

Dear Parents/Guardians of Portsmouth Students,

It is hard to believe that we are getting ready to close out the first quarter of the 2019-20 school year. At this point of the school year you should be receiving regular feedback on your child’s progress either through our student information system (Aspen – for middle and high school students) and/or other school and teacher-level communications (all schools). Over the past few weeks we have also received results and reports from the various state assessments that students participated in last spring.

In Rhode Island students are asked to annually participate in statewide standardized assessments in mathematics, English language arts, and science in order to meet a federal requirement and provide valuable information about how well our students, schools, district, and the state are doing. Results measure the knowledge and skills addressed in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and can be used in a variety of ways, including: helping to track your child’s progress over time; the results give you the ability to compare your child’s school to schools across the state; and our district and schools analyze results to inform decisions that we make to support teaching and learning.

The following table provides a breakdown of the various statewide assessments given annually by grade level and the content (and standards) that are assessed:

ASSESSMENT	GRADE(S)	CONTENT AREA (STANDARDS)
RI Comprehensive Assessment System (www.ride.ri.gov/RICAS)	3-8	English Language Arts (CCSS), Mathematics (CCSS)
RI PSAT 10 (www.ride.ri.gov/PSAT)	10	
RI SAT School Day (www.ride.ri.gov/SAT)	11	
Next Generation Science Assessment (www.ride.ri.gov/NGSA)	5, 8, 11	Science (NGSS)
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessments <i>for differently-abled students who meet the eligibility criteria</i> (www.ride.ri.gov/DLM)	3-8, 11	English Language Arts (CCSS), Mathematics (CCSS), Science (NGSS)

ASSESSMENT	GRADE(S)	CONTENT AREA (STANDARDS)
ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs <i>for students identified as English language learners</i> (www.ride.ri.gov/ACCESS)	1-12	English Language Proficiency

If your child participated in any of these assessments last spring you should have received, or will be receiving, an individual student report that will provide you with information on their results. The following site also provides you with the ability to see the results of your child's school and our district on any of these assessments and to compare those results with other schools and districts across the state.

<https://lms.backpack.education/public/ride>

Overall, Portsmouth schools continue to perform well and our results compare favorably with other high-performing districts throughout the state. But we know there is room for improvement in all areas. We are working across the district to analyze our data and make informed decisions with the goal of improving outcomes for all students. We also want to ensure we stay focused on the individual needs of each and every student and part of that is having good communication and strong partnerships with families.

If you have questions on any of this information or something specific to the results of your child, I encourage you to follow up with your school's principal or myself at any time. We value your input and together we can stay focused on providing the best possible educational experience for your child.

Warm Regards,



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