

March 2016

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

The West Virginia Department of Education will administer the West Virginia General Summative Assessment in spring 2016. The general summative assessment is aligned to the state approved content standards in the areas of English language arts (ELA), mathematics and science. The West Virginia General Summative Assessment will be administered online. This test is used to measure academic progress for students and schools in West Virginia.

All public school students enrolled in grades 3-11 will participate in the West Virginia General Summative Assessment in at the grade level in which they are enrolled, unless they meet the criteria for participation in the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment. Students in grades 3-11 will be assessed in ELA and mathematics, and students in grades 4, 6 and 10 also will be assessed in science.

To prepare students for this annual assessment and provide information, the Office of Assessment has designed a brochure for parents titled *Preparing for the West Virginia General Summative Assessment*. This brochure describes the West Virginia General Summative Assessment, the types of test scores and the use of test results to measure students' levels of performance on the state approved content standards. The brochure is designed to be a compact, useful guide for understanding the general summative assessments as you help prepare your child for participation this year.

I respectfully request that you encourage your child to perform to his/her best ability during the general summative assessment this spring. It is important to note that thanks to a revised higher education policy, students who score a Level 3 or above on the Grade 11 ELA and mathematics assessments will be exempt from placement in non-credit bearing developmental education courses in West Virginia public higher education institutions.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the county test coordinator at your county's central office.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

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Attachment