



March 2019

Dear DCPS Families,

Each spring, DC Public Schools (DCPS) students participate in annual assessments to help us measure student growth and identify our opportunities for continued support. These assessments are a key component of determining the progress we have made and the steps still necessary to ensure that all students have the support they need to succeed.

As an educator, I am committed to ensuring our students have rich experiences in school that provide them with the knowledge they need to be prepared for college and career. These annual assessments are designed to measure the skills that students need to be successful in the future. Along with your student's grades and feedback from your student's teachers, this information provides you an update on your child's continued growth. At the school level, we use the assessment results to improve supports for your child. At the district level, this data informs educator training and allocation of resources to support the needs of all students.

Students in grades 3 through 8 and students enrolled in Geometry, Algebra, English I, or English II courses will take the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Your student will participate in the test for three to six days between April 8 and May 24. Students in grades 5 and 8, and students enrolled in high school Biology, will take the DC Science Test. Students who meet the eligibility criteria for alternate assessments will take the assessments that best meet their needs with the appropriate accommodations.

Please join me and your child's teachers in encouraging your child to do their best. The results of these tests help the district to best serve your student's needs and we want to ensure that the test results reflect their progress. You can support your student's success by ensuring that they are well rested and arrive to school on-time and ready to learn. For more information about the assessments, please visit <https://osse.dc.gov/assessments>, including [practice tests](#) and [released items](#).

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your principal if you have any questions. Thank you for your partnership in your child's educational future!

With appreciation,

Lewis D. Ferebee
Chancellor
DC Public Schools