



SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT

82 Monrovia Avenue, Smyrna, Delaware 19977

Telephone (302) 653-8585

Fax (302) 659-6290

Dear Families,

During the school year, your child will participate in state assessments that provide your child's teachers and you with important information about how your child is progressing. This helps educators know to how to best support your child. The tests are one of the several indicators, in combination with report cards, teacher feedback and classroom work, that create a complete picture of a student's progress in school.

For English language arts and mathematics, students in grades 3 through 8 take the Smarter Balanced Assessment. These online, adaptive tests are designed so that students, including those who are learning English or have special needs, can demonstrate what they know and can do. Your child's teacher receives results your child's results after taking the assessments. Family reports are available statewide in July.

In science, students in grades 5, 8, and high school biology take the DeSSA Next Generation Science Assessment. This assessment asks students to demonstrate their progress towards mastery of the Next Generation Science Standards, or NGSS. DeSSA Social Studies is the state's student testing program for Social Studies and is given in grades 4-8 and 11. Both assessments are online and administered at different points in the year. As with all statewide assessments, teachers will use the DeSSA Science assessment and the DeSSA Social Studies assessment score as one of the many measures to identify strengths in your child's learning pattern to identify ongoing strategies to best meet the needs of your child.

The Smarter Balanced Assessments and DeSSA assessments in science and social studies include real-life performance tasks requiring your child to apply knowledge and skills across multiple content standards to increase critical thinking abilities. The tests are connected to classroom instruction, matching the skills and content students are learning and practicing in the classroom daily.

In high school, students are required to complete the PSAT in 10th grade and the SAT in 11th grade. These assessments take place during the school day and are also administered online.

For more information on assessments administered in Delaware public schools, please see <https://education.delaware.gov/educators/academic-support/standards-and-instruction/digital-de/assessment/>

Section 1112(e) (2) of ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015) states that the parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know about state or district policies regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA, including any policy, procedures, or parental rights to opt students out of such assessments. If you would like to receive information about this topic, please contact your child's principal.

The Smyrna School District does not discriminate in employment, educational programs, services or activities based on race, color, marital status, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or any other protected category or status in accordance with state and federal laws. Inquiries should be directed to the District Superintendent.