



**5775 Main Street  
Center Valley, PA 18034  
April 2025**

**Dear Southern Lehigh Families,**

The District will soon begin administering the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and Keystone Exams. These assessments are an essential part of our students' educational journey and help us evaluate both individual student growth and overall school performance.

### **Purpose of PSSA and Keystone Exams**

The **PSSA** is administered to students in grades 3-8 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, as well as in grades 5 and 8 for Science. These assessments are designed to measure students' progress in meeting Pennsylvania's academic standards. This year, SLSD students in grades 4-8 will take the PSSA tests online. In 2026 and beyond, students in grades 3-12 will test online.

The **Keystone Exams** serve as end-of-course assessments in Algebra I, Literature, and Biology. They are taken by students in middle or high school upon completion of the corresponding coursework. The Keystone Exams help determine proficiency in these subject areas and serve as a graduation requirement in Pennsylvania. This year and beyond, students will take the Keystone tests online.

### **District PSSA and Keystone Testing Schedule**

2025 PSSA TESTING SCHEDULE					
English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science	
Grades K-6	April 22-24	Grades K-6	April 28-29	Grade 5	April 30-May 1
Grades 7-8	April 23-25	Grades 7-8	April 29-30	Grade 8	May 6-7
2025 KEYSTONE TESTING SCHEDULE					
Literature		Algebra		Biology	
High School	May 15-16	High School	May 13-14	High School	May 19-20
		Middle School	May 13-14		

Southern Lehigh School District  
Spring 2025



## **How Families Can Help**

- Make sure your child's device (if using a district-issued laptop at home) is fully charged prior to each testing day (grades 4 through 12).
- Encourage your child to eat a good breakfast on the morning of exams.
- State requirements demand the District complete make-up testing for all students who are absent for any part of the PSSA and Keystone assessments. Please encourage your child to be well-rested, have a positive attitude, and do their best on all exams.

## **Additional Information**

Please understand that under Chapter 4 of Title 22 of the Pennsylvania State Code, parents/guardians may request to review the testing materials and, if the assessment is found to be in conflict with religious beliefs, must provide a written request to the Superintendent for a religious opt-out. Parents requesting to review materials for a potential religious opt-out must then schedule a meeting with the building principal to review materials and sign a Parent Confidentiality Agreement. Religious conflict is the only basis under Chapter 4 rules for a parent/guardian to excuse a child from statewide assessments.

Please review the important Pennsylvania Department of Education documents linked below.

[PSSA FAQ \(English\)](#)

[Keystone FAQ \(English\)](#)

[Electronic Device Letter \(English\)](#)

[PSSA FAQ \(Spanish\)](#)

[Keystone FAQ \(Spanish\)](#)

[Electronic Device Letter \(Spanish\)](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's building principal.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of our students.

Sincerely,

Southern Lehigh School District Administration