



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Enclosed you will find information about your child's performance on the 2023 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). The assessment was administered in grades 3-8 in English Language Arts and math, and grades 4 and 8 in science. While these scores are used to evaluate a student's academic proficiency, they are only one factor to consider in your child's overall educational attainment.

There have been significant changes to assessment and accountability in Pennsylvania in recent school years. In response to student, parent, and educator feedback, the length of the PSSA was reduced by 20 percent. The testing window was shortened, and the assessment is administered later in the school year to provide more time for teaching and learning. Also, preliminary PSSA results are returned to school districts earlier than in prior years to allow schools more time to update curriculum and lessons in areas where additional student support is needed.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to access the Future Ready PA Index (www.futurereadypa.org), which is a public website launched by the Department of Education in 2018 where families can find information about how schools and students are performing. Rather than focusing exclusively on standardized test scores, the Future Ready PA Index emphasizes growth and promotes transparency around school and student group performance.

Your contribution to your child's education is critical, and I encourage you to stay in communication with teachers and school administrators throughout the year as you monitor your child's academic progress.

For additional information about the PSSA and other education issues, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website at www.education.pa.gov or contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Mumin", followed by a large, loopy flourish.

Khalid N. Mumin, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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