



# Neshaminy School District

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

March 27, 2023

Dear Neshaminy Parents and Guardians,

This letter provides detailed information regarding the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) as well as the required opt out procedures. The content of this letter is lengthy, but necessary to provide the required information.

## **PSSA Participation:**

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. Any student who is enrolled in grades 3 through 8 during the **current** 2022-2023 school year will be automatically rostered to take the designated PSSAs for his or her specific grade this April.

The PSSAs will be administered online in your child’s school building, and students will use their district issued Chromebook to complete the assessment(s). Each assessment will be administered on the dates outlined on the schedule below. Specific assessment schedules regarding the times of each assessment will be provided by your child’s school principal.

<b>PSSA Testing Dates</b>	
<b>English Language Arts (Grades 3-4)</b>	April 24-26, 2023
<b>English Language Arts (Grades 5-8)</b>	April 25-27, 2023
<b>Math (Grade 3-8)</b>	May 1 & 2, 2023
<b>Science (Grade 4 &amp; 8)</b>	Grade 4: May 3 & 4, 2023
	Grade 8: May 4, 2023

## **PSSA Opt-Out Procedures:**

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.

Parents and guardians may review the PSSA questions if they believe they may conflict with their religious beliefs by contacting the school principal to schedule an appointment once the exams arrive. All assessments are scheduled to arrive in District the week of April 10, 2023. Parents and

Guardians must sign the Parent Confidentiality Agreement prior to examining test materials. A copy of this agreement will be maintained at the school.

Finally, if parents/guardians find the test to conflict with their religious beliefs and wish their student(s) to be excused from the test, parents/guardians must send a written request to opt their child out of the assessment for religious reasons. Send all requests to Neshaminy's District Assessment Coordinator, Mr. David Geanette, at [dgeanette@neshaminy.org](mailto:dgeanette@neshaminy.org). Please note, it is important to submit a separate request for each child you are requesting to be excluded for religious reasons.

Thank you for your support throughout the PSSA testing sessions. If you have additional questions, please contact our office directly or your child's school principal.

Sincerely,

Michelle Burkholder

Assistant to the Superintendent

Director of Elementary Education

215-809-6554