

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit #26
36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054
Tel. (603) 424-6200 Fax (603) 424-6229

AMANDA S. DOYLE
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

EVERETT V. OLSEN JR.
Chief Educational Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL
Assistant Superintendent for Business

February 1, 2024

Dear Merrimack School District Parent/Guardian,

Each year, New Hampshire public and charter schools are required by state law (RSA 193-C) and federal accountability laws (Every Student Succeeds Act) to assess students using a standardized assessment. Statewide assessments are an important part of a student's core educational program. They provide an evaluation of student mastery of content and skills in core academic areas, serve as one tool for measuring the degree to which students are on track to graduate high school and be college- and career-ready, and help inform future instruction in the classroom. Along with student work on classroom assignments, projects, essays, and local formative and summative assessments, statewide assessment results provide teachers and parents with important information about where students are on their path toward academic success.

The Merrimack School District is working hard to coordinate the administration of these statewide assessments to ensure students have access to them in a safe and supportive environment. In the coming weeks, you will receive a specific assessment schedule from the school(s) where your student(s) are enrolled, as well as important details and instructions regarding the assessments being administered. I am hopeful that you can offer your support to our state assessment efforts by encouraging your student to do their best during testing. In addition, it is vital that your student arrives at school on time and maintains good attendance throughout our testing window. **If your student brings their school issued Chromebook home, it is important that the device is brought to school fully charged on testing days.**

The required assessments for public and charter school students are captured in the table below. For more specific details about New Hampshire's statewide assessments, please visit the New Hampshire Department of Education's online [Office of Assessment](#) and view the [2023-2024 Assessment Schedule](#) for the state mandated testing windows.

Assessment	Grades	Content
NH Statewide Assessment System (NH SAS)	3 rd -8 th	English Language Arts, Mathematics
NH Statewide Assessment System (NH SAS)	5 th , 8 th & 11 th	Science
Digital SAT with Essay (School Day only)	11 th	English Language Arts, Mathematics
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)	3 rd -8 th & 11 th	English Language Arts, Mathematics
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)	5 th , 8 th & 11 th	Science
ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS	K-12	Reading, Writing, Listening, & Speaking

Exemption

Parents are allowed to exempt their child from participation in the statewide assessments (permitted in RSA 193-C:6). Parents must complete and submit [this Exemption Form](#), preferably by email, to your student's school principal. Please understand that if you choose to exempt your student from the assessment, no scores or summary of individual student performance, based on the statewide assessment, will be provided for your student. **This exemption will also result in a zero for participation for your student and impact federal accountability for our school/district.**

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Results

NH SAS results are generally available shortly after a student completes the test. Instructions and personalized codes for accessing your student’s results through the [NH DOE Family Portal](#) will be sent after testing via School Messenger and/or typical building communication systems. Upon request, your student’s school can provide your student’s Individual Score Report (ISR) before the end of the school year. **Lexile Reading Scores** and **Quantile Mathematics Scores** will be available on the ISR. You can visit [this resource](#) for more information on how to use these measures to understand your student’s reading and math level.

SAT results will be available in May and June. Students can [access their scores](#) with a College Board student account.

DLM and ACCESS test results are provided by your student’s case manager or teacher. Please contact the school directly with questions on when to expect to receive these results.

Practice Tests & Average Testing Times

Parents may access training tests for the NH SAS by going to the NH SAS assessment portal at: <https://nh.portal.cambiumast.com/families.html>.

College Board offers a range of SAT practice opportunities. Students who use the SAT practice tests are eligible for scholarships: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice-presentation>.

DLM provides additional resources for parents to support student learning: <https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/dlm-assessments#parents>.

The average testing times for the state assessment are as follows:

Grades 3-8	NH SAS	Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment
English Language Arts/Reading	2 hours, 15 minutes	90-135 minutes
English Language Arts/Writing	2 hours	10-20 minutes
Mathematics	2 hours, 15 minutes	60-120 minutes
Grades 5, 8, 11	NH SAS - Science	DLM - Science
Science	2 hours	90-140 minutes
Grade 11	Digital SAT with Essay	DLM
English Language Arts and Mathematics	4 hours, 7 minutes or 4 hours, 35 minutes with 30-minute lunch	Same as listed above for ELA/Reading, ELA/Writing, mathematics, and science

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If you have any questions related to state assessment, please feel encouraged to reach out to me and/or the building administrators at your student's school. Thank you for your support during this important time for our school community.

Sincerely,



Amy Doyle

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

“Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1111(b)(2) and New Hampshire law, RSA 193-C:6 requires each school district in the State to implement a set of high-quality academic assessments that includes, at a minimum, assessments in mathematics, reading/language arts and science to be administered in each of grades 3-8 and not less than once during grades 10-12; and in science not less than once during grades 3-5, grades 6-9, and grades 10-12. Furthermore, ESSA sections 1111(b)(2)(B) require State assessments to be the “same academic assessments used to measure the achievement of all public elementary school and secondary school students in the State,” and provide for the participation in such assessments to all students.”