

# Education Service Center

775 Marion Road York, PA 17406 (717) 846-6789



March 2021

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s):

The Central York School District will administer the 2020-2021 Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA/Keystone) in the coming months as outlined below. All administered assessments will adhere to the School Board approved Health and Safety Plan, as well as be conducted during the current school year. The information obtained from these assessments serves as a valuable tool for identifying student-specific proficiencies in content (according to grade level) as well as student-specific learning deficiencies.

**Assessment Windows**

April 19 - May 31, 2021  
April 26 - May 31, 2021  
April 26 - May 31, 2021  
May 17 - May 31, 2021

**Subject Areas and Grades**

PSSA English Language Arts Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8  
PSSA Math Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8  
PSSA Science Grades 4 and 8  
Keystone Algebra I Grade 8

Specific test dates within the assessment windows will be forthcoming from your child's building. Duration of assessments directly correlate to the number of grade levels being assessed.

Use of a cell phone, smartwatch, or any other electronic device during the PSSA is strictly prohibited, as per the state Department of Education guidelines. Students may leave cell phones, smartwatches, or electronic devices in lockers or choose to place them in individual envelopes at the time of testing. The Policy is provided on the back of this memo.

Parents/guardians have the right to examine the assessments prior to the scheduled date of testing, in accordance with state regulations. If you should find the test to be in conflict with your religious beliefs, and wish your child to be excused from PSSA/Keystone assessments, please contact the Assistant Principal of each school to schedule a test review appointment. Following this appointment, you will be asked to provide written documentation of your religious objection to the attention of Superintendent of Schools.

We urge you to make every effort to ensure that your child is present to participate in the PSSA and/or Keystone assessments. The assessments are in a paper-and-pencil format resulting in schedule accommodations for remote learners.

We understand the complexities of the past school year for our families, and we remain committed to delivering the PSSA/Keystone assessments in a safe and student friendly way. We thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Grove".

Robert B. Grove  
Assistant Superintendent



Dear Parent/Guardian:

In an era of cell phones, smartphones and other electronic devices which can easily photograph and instantly share photographs, confidential and secure test materials can be easily compromised. Not only is it expensive to replace a compromised test item, the material contained in the PSSA and Keystone Exams is copyrighted property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Copying or duplicating the material from the assessment, including the taking of a photograph of secure assessment material, is a violation of the federal Copyright Act. Penalties for violations of the Copyright Act may include the cost of replacing the compromised test item(s) or fines of no less than \$750 up to \$30,000 for a single violation (17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.).

In order to ensure reliable test results and to avoid the cost of replacing test items, the Department of Education requires schools to set rules and take certain steps to protect test materials. Electronic devices such as but not limited to cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, E-readers, Nooks, Kindles, iPods, tablets, camera-ready devices, and any other electronic device which can be used to photograph or duplicate test materials, access the internet and/or communicate with others during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams are not permitted in any testing site. Please speak with your child and let him or her know that the possession and/or use of a cell phone or other electronic device during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams will result in consequences.

You will be contacted by the school if your child is discovered using and/or having a cell phone or other unapproved electronic device in his or her possession during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams. Students who ignore this directive will be subject to the school's discipline policy and the Department of Education's requirement that the student's test will not be scored and the student will be required to retake the entire exam. The electronic device will be held by school staff, and the device's stored photographs and other functions will be examined with your permission. You may request to be present when the electronic device is examined. If a photograph of the PSSA or Keystone Exam is discovered or if permission to search other functions of the electronic device is refused, the device will be held by the school staff. The Pennsylvania Department of Education holds the copyright to all material contained within the PSSA and Keystone Exams, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be contacted and further action may be taken.

If, after testing is complete and test materials have been returned, it is discovered that a student used and/or had a cell phone or other unapproved electronic device in his or her possession during the administration of the test, the school's discipline policy will be followed and the student's test will not be scored.