



BELLEVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

102 Passaic Avenue
Belleville, New Jersey 07109
www.bellevilleschools.org

Richard D. Tomko, Ph.D., M.J.
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 973 450-3500
Fax: 973 450-3504
E-mail: superintendent@belleville.k12.nj.us

October 1, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians, and Belleville Community Members:

Each year, our students participate in a number of assessments that are either mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education or are administered by the Belleville Public Schools District to assist district administration, faculty, and staff in determining individual student educational levels. Each of these assessments provides pertinent information used in developing instructional practices that meet the needs of our students based on the data collected. Further, the data sets collected from these assessments assist the district in revising content area curriculums in order to ensure we are providing our students with the most appropriate program structure in consideration of core courses and 21st Century learning skills. This letter serves as information regarding the assessments our students will participate in during the 2019-2020 school year.

Students will continue to take part in the statewide New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA), and I encourage all parents to have their child(ren) participate in the testing as this data provides the district with information to help strengthen our educational program. As a reminder, participation in all NJSLA administrations and passing both the NJSLA Algebra I and the NJSLA ELA 10 assessments are requirements for students to graduate from a high school in New Jersey. NJSLA Assessments can occur in three 60-minute units per day, but testing durations vary by student and grade level. A schedule for the NJSLA Assessment will be sent home by each building principal as we near the administration, and practice NJSLA tests can be accessed for your perusal at <https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/>. It is important to note that if any student is permitted extra time or any other accommodations pursuant to his/her Individualized Education Plan (IEP), all accommodations and accessibility options will be followed for the NJSLA assessments. Pursuant to a student's IEP, the student may participate in an alternate proficiency assessment entitled the Dynamic Learning Map (DLM). In consideration of the aforementioned assessments, the following schedule has been confirmed for the upcoming school year:

	Date/Duration	Grades	Modality	Score for Grad. Req.	Results Avail.
DLM (DYNAMIC LEARNING MAPS) (ELA AND MATH)	4/1/2020–5/29/2020 Varies by student	Grades 3-8 and 11 as mandated in student's IEP	Computer-Based	N/A	September 2020

NJSLA ELA	4/20/2020 to 5/29/2020 Two 75-minute units, Total time 150 minutes	All students in grades 3	Computer-Based with Paper-Based options for students with accommodations	N/A	August 2020
NJSLA ELA	4/20/2020 to 5/29/2020 Two 90-minute units, Total time 180 minutes	All students in grades 4-10	Computer-Based with Paper-Based options for students with accommodations	NJSLA ELA Grade 9 >= 750 (Level 4) or NJSLA ELA Grade 10 >=750 (Level 4)	August 2020
NJSLA MATH	4/20/2020 to 5/29/2020 Three 60-minute units, Total time 180 minutes	All students in grades 3-8	Computer-Based with Paper-Based options for students with accommodations	N/A	August 2020
NJSLA ALG I	4/27/2020 to 6/28/2020 Two 90-minute units, Total time 180 minutes	All students enrolled in Algebra I	Computer-Based with Paper-Based options for students with accommodations	NJSLA Algebra I >= 750 (Level 4)	August 2020
NJSLA GEOMETRY	4/27/2020 to 6/28/2020 Two 90-minute units, Total time 180 minutes	All students enrolled in Geometry	Computer-Based with Paper-Based options for students with accommodations	NJSLA Geometry >= 725 (Level 3)	August 2020
NJSLA ALG II	4/27/2020 to 6/28/2020 Two 90-minute units, Total time 180 minutes	All students enrolled in Algebra II	Computer-Based with Paper-Based options for students with accommodations	NJSLA Algebra II >= 725 (Level 3)	August 2020

Some of our students will participate in standardized assessments in science as mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education. Students in grades 5 and 8, and all students scheduled in high school Science classes will participate in the NJSLA (New Jersey Student Learning Assessment) Science assessments in late Spring. Information about the NJSLA Science assessments can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/sla/science/>. The Science assessment schedule reads as follows:

	Date/Duration	Grades	Modality	Score for Grad. Req.	Results Avail.
NEW JERSEY STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT – SCIENCE (NJSLA-S)	5/4/2020 to 6/5/2020 Four 60-minute units, Total time 240 minutes	All HS students enrolled in Science	Computer-Based with Paper-Based options for students with accommodations	N/A	TBA
NEW JERSEY STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT – SCIENCE (NJSLA-S)	5/4/2020 to 6/5/2020 Four 45-minute units, Total time 180 minutes	All 8th grade students	Computer-Based with Paper-Based options for students with accommodations	N/A	TBA
NEW JERSEY STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT – SCIENCE (NJSLA-S)	5/4/2020 to 6/5/2020 Four 45-minute units, Total time 180 minutes	All 5th grade students	Computer-Based with Paper-Based options for students with accommodations	N/A	TBA

Many of our high school students will also take part in Advanced Placement (AP) examinations in the areas of United States History; Biology; Calculus; Spanish/French/Italian/Chinese Language and Culture; English Language and Composition; English Literature and Composition; Chemistry; United States Government and Policy; and Environmental Science. Individual student grade reports for AP course examinations will be mailed directly to the student from the College Board.

