

Eastport-South Manor Central School District

149 Dayton Avenue • Manorville, New York 11949 • (631) 801-3000 • Fax (631) 874-6750 • www.esmonline.org

PATRICK K. BRIMSTEIN, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



TIM LAUBE
Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

LINDA ANNE WEISS
Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Accountability

March 20, 2019

Dear Parents / Guardians,

In advance of statewide testing, I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge some of the feelings and related controversy relating to standardized testing in New York State. This letter is intended to provide fair and impartial information about the requirements related to student participation in State assessments.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that 95% of students in each public school and each school district participate yearly in assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics in Grades 3-8, as well as in science at least once during Grades 3-5 and 6-9.

Results from these assessments help school, district, and State education leaders determine what is and is not working as well as we would like. Our school teams will use the scores received to improve the educational program across our schools and to tailor instruction to better meet the needs of our students. We recognize that New York State testing represents only one performance data set, but the information received from State assessments is important.

The State Education Department knows that assessments have become politicized. In response, the number of test sessions for these annual assessments was reduced from three to two days. This means that students will take each subject test over a two testing days instead of three as in past years. Additionally, grades 3-8 ELA and Math assessments are now untimed, so students can take as long as they need to fully express what they know.

The ELA assessment will be given on two consecutive school days, on April 2nd and April 3rd. The Math assessment will be given on two consecutive school days, on May 1st and May 2nd.

State assessments provide an evaluation of student knowledge and skills mastery of the State Learning Standards. Assessments help shape future instruction. Results from the assessments also help identify achievement gaps among different student populations. When many students do not take the State assessments, educational leaders find it harder to recognize these gaps and provide support and resources to the students who need them.

If you have additional questions about New York State assessments, please refer to the attachments below or feel free to call your building Principal, or Adam Frankel as Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction, or Teresa Grossane as Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and the quality of educational programs that we seek to provide all students here at ESM.

Most Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "PKB", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Dr. Patrick K. Brimstein
Superintendent of Schools

PKB/djc
cc: S. Alaimo
J. Christie
A. Frankel
T. Grossane
J. Steimel
K. Turnow

Together We Build Excellence