

March 14, 2023

Dear Families:

In six weeks 3rd through 8th graders across Pennsylvania will be taking the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). Our students at ICS West will be taking the PSSA on the computer. Please review the below information, as well as the attached documents from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Which students take the PSSAs?

All students in grades 3rd-8th will take the Math and Reading PSSA (Science is 4th and 8th only). All students will be included in the assessment, except for a few students who meet specific criteria.

When are the PSSAs?

The PSSAs are administered within a PDE provided "open window" in Science, Math and English Language Arts. Your child's attendance is especially important during this testing window. ICS West has scheduled them for:

English Language Arts, April 25th, April 26th, April 27th
Mathematics, May 2nd, May 3rd
Science (4th & 8th Grade only), May 4th, Math 5th

How can I help my child?

Some ways that parents can help prepare their children for the PSSAs include ensuring proper rest and nutrition. Please make sure your child gets a good night's rest each night before testing. Also, be sure that they eat a good breakfast each morning before the test, whether at home or by encouraging them to eat the free breakfast that is available to all students each testing morning at school.

Follow these steps to access free online practice

PSSA tests for all grades and content areas:

1. Go to <https://wbte.drctdirect.com/PA/portals/pa>
2. Select "Online Tools Training" at the bottom.
3. Click on "PSSA" on the left.
4. Select the appropriate content and grade.
5. Sign in with the username & password provided.

In closing, feel free to call upon us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kate Thompson

Assistant Principal of Instructional Operations

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