



**CAESAR RODNEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

District Office

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Dear Caesar Rodney High School Families,

This year, your child will participate in state assessments that provide you and your child's teachers with important information about how your child is progressing. These assessments help educators know how to best support your child to ensure they are ready for the next grade level and, ultimately, success in life. The tests are one of several indicators, in combination with report cards, teacher feedback and classroom work, that create a complete picture of your student's progress in school.

In high school, students complete the digital PSAT in grades 9 and 10, the PSAT in grade 11, and the digital SAT in grade 11. These assessments measure a student's ability to use words in context, to interpret, synthesize, use evidence found in a wide range of sources in their written responses, to read a passage and explain how an author builds an argument to persuade an audience, Algebra, Advanced Math, Problem-Solving and Data Analysis, and Geometry and Trigonometry.

Students enrolled in high school biology take the DeSSA (Delaware System of School Assessments) science assessment. This assessment asks students to demonstrate their progress toward mastery of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Students enrolled in grade 11 will take the DeSSA social studies assessment which focuses on student understanding of the Delaware social studies standards.

The DeSSA science and social studies assessments focus on thoughtful questions that challenge students to come up with their own answers, show their work, and explain their thinking. The assessments include real-life performance tasks connected to classroom instruction, matching the skills across multiple content standards to increase critical thinking abilities. As with the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) and PSAT/ SAT, teachers will use the results of the DeSSA science and social studies assessments as one of many measures to determine your child's progress in those contents. Those scores will be included with other measures to identify strengths and opportunities for growth in your child's learning pattern to identify ongoing strategies to best meet the needs of your child. Families will be able to locate scores using the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. The Delaware Department of Education typically releases assessment scores mid-summer.

If you have any questions, please contact Courtney Russo or Daniel Lopez.

Keith W. Wisher
Supervisor of Instruction
Caesar Rodney School District

For parent resources about these assessments, please visit
<https://education.delaware.gov/educators/academic-support/standards-and-instruction/digital-de/family-resources/>.

On December 10, 2015, the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA) was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(2) of ESSA states that 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, procedure, or parental right to opt students out of such assessments.