



1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6 • Charleston, WV 25305
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February 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The West Virginia Department of Education will resume the administration of the West Virginia General Summative Assessment (WVGSA) for Grades 3-8 in spring 2021. Last spring, states across the country, including West Virginia, suspended the federally mandated statewide assessments because of school closures resulting from the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Without question, the pandemic has affected student learning and achievement.

Although counties and schools continue to deal with challenges, it is even more critical this year that we obtain data on each of our students to further measure how much impact the pandemic has had on student learning. The WVGSA results will help to identify any achievement gaps that may have occurred so teachers can determine how best to bridge those gaps.

The WVGSA, which measures academic progress for students and schools in West Virginia, is an untimed test administered online. All public school students, including virtual school students, will participate in the WVGSA at the grade level in which they are enrolled, unless they meet the criteria for participation in the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment. The test will be administered at your student's school or at an off-site location to be determined by the county.

Students in Grades 3-8 will take the English language arts (ELA) reading, ELA writing, and mathematics sections of the test, with students in Grades 5 and 8 also taking science. Individual student reports will be sent to parents/guardians.

I respectfully request that you encourage your student to perform to his/her best ability during the WVGSA this spring. The Frequently Asked Questions document included with this letter will provide additional details regarding the importance of this year's test administration. A separate informational sheet that provides more details about the WVGSA also is included.

Your student's school will provide you with more information about this year's administration, including when the assessment will be administered. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the principal or counselor at your student's school, or the district test coordinator at your county's board of education office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Clayton Burch".

W. Clayton Burch
State Superintendent of Schools

WCB/VR:cc

Enclosures