



MIDLAND BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MIDLAND, PA 15059

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MR. SEAN D. TANNER, SUPERINTENDENT MRS. SARAH SAUT, COMPLIANCE AND CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

April 2, 2024

Dear Midland Parents and Guardians,

This letter provides detailed information regarding the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) as well as the required opt-out procedures. The content of this letter is lengthy, but necessary in order to provide the required information.

PSSA Participation:

The PSSA is the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) annual standards-based assessment used to measure a student's attainment of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards in English-Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science. Any student who is enrolled in grades 3 through 8 during the current 2024-2025 school year will be automatically rostered to take the designated PSSAs for his or her specific grade this April and May.

The PSSAs will be administered by paper and pencil. Each assessment will be administered on the dates outlined on the schedule below:

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 – Thursday, April 25, 2024

Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 – PSSA English/Language Arts Window

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 – Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 – PSSA Math Window

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Grades 4, 8 – PSSA Science Window

Makeup test sessions will take place throughout the testing sessions and may last through May 10, 2024.

PSSA Opt-Out Procedures:

Chapter 4 of Title 22 of the Pa. Code (22 Pa. code 4.4) provides for the right of any parent/guardian to excuse his/her child from the state assessment if, upon inspection of the testing materials, he/she finds the assessment to conflict with his/her religious beliefs. This is the only basis for a parent/guardian to excuse his or her child from the statewide assessments.

Parents and guardians may review the PSSA if they believe they may be in conflict with their religious beliefs by making arrangements with the school administration once the exams arrive in the school building. All assessments are scheduled to arrive to the main office the week of April 8, 2024. Parents and Guardians must sign the Parent Confidentiality Agreement prior to examining test materials. A copy of this agreement will be maintained at the school.

Finally, if you choose to opt your child out of taking one or more of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments, if after reviewing the test parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious beliefs and wish their student(s) to be excused from the test, parents/guardians must provide written request that states this to the District Assessment Coordinator, Mrs. Sarah Saut at sarah.saut@midlandpa.org. Please note, parents must submit a separate request for each child you are requesting to be excluded.

Thank you for your support throughout the PSSA testing sessions. If you have additional questions, please contact our office directly.

Sincerely,

Sarah Saut
Director of Curriculum and Compliance
District Assessment Coordinator
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School Assessment Coordinator
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