

Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District

Mrs. Andrea L. Galenski
Superintendent of Schools
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March 26, 2021

Dear Cheektowaga-Sloan Families,

The New York State Department of Education (NYSED) submitted a formal request to the US Department of Education to waive state testing requirements at the elementary, middle, and high school level for 2021. That request is still pending, and the NYSED has moved forward with guidance on Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics assessments for this year. The NYS testing window is **Monday, April 19 –Thursday, April 29 for English Language Arts and Monday, May 3 – Friday, May 14 for Mathematics.**

If the assessment waiver request **is not** granted prior to April 19, schools will be required to administer only Session 1 of the ELA and Mathematics assessments. Session 1 consists exclusively of multiple-choice questions and the NYSED has indicated that it will be shortened for this year's administration. Students can only take the assessment in the school building. Please note there is no remote option.

The NYSED has made it clear that schools are not expected to bring students into the building to participate in assessments if students are receiving fully remote instruction during the testing windows. Parents of fully remote students, however, can choose to allow their child to take Session 1 of the assessment by notifying the principal and receiving a scheduled date to enter the building for the purpose of taking the assessment.

Schools will be allowed to administer the assessments to students who are receiving hybrid instruction on the days that they are ordinarily attending school in person. Schools will not be required to test the entire grade on the same school day. **Your child's principal will send a separate letter indicating the dates and times for testing particular grade levels, which will not necessarily be uniform across all schools.**

The option to opt-out of Grades 3-8 testing exists regardless of fully remote or hybrid learning model status. The Cheektowaga-Sloan School District has always respected the decision of parents regarding participation in NYS assessments and we will continue to do so. Please send a request to your building principal in the event you choose to opt-out of the 2021 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics assessments.

Although the assessment scores will not be used for State accountability purposes, the data from Session 1, along with other pertinent student benchmark assessments, will allow us to determine potential COVID-19 learning areas of need and the necessary interventions needed for the 2021-22 school year.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Galenski
Superintendent of Schools

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Our mission is to provide a positive academic and social learning environment that fosters independence, responsibility, life-long learning and student success.