Dear Family,

Each year, Pennsylvania public school students take the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exams in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science. This student report explains how your child performed on the 2018-19 assessment. If your student did not take one of the tests, a portion of the report will be blank.

You can help your child grow academically by reviewing these PSSA results with him/her, looking at both strengths and opportunities for improvement, and by continuing to encourage his/her best effort in school. You may also find it helpful to speak with your child’s teachers about these strengths and opportunities for growth.

Your contribution to your child’s education is critical, and by working together, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the commonwealth’s schools, and families can prepare Pennsylvania’s next generation for future success.

Sincerely,

Pedro A. Rivera
Secretary of Education
Your student’s information.
Here you will find your student’s name, school, district, date of testing, and grade.

Report information and tools.
This section provides information about the PSSA and the student report, as well as resources to learn more about your student’s performances.

Your student’s PSSA results.
This section indicates your student’s performance level for the English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science assessments.

What do the Performance Levels mean?
This section provides a general description of the Pennsylvania Performance Levels. Student performance on the PSSA falls into four performance levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic.
What is your student’s Performance Level?
This indicates your student’s Performance Level for the given subject.

*Please Note: If your student was not tested because the subject is not applicable, “Not Applicable (NA)” will be displayed. If your student did not receive a score, “No Score (NS)” will be displayed.

What is your student’s score?
This indicates your student’s PSSA score for the given subject. Additionally, the arrow on the bar graph indicates where your student’s score falls within a performance level. The scores are organized by subject and appear on pages 2 and 3 of the Student Report.

Because each subject has its own individual scale, student’s PSSA scores should not be compared across tested subjects.

How did your student perform in each reporting category?
This indicates the total points possible and your student’s performance within each reporting category. The reporting categories are described on page 4 of the Student Report.

Strength Profile.
The Strength Profile provides you with an indication of your student’s performance within each of the reporting categories. The profile measure takes into account the difficulty of the items and can be used to help identify areas in which your student needs to improve and where he or she has performed more successfully.
Minimum/Maximum Scaled Scores.
The minimum and maximum scaled scores represent the minimum and maximum scores your child could have received on each assessment. Each PSSA test has a minimum score that stays the same across years. However, the maximum score for each test can vary depending on the difficulty of the test each year (a more difficult test in any given year will have a higher maximum score).

Standard Error of Measure.
This range reflects the standard error of measurement (SEM) for your student’s PSSA score. Specifically, it provides reasonable bounds for the range of scores that your student might receive if he or she took an equivalent version of the test. (That is, your student took a test that covered exactly the same content, but included a different set of items.) As an example, if the PSSA score was 1750 and the SEM band was 1700 to 1800, then your student would be likely to receive a score somewhere between 1700 and 1800 if a different version of the test had been taken.
Score Reporting Category Descriptions

This section of the Student Report contains the description of the reporting categories that were assessed on the PSSA. Reporting Categories are aligned to the state’s standards and used as a tool for instructional practices in schools.

Reporting categories will be different for each grade.