



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. Philip Martell, Superintendent of Schools



April 13, 2026

Dear Families,

We are committed to student learning and growth, the River Valley School District will administer the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) this spring.

The PSSA is a statewide assessment given to students in grades 3–8. It measures how well students are progressing in English Language Arts and Mathematics, with Science assessed in grades 5 and 8. These assessments are aligned to Pennsylvania's academic standards and provide helpful information about student learning, as well as the effectiveness of our instruction and programs.

There is no need for students to study specifically for the PSSA. The test reflects what students are learning every day in their classrooms, and our teachers have been preparing them all year through regular instruction and practice.

For the 2025-26 school year, the Science assessment will be fully aligned to the STEELS (Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy & Sustainability) standards.

Students who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 Plans will receive the appropriate accommodations as outlined in their plans. Our staff will ensure all students have the support they need to do their best.

We understand that testing can sometimes feel stressful. You can assist by encouraging your child to perform their best, make sure they get a good night's sleep, and maintain normal routines during the testing period. Remind them that the PSSA is just one way we measure progress. This year, we have scheduled physical activities at the conclusion of each testing session. This is vital for students' physical well-being and has also been shown to boost focus, enhance memory and attention, and reduce stress and anxiety which may leads to stronger academic performance overall.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your child's building principal.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for trusting us with your child's education.

Sincerely,

Mr. Philip Martell
Superintendent of Schools
River Valley School District