



Neshaminy School District

Administrative Offices • 2250 Langhorne-Yardley Road • Langhorne, PA 19047

We Build Futures

April 15, 2021

Dear Neshaminy Parents and Guardians:

The Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act requires school districts to administer the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and the Keystone Exams in the spring of each school year. The PSSA is the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) annual standards-based assessment used to measure a student's attainment of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards in English-Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science. The Keystone Exams are end-of-course exams given to students completing Algebra 1, Biology, and/or English 10 (Literature Exam) as part of a graduation requirement.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) waived the standardized assessment requirements because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of schools. At this time, the USDOE has **not** granted an assessment waiver for school year 2020-2021. PDE extended the testing window to allow for greater flexibility to accommodate testing all students who are virtual (Plan D1) or in-person (Plan A) program. School districts are required to administer the standardized assessments in-person and on-site.

The Neshaminy School District will be administering the 2021 assessments in May and June to ensure students instructional schedules are not interrupted. We recognize there may be some families of virtual students who may have concerns about bringing their children onsite this spring. We want to assure everyone that each school has developed a PSSA and Keystone testing schedule that accommodates the specific administration needs and restrictions of each school environment in conjunction with the procedures and protocols contained within the Neshaminy School District's Health and Safety Plan. In addition, building principals will be contacting the families of virtual students to schedule times to bring their students onsite for testing per the testing dates outlined below with calendars attached.

<u>PSSA Testing Dates</u>	
English Language Arts (Grades 3-8)	June 2-4, 2021
Math (Grade 3-8)	June 7 & 8, 2021
Science (Grade 4 & 8)	Grade 4: June 9 & 10, 2021 Grade 8: June 10, 2021
<u>Keystone Testing Dates</u>	
Biology	May 17 & 19, 2021
English 10 (Literature)	May 24 & 25, 2021
Algebra 1	Middle School: May 26 & 27, 2021 HS: June 7 & 8, 2021 May 20 & 21

Chapter 4 of Title 22 of the Pa. Code (22 Pa. code 4.4) provides for the right of any parent/guardian to excuse his/her child from the state assessment if, upon inspection of the testing materials, he/she finds the assessment to conflict with his/her religious beliefs. **This is the only basis for a parent/guardian to excuse his or her child from the statewide assessments.**

Since the Neshaminy School District's Health and Safety Plan prohibits visitors from physically entering school buildings, you **WILL NOT** be required to physically come to a school district building this year to review the state assessment prior to opting out.

Specific directions on how to opt out your child(ren) from an assessment will be released next week using a District survey/form. Please **do not** email or submit letters requesting to opt out your child(ren) from an assessment until you receive the directions and form for submission next week.

Finally, attached are PDE's ***Information for Parents or Guardians - Frequently Asked Questions*** and information concerning electronic devices as they pertain to PSSA and Keystone testing. This information will also be posted on the District's website.

Thank you for your support throughout the PSSA and Keystone testing sessions. If you have additional questions, please contact my office directly at 215-809-6555 or your child's school principal.

Sincerely,

Michelle Burkholder
Assistant to the Superintendent
Director of Elementary Education
215-809-6555