



GREATER NANTICOKE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

425 Kosciuszko Street
Nanticoke, PA 18634

Fax: (570) 733-1002
Phone: (570) 735-7781

Ms. Amy L. Scibek, Principal
Mr. Eric Speece, Assistant Principal

PSSA Parent Information

What is the PSSA designed to do?

The PSSA is designed to provide information about quality of schools to parents, school districts and the general public. The PSSA also determines if a school has made adequate yearly progress.

Who participates in the assessment?

Students in grades 3-8 in all school districts in Pennsylvania will take the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics assessments. Students in grade 4 and 8 also take the Science assessment. Since the assessments are used to determine adequate yearly progress, all students are to be included in the assessments, except for a few students who meet specific criteria.

How long are the assessments? When will they occur?

The ELA and Mathematics assessment will take approximately 6-7 hours. Science and writing assessments take slightly less time. The assessments will be held from April 4-May 5th.

What will be assessed in ELA?

Students respond to multiple-choice, evidence-based selected-response and constructed-response questions. In a multiple-choice question, the correct answer is chosen from four options. Evidence-based selected-response questions have two parts, and students select one or more answers for each part. Constructed response questions may include a writing response and/or text dependent analysis. The writing prompt requires students to compose a response using one of three modes: narrative, informative/explanatory, opinion or argumentative. Short answer questions require students to compose a brief response to support their answer. For the text dependent analysis question, students analyze a text and use evidence from the reading to compose an essay.

What will be assessed in Mathematics?

The Mathematics assessment addresses the five major reporting categories. Through the use of multiple choice and open ended items, students will respond to items in which calculators may or not be used (depending on the section). The open ended performance tasks require student to show all of their mathematical work and explain in writing how they solved the problem.

Who decides what the assessment should measure?

Groups of educators from all levels of education in PA choose the areas of knowledge on which the assessment is based.

Who will administer the assessments?

Each school chooses the person(s) who will administer the assessments. At Greater Nanticoke High School, the student's teacher will be administering the assessments.

How will the written open ended responses be scored?

The written responses for ELA, Mathematics, and Science will be scored by evaluators trained in applying a pre-determined scoring system. In ELA, Mathematics, and Science scores are based on content only. Spelling and punctuation are NOT included as part of the scoring.

How will the results be reported? And when?

Reports for the assessments will be sent to the school districts for distribution to parents, teachers, etc. Results are usually sent home the beginning of the following school year.

Can parents (guardians) see the assessments?

Yes, under one circumstance. School entities are required to have policies to ensure that parents or guardians have the right to review a state assessment in the school entity during convenient hours for parents of guardians at least two weeks prior to their administration to determine whether a state assessment conflicts with their religious belief. This is the only reason allowable under regulation. A confidentiality agreement must be signed and no copies of the assessments or notes about items will be permitted to leave the school.

Assessment tips for parents and students:

Students

- Take the test seriously.
- Read the problems or questions carefully and completely.
- Respond to all questions.
- Take your time.
- Check your work.
- Underline or highlight key information.
- Take a close look at diagrams.
- Eat a nutritious breakfast each day.
- Go to bed at a reasonable hour.
- Get a good night's sleep the night before each of your tests.

Parents

- Create awareness about the test. Talk about it, but don't create anxiety.
- Encourage your child to relax before the test.
- Provide a healthy breakfast each day.
- Remind your child to take the test seriously, listen carefully to the instructions and answer every question.
- Encourage your child to remain focused and do his or her best on the test.
- Read together regularly.
- Be positive about the testing.

PSSA SCHEDULE 2017

April

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
3	4 PSSA English Language Arts	5 PSSA English Language Arts	6 English Language Arts	7 English Language Arts
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25 PSSA Math	26 PSSA Math	27 PSSA Math	28

May

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
1	2 PSSA Science	3 PSSA Science	4 PSSA Science	5