



782 Springdale Drive, Exton, Pennsylvania 19341 • Phone: 484-266-1000 • [www.wcasd.net](http://www.wcasd.net)

Date

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Middle School,

The annual Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science (8<sup>th</sup> grade only) assessments will be administered to all students in Pennsylvania middle schools between April 25 – May 13. Specifically in West Chester, our students will take the ELA PSSA from April 26-28, the Math PSSA on May 3 and May 4, and the Science PSSA (8<sup>th</sup> grade only) on May 5 and 6. While the PSSAs are only one measure of your student’s achievement, these assessments are important ones. Individual PSSA results are significant; school and district results are published through various media outlets and reflect the overall performance of the West Chester Area School District.

All students in grades 3-8 must take either the PSSA or the PASA. The only exemption given by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is for religious reasons. Although our state regulations permit this excusal, federal regulations do not recognize non-participation. Consequently, students who do not participate will have a negative impact on the school’s participation rate, and potentially achievement rate. When a school’s participation rate falls below 95%, each subsequent non-tested student is designated as non-proficient in the school proficiency calculation. Individual student scores will not be impacted if the school’s participation rate in a tested subject falls below 95%.

In order to obtain a religious exemption, parents must contact the building principal and make arrangements with the principal to review the test. Once they have reviewed the test, parents must write a letter or email to the district’s superintendent, Dr. Robert Sokolowski ([rsokolowski@wcasd.net](mailto:rsokolowski@wcasd.net)), requesting the religious exemption for any of the individual PSSA assessments. The specific WCASD testing dates, windows during which assessments may be reviewed, and when the superintendent must be notified of a parent’s written request are as follows:

PSSA	Testing Dates	Review of Test	Notify Superintendent
English Language Arts	4/26-4/28	4/12-4/22	By 4/22/2022
Mathematics	5/3-5/4	4/19-4/29	By 4/29/2022
Science (8 <sup>th</sup> grade only)	5/5-5/6	4/19-4/29	By 4/29/2022

If you have any additional questions please contact your building principal or Dawn Mader, Director of Equity and Assessment, at 484-266-1201.

*Educating and inspiring students to achieve their personal best*