

BERLIN BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Where Students Discover Their Potential"

Dr. Shelly Richards
Principal



Mrs. Kristin Groark
Assistant Principal

NJSLA ELA and Math Testing - Spring 2019 **Grades 3-8**

February 27, 2019

Dear BCS Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to inform you of the schedule for the upcoming New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA), which has replaced the PARCC assessment. This new assessment has fewer units and shorter testing times than its predecessor. In compliance with the federal requirement to administer a statewide assessment program, the NJSLA ELA and Math assessments for grades 3-8 are scheduled to be administered May 1st through May 20th. The grade level breakdown of the schedule is as follows:

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Testing Dates</u>
Grades 3, 4 & 5	May 1-3 and 7-8
Grades 6, 7 & 8	May 14-17 and 20
Make-ups	ongoing, as needed, until end of May

As part of the school community, you play an important role in preparing your child for this testing experience. We have asked teachers to not assign homework during testing days so students can focus on doing their best on the assessment.

To help our students reach their best potential, please make every effort to ensure they arrive at school on time during the testing period. Students benefit when they have had a nutritionally balanced breakfast and a restful night's sleep. Some grades will have their lunches swapped on ELA days, so consider packing an additional snack for your child on these days. More specific scheduling information will be posted on our website once confirmed. Also, please remind your children to keep their electronic devices, including cell phones, secure in their lockers during testing. Electronics are not permitted in the testing rooms.

Please also note that the deadline for opting out of this assessment is March 29, 2019, and your request must be submitted in writing to my attention. The Board approved policy on Student Assessment is enclosed for your reference.

Your support and encouragement can also go a long way to set a positive tone for this test-taking experience. On behalf of the professional staff of our district, I thank you for your continued support in making this a positive experience for students.

Sincerely,
Kristin Groark

Berlin Borough School District Procedure 2622 – Student Assessment

The New Jersey Department of Education, pursuant to State law (**18A:7C-1 & 6A:8-4.1**) and regulations, requires all students to take State assessments as scheduled. There is no provision for a student to opt-out of statewide assessments. Therefore, the Berlin Borough Board of Education requires all students to take statewide assessments and the Berlin Borough Board of Education cannot grant permission to a parent for their child to opt-out of required statewide assessments.

The procedures outlined below shall be followed in the event a parent refuses to have their child participate in a statewide assessment. Due to a lack of clear direction from the NJ Department of Education on parents/guardians preemptively refusing to have their child complete the assessments, this procedure pertains only for the 2019 administration of the New Jersey State assessments.

A. Written Notice from Parent

1. A parent who refuses to have their child participate in a statewide assessment shall submit a letter to the school Principal stating their child will not participate in a statewide assessment.
2. The parent shall indicate in the letter the testing date(s) and the specific statewide assessments(s) their child will not be taking.
3. The letter shall be submitted to the Principal by **March 29, 2019**. Any letters received after this date will NOT be accepted.
4. The letter shall be maintained with the student's academic records.

B. Testing Date

1. A student whose parent has provided prior written notice informing the Principal their child will not be participating in a Statewide assessment will be required to report to a study hall, media center, or other location in the school where the student can read quietly and be supervised by a school district staff member.
2. A student not participating in a statewide assessment will not be provided an alternative educational activity during the testing time.

C. Attendance Recording

1. A student, whose parent has provided prior written notice informing the Principal that their child will not participate in a statewide assessment and who reports to school on the testing date, shall be recorded as present in school.
2. A student, whose parent has provided prior written notice informing the Principal that their child will not participate in a statewide assessment, who does not report to school on the testing date shall be recorded as absent. This absence shall be recorded as an unexcused absence.

D. School District Response

1. There shall be no disciplinary consequence imposed upon a student who does not participate in a statewide assessment in accordance with the provisions outlined in this procedure.
2. A student who does not participate in a statewide assessment(s) will not receive any credit for the statewide assessment(s).

The acknowledgement and the accommodation of the refusal by the parents/guardians on behalf of the child does not extend to any other assignments, assessments, or classroom experiences, whether related to NJSLA or the NJ Student Learning Standards. The educational experiences provided in the Berlin Borough School District are designed to meet the developmental needs of the students as they strive to demonstrate achievement of the curricular expectations. As mandated by the New Jersey State Board of Education, Berlin Borough's English Language Arts and Math curricula were designed using the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

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