Information about Advanced Placement tests can be found at <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/for-parents>, and the schedule reads as follows:

	Date/Duration	Grades	Modality	Score for Grad. Req.	Results Avail.
AP CHEMISTRY EXAM	5/7/20 3 hours and 15 minutes 8:00 AM Start	HS Students taking AP Classes	Paper-Based	N/A	July 2020
AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXAM	5/7/2020 3 hours 8:00 AM Start	HS Students taking AP Classes	Paper-Based	N/A	July 2020
AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION EXAM	5/6/2020 3 hours 8:00 AM Start	HS Students taking AP Classes	Paper-Based	N/A	July 2020
AP US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS EXAM	5/4/2020 3 hours 8:00 AM Start	HS Students taking AP Classes	Paper-Based	N/A	July 2020
AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE EXAM	5/11/2020 3 hours 12:00 PM Start	HS Students taking AP Classes	Paper-Based	N/A	July 2020
AP CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE	5/11/2020 2 hours and 15 minutes 12:00 PM Start	HS Students taking AP Classes	Computer-Based	N/A	July 2020
AP US HISTORY EXAM	5/8/2020 3 hours and 15 minutes 8:00 AM Start	HS Students taking AP Classes	Paper-Based	N/A	July 2020
AP BIOLOGY EXAM	5/11/2020 3 hours 8:00 AM Start	HS Students taking AP Classes	Paper-Based	N/A	July 2020
AP CALCULUS EXAM AB/BC	5/5/2020 3 hours and 15 minutes – 8:00 AM Start	HS Students taking AP Classes	Paper-Based	N/A	July 2020
AP FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXAM	5/15/2020 3 hours 8:00 AM Start	HS Students taking AP Classes	Paper-Based	N/A	July 2020
AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION EXAM	5/6/2020 3 hours and 15 minutes 8:00 AM Start	HS Students taking AP Classes	Paper-Based	N/A	July 2020
AP ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXAM	5/14/2020 3 hours 12:00 PM Start	HS Students taking AP Classes	Paper-Based	N/A	July 2020

Belleville High School students may participate in several other assessments this year including the PSAT and the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). Students in 8th grade may participate in the PSAT 8. Grades K-6 will participate in the Developmental Reading Assessment, or DRA2. The DRA2 is a formative reading assessment that is intended to provide teachers with information regarding a student’s accuracy, fluency, and reading comprehension through a process of observation, recording, and evaluating changes in a student’s reading

performance. The DRA2 is administered to students' multiple times throughout the school year providing data to allow teachers to determine a student's instructional needs and create a plan to help differentiate instruction and create instructional groups. More information about the DRA2 assessment can be found at <http://www.pearsonassessments.com/DRA2>.

All students in grades K-12, who attend English as a Second Language (ESL) classes or were found eligible for ESL classes, will participate in ACCESS for ELLs (English Language Learners) testing during the Spring semester. ACCESS for ELLs is given annually to monitor students' progress in learning academic English, which is a federal requirement of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Students are assessed in the four language domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. More information about ACCESS for ELLs testing may be accessed at <https://wida.wisc.edu/assess/access>.

The following is the schedule for this block of testing:

	Date/Duration	Grades	Modality	Score for Grad. Req.	Results Avail.
PSAT ELA	10/16/2019 3 Hours 60 minutes Reading Test 35 Minutes Writing & Language plus 50 minutes for administrative procedures	11 th and 12 th	Paper-Based	PSAT 10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading ≥ 22	December 2019
PSAT MATH	10/16/2019 3 Hours 25 minutes – No Calculator 45 minutes – Calculator plus 50 minutes for administrative procedures	11 th and 12 th	Paper-Based	PSAT 10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math ≥ 22	December 2019
PSAT ELA	4/14/2020 to 4/30/20 2 hours 35 mins 55 minutes Reading Test 30 minutes for Writing & Language plus 50 minutes for administrative procedures	8 th	Paper-Based	N/A	Late June 2020
PSAT Math	4/14/2020 to 4/30/20 2 hours 35 minutes 20 minutes – No Calculator 40 minutes – Calculator plus 50 minutes for administrative procedures	8 th	Paper-Based	N/A	Late June 2020
ASVAB (MATH AND ELA)	12/12/19 3 hours 8:30 AM Start	11 th and 12 th	Computer-Based	ASVAB-AFQT Composite ≥ 31	January 2020
ACCESS FOR ELLS	2/18/2020 to 4/10/2020 2 hours per day	ESL Students in grades K-12	Computer-Based with Paper-Based options for students with accommodations	N/A	September 2020

A complete outline of our testing assessments, dates and durations, grade levels, testing modalities (computer vs. paper-based), score requirements, and result reporting can be accessed on our website at <http://www.bellevilleschools.org/>.

As a school community, we value the data we receive from test assessments in order to continually improve the quality of the program and instruction for all of our students.

If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this correspondence, please contact a building principal, or me directly.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation with our assessment plan this school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard D. Tomko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard D. Tomko, Ph.D., M.J.