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Winchester Public Schools
12 N. Washington St.
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Dear WPS Families,

On December 10, 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(2) of ESSA states that parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know about state or division policies regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA, including any policy, procedure, or parental right to opt students out of such assessments.

All students enrolled in Virginia public schools are expected to take the applicable state tests. The Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia state: *“In kindergarten through eighth grade, where the administration of Virginia assessment program tests are required by the Board of Education, each student shall be expected to take the tests”* and *“each student in middle and secondary schools shall take all applicable end-of-course SOL tests following course instruction”* ([8VAC20-131-30](#)). *The Virginia regulations do not provide for what is sometimes referred to as an “opt out policy” for students regarding the Virginia assessments.* If you would like to receive information about this topic, please contact your school’s principal.

On the next page, you will find a list of Virginia assessments and academic screeners given to students throughout the school year. The essential focus of assessments is to gather academic information on students to guide instructional practice and inform academic decisions.

WPS teachers also give a number of local assessments such as benchmarks and common formative assessments. The information from these assessments also gives teachers, students, and families valuable information on a student’s progress through the year. Families will be informed if their child is in need of remediation or interventions based on assessment results. We urge all families to collaborate with your child’s teacher to harness the value of these assessments. Once available, results will be provided to families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JB' followed by a stylized flourish.

Jake Boula
Director of Elementary & Intermediate Instruction

Winchester Public Schools Student Assessment Calendar

Pre-K

- Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) - **Fall/Spring**
- Phonological Awareness Literacy Screener (PALS) - **Fall/Winter/Spring**

Kindergarten

- Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP) - **Fall/Spring**
- Phonological Awareness Literacy Screener (PALS) - **Fall/Winter/Spring**

First Grade

- Phonological Awareness Literacy Screener (PALS) - **Fall/Winter/Spring**

Second Grade

- Phonological Awareness Literacy Screener (PALS) - **Fall/Winter/Spring**
- Math Screener - **Fall/Spring**
- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) - Gifted education screener - **Fall/Spring**

Third Grade

- Phonological Awareness Literacy Screener (PALS) - **Fall/Winter/Spring**
- Lexia Rapid Assessment (Reading)
- English Language Arts (ELA) VA Through Course (SOL) Assessment - **Fall**
- Math VA Through Course (SOL) Assessment - **Fall**
- ELA Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessment - **Spring**
- Math Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessment - **Spring**

Fourth Grade

- Lexia Rapid Assessment (Reading)
- English Language Arts (ELA) VA Through Course (SOL) Assessment- **Fall**
- Math VA Through Course (SOL) Assessment - **Fall**
- Virginia Studies Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessment - **Spring**
- ELA Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessment - **Spring**
- Math Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessment - **Spring**

Fifth Grade

- Math screener - **Fall**
- Aimsweb (Reading) - **Fall/Winter/Spring**
- English Language Arts (ELA) VA Through Course (SOL) Assessment - **Fall**
- Math VA Through Course (SOL) Assessment - **Fall**
- ELA Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessment - **Spring**
- Science Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessment - **Spring**
- Math Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessment - **Spring**

Sixth Grade

- Math screener - **Fall**
- Aimsweb (Reading) - **Fall/Winter/Spring**
- English Language Arts (ELA) VA Through Course (SOL) Assessment- **Fall**
- Math VA Through Course (SOL) Assessment - **Fall**
- ELA Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessment - **Spring**
- Math Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessment - **Spring**