



1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6 • Charleston, WV 25305  
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March 2018

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

The West Virginia Department of Education will administer the West Virginia General Summative Assessment for Grades 3-8 in spring 2018 in the areas of English language arts (ELA), mathematics and science. This untimed test, which will be administered online, is used to measure academic progress for students and schools in West Virginia.

All public school students enrolled in the grades identified in this letter will participate in the West Virginia General Summative Assessment at the grade level in which they are enrolled, unless they meet the criteria for participation in the West Virginia Alternate Summative Assessment.

This year's test, which is a different test from the one given last year, will include four components:

- ELA Reading
- ELA Writing
- Mathematics
- Science

Students in grades 3-8 will take ELA reading, ELA writing and mathematics. Only students in grades 5 and 8 will be required to take science. Student performance on the ELA reading and ELA writing components will be combined to obtain an overall ELA score. The results of the test provide information about a student's academic strengths and areas that need improvement. An Individual Student Report for each student will be sent to parents/guardians.

I respectfully request that you encourage your child to perform to his/her best ability during the West Virginia General Summative Assessment this spring. Additional information regarding this year's assessment is provided on the informational sheet included with this letter.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the principal or counselor at your child's school or the district test coordinator at your district's central office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven L. Paine".

Steven L. Paine, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

SLP/VR:mm

Enclosure