



March 26, 2021

Dear Middle School Families,

Each school year, school districts in Pennsylvania must administer the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and Keystone Exams to meet federal accountability requirements. For the PSSA, students in grades 3 through 8 are tested in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students in grades 4 and 8 are also tested in Science. Keystone Exams are administered as an end of course assessment for all Algebra I, English 10, and Biology courses. As of now, the United States Department of Education (USDE) has not issued testing waivers to states for the 2020-2021 school year. Therefore, the State will be requiring school districts to administer the assessment.

The Southern Lehigh School District is currently planning to administer the PSSA and Keystone Exams this Spring primarily on Fridays. The assessment must be administered in-person, even for remote learners. Busing will be provided on those days. Only students participating in the assessment should come into school on the Fridays listed below. Students not participating in an assessment on Fridays will complete asynchronous work remotely while other students are testing in-person. If your child has not been opted out of the assessment and does not come into school to take the test, they will be marked as absent. Attached you will find a testing schedule and a Question and Answers document.

Chapter 4 of Title 22 of the PA. Code provides the right for any parent/guardian to excuse their child from the state assessment if, upon inspection of the testing materials, the parent/guardian finds the assessment to be in conflict with religious beliefs. This is the only basis for a parent/guardian to excuse his or her child from the statewide assessments. Please visit the District website (www.slsd.org) and navigate to "Teaching and Learning > Curriculum > [State Testing Opt Out](#)" for more information.

Additional details regarding state testing would be communicated by the building principal.

Best Regards,

Shane T. Cross

Director of Curriculum and Instruction, K-12



**Southern Lehigh Middle School
PSSA and Keystone Exam Testing Schedule**

PLEASE NOTE:

1. The Science PSSA will be administered on May 21, 2021 for Grade 8 students only. Grade 7 students should complete asynchronous work remotely as directed by their teachers on May 21st, unless they need to make up a missed section.
2. All students taking the Algebra I Keystone should report to the building on May 18, 2021 and May 19, 2021. Additionally, all students who are in-person learners in both grades 7 and 8 should report to the building on May 18th and May 19th, even if they are not taking the Keystone Exam. All remote learners who are not taking the Keystone Exam on May 18 and May 19 should follow their normal schedule.
3. Only students making up missed PSSA Sections or Keystone Modules should report to the building on May 28th and June 4th. Students not participating in assessment makeup should complete asynchronous work remotely as directed by their teachers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Dismissal Time</u>	<u>Participants</u>
April 23, 2021 Early Dismissal	English Language Arts (Section 1)	7:40 am	11:00 am	All students in Grades 7&8
April 30, 2021 Early Dismissal	English Language Arts (Section 2)	7:40 am	11:00 am	All students in Grades 7&8
May 7, 2021 Early Dismissal	English Language Arts (Section 3)	7:40 am	11:00 am	All students in Grades 7&8
May 14, 2021	Mathematics (Section 1 and 2)	7:40 am	2:35 pm	All students in Grades 7&8
May 18, 2021 (Tuesday)	Algebra I (Module 1)	7:40 am	2:35 pm	All students taking Algebra I
May 19, 2021 (Wednesday)	Algebra I (Module 2)	7:40 am	2:35 pm	All students taking Algebra I
May 21, 2021	Science (Section 1 and 2)	7:40 am	2:35 pm	All students in Grade 8 only
	PSSA and Keystone Makeup			Students who have yet to complete all PSSA Sections and/or Keystone Modules
May 28, 2021 Early Dismissal	PSSA and Keystone Makeup	7:40 am	11:00 am	Only students who have yet to complete all PSSA Sections and/or Keystone Modules
June 4, 2021 Early Dismissal	PSSA and Keystone Makeup	7:40 am	11:00 am	Only students who have yet to complete all PSSA Sections and/or Keystone Modules



Southern Lehigh School District Student Spring 2021 State Assessment FAQ

The Southern Lehigh School District has created the following **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** resource in an effort to provide SLSD families with information specific to certain areas identified by the District and Pennsylvania Department of Education's requirements for Spring 2021 State Assessments.

Are students who are enrolled in Fully Remote Learning (SLSD Remote or eLearn21) required to report to their assigned building for state testing?

Yes, there is no state issued exemption for students enrolled in remote learning and testing must be completed in-person.

Do students who opt out of state testing need to report to the building on these days?

No, students of families who choose to opt out of the state assessment will complete assigned Asynchronous or Synchronous work depending on the date(s) associated with their standardized testing assessments.

Will students who are completing state standardized testing have additional Asynchronous work to complete in addition to sitting for state standardized testing?

Students who complete standardized testing will subsequently complete truncated asynchronous work when testing is administered on Asynchronous Fridays.

Will daily attendance be taken on these days?

Yes, each building will complete attendance on these days.

Will transportation be provided?

*Yes, the Southern Lehigh School District will provide District Transportation on days where the PSSA or Keystone Exam will be administered. ** Please note that many of these dates will be half in-person student days with asynchronous work in the afternoon.*

Will breakfast and lunch be provided?

Yes, the Southern Lehigh School District will provide either "Grab and Go" breakfast along with "Grab and Go" lunch or in-person lunch depending on the school building's testing schedule.

If a student is not a part of a testing cohort, do they report to the building on state testing days?

No, students who are not a part of a testing cohort will complete assigned asynchronous work on testing dates that occur on Asynchronous Fridays. Any testing that occurs during an in-person learning day will be a normal school day for those students not in a testing cohort.

If a student has opted out of the state assessment or is not a part of a testing cohort, will they need to complete asynchronous work on Asynchronous Fridays?

Yes

Is paper and pencil testing permitted under our Health and Safety Plan?

Yes, paper and pencil testing is permitted.