



March 20, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires all school districts to administer the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), an annual standards-based assessment used to measure a student's attainment of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards in English-Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science.

Students in grades 3-8 for the 2025-2026 school year will automatically take designated PSSAs. Students in grades 5th and 8th will take the Science PSSA. Starting this year, all students will take their PSSA online using their Chromebooks. Schools have begun preparing students for the online administration of the assessment.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has determined that the PSSA testing window is from April 21 - May 8, 2026. Testing will commence on April 21st in our elementary and middle schools. Your child's school principal will provide specific assessment schedules regarding the times of each assessment.

PSSA Assessment	Dates	Grades
English Language Arts	April 21, 22, & 23, 2026 (Tuesday-Thursday)	Grades 3-8
Math	April 28-29, 2026 (Tuesday-Wednesday)	Grades 3-8
Science	May 5-6, 2026 (Tuesday-Wednesday)	Grades 5 & 8 (5th Only Testing Online)
ELA Make-Ups	April 24-May 8, 2026	
Math Make-Ups	April 30-May 8, 2026	
Science Make-Ups	May 7-8, 2026	

Chapter 4 of Title 22 of PA. Code (22 PA. Code 4.4) provides the right of any parent/guardian to excuse their child from the state assessment if, upon inspection of the testing materials, they find the assessment conflicts with their religious beliefs. This is the only reason the state allows students to opt out of an assessment.

Parents and guardians may review the PSSA materials by making arrangements with the school principal after the exams arrive on April 6, 2026. Parents/guardians must sign the Parent Confidentiality Agreement before examining test materials. A record of the agreement will be kept at the school.



If you opt your child out of taking one or more PSSAs, parents/guardians must review the test materials online at the school and provide a written request addressed to the superintendent and delivered to the principal. Please note that you must submit a separate request for each child you request to be excluded.

To understand the state-testing program thoroughly, please review the important [PDE policies linked on our website](#).

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

Parents and guardians may help their children prepare for the assessments by encouraging them to get plenty of rest the night before testing and have a good breakfast on the mornings of the test.

Thank you in advance for your support. Please contact me or your school principal if you have questions about the test or its administration.

Sincerely,

Christina Carter
Director of Learning & Assessment