



DOWNTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
126 Wallace Avenue, Downingtown, Pennsylvania 19335

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Superintendent

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

The 2010 testing dates for the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) have been set for the following time periods:

- **April 7 – 16 – Grades 3 through 8 and 11 Reading and Math Assessment;**
- **April 19 – 23 – Grades 5, 8, and 11 Writing Assessment; and**
- **April 26 - 30 – Grades 4, 8 and 11 Science Assessment**

The PSSA is the mechanism for checking whether schools have been successful in students attaining the knowledge and skills defined by the State Academic Content Standards. While the PSSA is not the only measure of your child's academic achievement, it is a very important assessment used by the State to measure student progress in reading, writing, science, and mathematics. The goal of all staff in our District is to help your child meet with success on the PSSA. We ask for your support in the following ways to make the PSSA testing experience a positive one for your child: make sure your child attends school each day of the assessment, ensure that your child gets enough sleep the night before the test, and insist that your child eats a good breakfast before coming to school. Each of these small things will help your child do her/his best on the PSSA.

State achievement tests are designed to report how well students are meeting the educational standards expected of their grade levels. Students in 11th grade, who do not achieve at the proficient or advanced level in writing, math, reading, and/or science, are required to take the Grade 12 PSSA Retest in October/November 2010. Additionally, assessment scores for the 11th grade students are recorded on student transcript records for colleges.

Each student in the tested grade levels is required to participate in the PSSA. Your child's principal and teachers will inform you of the specific testing dates in your child's school and grade. All absentees will need to make-up missed sections of the test during sessions designated by the school. Students who receive special education services participate with allowable accommodations as defined by their IEPs (Individualized Educational Programs). In accord with Chapter 4 of the PA State Code, parents have the right to review the state assessments within two weeks prior to test administration. Parents may make that request of their school counselor by scheduling an appointment. Additionally, parents may, for religious reasons, request an exemption. This request needs to be in writing and should be sent to the building principal.

The School Board, administrators, teachers, and staff of Downingtown Area School District assure you that we will provide a positive and supportive testing environment for your child. We are confident that, by working together as home-school partners, we can help your child achieve his/her very best.

Sincerely,

Linda MacNeal

Dr. Linda G. MacNeal
Director of K-12 Literacy and Assessment

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