



CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Office

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Dear CR Elementary 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.

For English language arts and mathematics, students in grades 3 – 5 take the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC). Educators from Delaware and around the country helped create and improve this test by writing questions and reviewing the assessments for content, bias/sensitivity, and accessibility. 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 in about three weeks after students take the assessment. Families will be able to locate scores using the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. The Delaware Department of Education typically releases assessment scores mid-summer.

Students in grade 5 take the DeSSA science assessment. This assessment asks students to demonstrate their progress toward mastery of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Students in grade 4 will take the DeSSA social studies assessment in the fall, winter, and spring. Students in grade 5 will take the DeSSA social studies assessment in the winter and spring. These assessments demonstrate their progress towards mastery of the Delaware Social Studies Standards.

As with SBAC, 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 content areas.. 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.

The SBAC English language arts, SBAC math, and 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.

If you have any questions, please contact the School Test Coordinator at your student's school.

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/assessment-resources-for-families/>.

On December 10, 2015, the *Every Students 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.