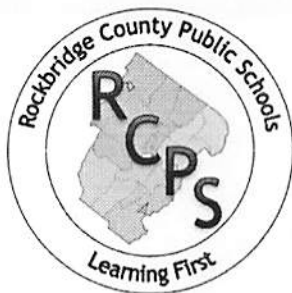


Phillip Thompson, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Haywood Hand
Assistant Superintendent

2019-2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

All students enrolled in Virginia public schools are expected to take the applicable state tests. The *Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* state:

“In kindergarten through eighth grade, where the administration of Virginia assessment program tests are required by the Board of Education, each student shall be expected to take the tests” and “each student in middle and secondary schools shall take all applicable end-of-course SOL tests following course instruction”

The Virginia regulations do not provide for what is sometimes referred to as an “opt out policy” for students regarding the Virginia assessments. If parents refuse to have their student participate in one or more of the required Virginia assessments, they should be aware that their student’s state assessment score report will reflect a score of “0” for any test that is refused. Parents should be mindful if their child fails to participate in the Virginia assessments then their child may lack the necessary verified credits for high school graduation or other diploma requirements.

On December 10, 2015, the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA) was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(2) of ESSA states that parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know about state or division policies regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA, including any policy, procedure, or parental rights to refuse students’ participation in such assessments.

If you would like to receive information about this topic, please contact Dr. Matt Crossman, Division Director of Testing either by phone at 540-463-7386, or in writing at 2893 Collierstown Road, Lexington, VA 24450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tracy Hinty'.

Tracy Hinty
Rockbridge County Public Schools
Supervisor of Federal Programs
540-463-7386