

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Each spring, the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests are administered to students across New York State. These annual ELA and math tests for students in grades 3-8 are required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. The Buffalo Public Schools will administer ELA testing for grades 3 – 8 on April 3rd & 4th, and Math testing grades 3 – 8 on May 1st & 2nd.

We strongly encourage your child to take the English Language Arts State Assessment Tests for grades 3-8 that begin tomorrow and continue on Thursday. The tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and help to ensure that students are on track to graduate from high school. The test results also show how schools and districts are progressing in meeting numerous learning standards and can be used to support professional development for teachers.

As with the 2017-18 tests, the 2019 grades 3-8 ELA and Math tests will be untimed. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) gives each district the discretion to create their own approaches to ensure that all students who are productively working are given the time they need within the confines of the regular school day, to complete the tests. Go to <http://www.nysed.gov/assessments-toolkit> to see Commissioner MaryEllen Elia's FAQ and Information for parents.

The 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests are comprised of two sessions each. With fewer test sessions, each test will have substantially fewer questions than in recent years, lessening test fatigue for students and better enabling them to demonstrate what they know and are able to do.

The 2019 Score Reports for parents will feature more information about what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. The resulting report will show you how your child performed in comparison to other students across the State and how your child scored in specific skill and concept areas. For example, the ELA report gives scores for both reading and writing; the Math report gives scores for the key math concepts for your child's grade level. These achievement results help us to strategically plan instruction. The 2019 parent fact sheet and FAQ are also available in several additional languages, including Chinese (Simplified), Haitian Creole, Russian, and Spanish.

The 2018 scores for our schools/district are available at <https://www.buffaloschools.org> and the NYSED site: <https://data.nysed.gov/>.

To help your child do his or her best on the tests, please ensure he or she is well rested and starts the off the day off with a healthy breakfast.



Dr. Kriner Cash
Superintendent