



*Dr. Kriner Cash,
Superintendent*

*Ebony E. Bullock
Chief Accountability Officer*

To: BPS Parents and Stakeholders

From: Ebony E. Bullock, Chief Accountability Officer *EB*

CC: Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent, Cabinet, Board Members, and Edward Kuzan,
Supervisor of Research/ Assessment

Date: March 29, 2021

Re: Spring 2021 NYS and Regents Assessments

The Buffalo Public School District (BPS) continues to make the academic, physical and mental health, safety and well-being of all BPS students and staff our primary focus. Along with NYSED and the Board of Regents, BPS has been closely monitoring the feasibility and fairness of administering the Spring 2021 NYS Assessments.

On February 12, 2021, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) submitted a formal request to the United States Department of Education (USDE) to waive state testing requirements at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Subsequently, the NYSED determined that it will not be possible to administer any of this year's State assessments remotely and, if they occur, assessments will be "school-based" and "in-person." Further, due to the variability in the manner that instruction is being provided to students across the State in response to COVID-19, NYSED is providing schools much more flexibility than had been necessary in past years in the local in-school scheduling of the Spring 2021 Assessments.

While awaiting a final decision from the USDE on NYSED's waiver request, the District urges BPS parents to make a decision whether to allow their children to participate in the Spring 2021 NYS Assessments based on what they feel is best for their children. In the end, should you decide that your child's participation in any of these assessments is desired, your child will be given the opportunity to participate safely, in-person, in a school building as per NYSED.

What you need to know to help you decide:

Parents of Elementary Students

- If the assessment waiver request is not granted by USDE for the Spring 2021 administration, BPS will administer only **Session 1 of the ELA and Mathematics Tests** to students participating in in-person learning. BPS will not administer Session 2.

Office of Shared Accountability

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- If the assessment waiver request is not granted by USDE for the Spring 2021 administration the June 2021 Grades 4 & 8 NYS Science Assessments will be comprised of the written portion only.
- Schools are not required or expected to bring in students who participate in entirely remote learning to participate in in-person administration of the Spring 2021 Assessments.

Parents of High School Students

- Only the following June Regents Assessments will be offered:
 - Algebra 1
 - English Language Arts
 - Living Environment (Biology)
 - Physical Setting/ Earth Science (Written Test, only)
- Students who do not participate in the four Regents exams offered in June will be eligible for an exemption as long as they complete the course work and pass the course associated with the exam.
- August 2021 Regents Exams are cancelled.
- Please find the complete Spring 2021 testing schedule, posted on NYSED's website:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/schedules/schedule-ei.html>
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/schedules/schedule-hs.html>

*A final note: You should also know that on March 17th the BPS Board of Education unanimously approved the attached Board Resolution, vigorously objecting to State assessments during a devastating pandemic and assuring parents and caregivers the right to choose to have their children opt-out of grades 3-8 State assessments free of any penalty or repercussion.

If you should have any questions or need assistance re this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us at 716.816.3035 or ebullock@buffaloschools.org.

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