



March 29, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade Three, Grade Four, and Grade Five Students:

This spring, students in grades three through five will participate in the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA). These assessments are mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and are designed to provide information about how well students are achieving in academic areas aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which are the foundation of the District Curriculum. In 2001, under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*, every state was required to test students in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) in grades 3 to 8. This mandate is still in effect under the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/>).

While high school testing requirements continue to evolve at the state level, the elementary testing program will remain the same. For 2018-19, both our students' participation and results will be factored into the district's performance rating as part of the *Every Student Succeeds Act*; this data is reported annually by the New Jersey Department of Education in the New Jersey School Performance Reports. In addition, student data may be used to inform instructional needs.

This year's NJSLA-ELA and NJSLA-Mathematics will be conducted for students in grades 3 through 5 as follows:

- **May 6: English Language Arts Unit 1 (AM)**
- **May 7: English Language Arts Unit 2 (AM)**
- **May 8: English Language Arts Unit 3 (AM)**
- **May 9: Math Units 1 and 2 (AM)**
- **May 10: Math Unit 3 (AM)**

**For grade 5 students only**, the state is also administering a science assessment based on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science. The science assessment includes four units of forty-five minutes each and will be given over two days. Given the busy spring calendar, each elementary school has set its own testing schedule **between May 14 and May 16**. To view the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) testing calendars, [please click here](#) to visit our website.

Students who are absent due to illness, family business, etc. will have make up tests scheduled for them during the week of May 13-17. *Please note that students who come to school during their grade's scheduled testing time should be prepared to take the test. No alternative learning experience will be provided during testing sessions. **If your child is going to be absent on a testing day for any reason, please notify your school principal's office. You are required to send a note to school letting the principal know why your child is absent.***

The RPS student assessment policy and procedures can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

Sincerely,

Stacie Poelstra  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment