



SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent
725 Harrison Street · Syracuse, NY 13210
Phone 315·435·4161 · Fax 315·435·4015

Jaime Alicea
Superintendent of Schools

March 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This letter is to inform you about the upcoming New York State Education Department (NYSED) Assessments. High-quality assessments help inform and improve learning for every child. They help schools to improve instructional practice and help parents understand how their children are progressing toward academic goals and state standards.

As you may recall, the following changes were made to the 3-8 Mathematics and ELA Assessments last year. These were made in response to feedback NYSED collected from parents, students, and educators across New York regarding ways to improve the tests. The changes address concerns that may have caused parents to opt their child out of testing in the past. They include:

- Decreasing the number of test questions
- Shifting to untimed testing
- Increasing involvement of educators in the test development process
- Moving away from the use of these tests for teacher and principal evaluations

Our school communities have worked hard to ensure that every student has the skills and confidence to perform to the best of their ability on the assessments. We ask for your support by ensuring that, on testing days, your child:

- gets a good night's sleep
- eats a nutritious breakfast at home or at school
- attends school and is on time
- keeps the same daily routines in your home
- is encouraged to do their personal best before leaving for school

Please save this document as reference for the dates of state assessments in your child's grade level.

Testing dates for grade levels 3 - 5:

| Grade(s) | English Language Arts | Math | Science Written and Performance (4 th Grade Only) | NYSESLAT (select students only) |
|----------|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 3, 4 & 5 | March 28 th - 30 th | May 2 nd - 4 th | May 24 th - June 2 nd Performance June 5 th Written | April 10 th - May 19 th |

We invite you to contact your child's school directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jaime Alicea
Superintendent of Schools