Subject: Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) Administration

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As part of our commitment to ensuring our students' academic success and growth, the River Valley School District will administer the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) this spring.

The PSSA is a standardized assessment administered to students in Pennsylvania public schools. It evaluates students' proficiency in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science (for specific grade levels) according to state academic standards. The assessments are designed to provide valuable information about student performance and to guide instruction to meet the diverse needs of our learners.

It's important to note that students do not need to study specifically for the PSSA. The assessments are based on the curriculum that students are taught throughout the school year. Our dedicated teachers have diligently prepared students through daily instruction to ensure they have the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed.

The purpose of the PSSAs is multifaceted. Primarily, it serves as a tool for assessing individual student achievement and growth and provides valuable data for evaluating school and district performance. Moreover, the results help inform instructional practices and curriculum development to better meet the needs of our students.

PSSAs are required to be administered to students in certain grade levels. Specifically, students in grades 3 through 8 are required to participate in English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments. Additionally, science assessments are administered to students in grades 5 and 8.

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 grades 5 and 8A 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.

For students who receive educational services through an Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 Plans, accommodations and modifications will be provided as outlined in their plans. Our educators and support



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staff will work closely with these students to ensure they have the necessary accommodations to demonstrate their abilities to the best of their potential.

We understand that standardized assessments can be stressful for students. However, we encourage you to reassure your child that the PSSAs are simply one measure of their academic progress and growth. Encouragement, rest, and a healthy lifestyle leading to the assessments can help students perform at their best. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the administration of the PSSAs, please do not hesitate to contact your child's building principal. We appreciate your continued support and partnership in your child's education.

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your child.

Sincerely,

Regina M. Geesey
Assistant Superintendent
River Valley School District