

# Hoosic Valley Central School District

CENTRAL OFFICES  
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**Amy V. Goodell**  
Superintendent of Schools

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March 30, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In response to concerns from parents and educators, the State Education Department has made a number of changes to the Grade 3-8 English Language Arts and Math Assessments. Please see a summary of the changes below.

Fewer Testing Days and Fewer Questions:

- The number of test questions on the assessments has been reduced.
- The ELA assessments have one less reading passage and fewer questions.
- Math Assessments have fewer questions.

Untimed Testing:

- Assessments are not timed. Students have as much time as they need to complete the assessments within the confines of the school day.

Greater Teacher Involvement:

- Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for 2018 assessments.

Teacher and Principal Evaluation:

- Student performance on the 2018 ELA and Math assessments have no related consequences for teacher or principal evaluations. In December 2015, the Board of Regents approved a moratorium on using student scores on these assessments for educators' evaluation scores. This means no teachers or principals will be affected by the results.

Release of Test Questions and Instructional Reports:

- The State Education Department plans to have test questions and instructional reports released by the end of the school year.

Computer Based Assessments:

- Hoosic Valley will administer computer based assessments in grades 7 and 8. The computer-based assessment will have the same questions as the paper version.

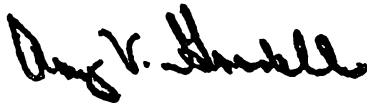
Participation in the 3-8 assessments provide our teachers with important information regarding student achievement and instruction. The assessments identify areas of strength, as well as opportunities for growth for each student. Assessment results help teachers identify instructional targets to ensure success in meeting proficiency. Therefore, it is critical that students participate in the 3-8 assessments so that we have the information to inform instructional practice and remediate students who fall below proficiency expectation.

It is critical that students participate in taking the assessments so that we have the information to inform instructional practice including curriculum development and lesson design. Again this year, the assessment scores will not count towards the teachers' or principals' evaluation scores. However, the assessment scores are part of a district's accountability measures. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that 95% of students in each school participate yearly in ELA and math assessments in grades 3-8. Schools that fall below 95% participation rate may be designated a school in need of improvement and may be subject to additional requirements. Last year our participation rate was approximately 78%.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the assessments, please contact your building principal or myself to discuss. There are documents on our district website under NYS Assessment Information that may also assist to answer some of your questions.

Thank you for your ongoing support in your child's success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy V. Goodell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Amy V. Goodell  
Superintendent of Schools