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 2017-18 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.

### English Language Arts

**Key Ideas and Details**
Students refer to key ideas and details from a text or texts to objectively summarize important ideas and events, determine a theme or central idea, make generalizations, and draw on evidence from texts to support inferences and overall understanding.

**Craft and Structure/Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**
Students demonstrate understanding of a text or texts by determining author’s point of view or purpose; by analyzing structure; by making connections within, between, and among texts; by evaluating arguments and specific claims; and by analyzing the role of evidence in support of (or against) integration of ideas and key aspects of texts.

**Vocabulary Acquisition and Use**
Students demonstrate understanding of vocabulary and figurative language in literature and informational texts.

**Conventions of Standard English (Writing)**
Students demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, as well as use of knowledge of language and its conventions for effect.

**Text-Dependent Analysis (Reading/Writing)**
Students write a response to literature or informational text or texts, drawing on the evidence presented in the text(s) to support analysis, reflection, and/or research.

**Literature Text**
Students read and respond to literature texts, focusing on narrative, poetic, and/or dramatic techniques and drawing on evidence in the text(s) to support comprehension and understanding.

**Informational Text**
Students read and respond to informational texts, focusing on the information and evidence presented on topics, ideas, or procedures and drawing on evidence in the text(s) to support comprehension and interpretation.

### Mathematics

**The Number System**
Students solve problems by using the four operations with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions and by plotting points using a four-quadrant grid. They identify the greatest common factor and least common multiple between two numbers and apply this understanding to the distributive property for terms. Students interpret and compare negative numbers and absolute values using various methods.

**Ratios and Proportional Relationships**
Students use the concepts of rate and ratio to solve real-world situations. They solve problems involving ratios and percentages.

**Expressions and Equations**
Students write, interpret, and evaluate algebraic expressions in various forms. They write and solve one-step algebraic equations and inequalities. They show how algebraic equations relate to tables and graphs.

**Geometry**
Students calculate the areas of regular, irregular, and compound polygons, including polygons on a coordinate plane. They draw the net and find the surface area of triangular and rectangular prisms.

**Statistics and Probability**
Students represent numerical data in data displays that are related to the number line. They analyze and interpret numerical data using calculations of measures of center (i.e., mean, median, mode) and measures of variability (i.e., range, interquartile range, mean absolute deviation).