



# Port Jervis City School District

Office of the Assistant  
Superintendent for Instruction

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to share with you our expectations for your child to participate in the grades 3-8 New York State Assessments. To that end, please note the following changes implemented by the New York State Education Department regarding the assessments:

- *A decrease in the number of test questions*
- *A shift to untimed testing*
- *A greater involvement of educators in the test development process*
- *A new test vendor –(Questar)*
- *Allowance of "tests read" accommodation for students with disabilities as per their IEP/504 plan*
- *Student performance on these assessments is no longer linked to a Teacher or Principal evaluation (Annual Professional Performance Review - APPR)*

Student participation in the 3-8 New York State Assessments in ELA and Math is vital to our education program. Your child's assessment results provide our teachers with data to identify specific areas of strengths and weaknesses as well as our students' progress towards meeting the state standards. This information guides teachers' instruction and helps us make decisions about the district's instructional programs.

Given all the changes in the assessments and the usefulness of the data, it is our expectation that all of our 3-8 students participate in the NYS assessments this school year.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's principal.

Thank you for your on-going support as we continue to work together for our students' academic success.

Sincerely,

*Cynthia Benedict*

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

**One District...One Mission...Moving Forward.**

