



Student assessments: Participation matters

Dear PPS Principals,

I will be sending the attached letters to staff and families regarding SBAC assessments. Through all of these messages, my goal is to make expectations clear while providing accurate information to staff and families regarding the value of assessments. There has been a great deal of misinformation on this subject and I am asking for your assistance in making sure we are delivering a consistent and accurate message.

I have prepared a letter to staff regarding their questions and our expectations about the MAP assessments. In this letter, I provide some information about our PPS Quality Assessment Framework. Please see the attached letter to make sure you understand what the questions have been and can assist with clarifying the answers to the questions and the district expectations regarding administration of the winter and fall administration of these assessments.

The most important points we can share with families are around the value of data in decision making and our intentional shift to be a data-driven organization. One of our best tools for gathering data on student success is through our state assessments and I am stressing the importance of participation to give our leaders access to critical information that can be used in educational decisions and resource allocation.

I also have included information about opt-out and exemptions available to families. By state law, this is a parent's right and we absolutely respect that right. I want our families to be well-informed before they make a decision about opt-out or exemptions and have provided links to additional information. I also make it clear that I am encouraging participation because of the value of receiving this kind of data.

I would like you to take this opportunity to inform your staff, families and students about how you use the results from assessments. Please familiarize yourself with this information and pay careful attention to the information that will be forthcoming from our assessment department.

I am placing the responsibility for ensuring effective administration of all assessments on principals. It is my expectation that you will provide leadership as we take another significant step forward in becoming a data-driven district.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Cuellar or me directly. I look forward to measuring our improvement in the area of participation in these critical assessments. Thank you for your dedication to our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Yvonne Curtis
Deputy Superintendent, Instruction and School Communities

Attachments:
Letter to Families
Letter to All Staff