



Somerdale Public School District

301 Grace Street
Somerdale, New Jersey 08083
(856) 783-6261 (856) 783-2607 FAX
www.Somerdale-park.org



Mr. Robert Ford
Vice-Principal

Mr. Mark Pease
Superintendent
Principal

Ms. Melissa Engelhardt
Business Administrator
Board Secretary

Dear Parents,

I have great news, the New Jersey Department of Education with collaboration of the State Board of Education and other stakeholders have developed changes to the way our students will take standardized tests. The PARCC Standardized Test has been replaced with a new and improved standardized test, the **New Jersey Student Learning Assessment**.

This new standardized test will have fewer questions and units thus making the test shorter and less stressful for our students. School districts are encouraged by these changes and Somerdale Park School is looking forward to our students competing academically with other students in our area and throughout the State of New Jersey. I believe Educational Competiveness is an important factor in student success. As the superintendent, I am responsible for motivating and inspiring students to be successful not only academically but socially and emotionally. We are in the process of making changes on how we prepare our students for standardize tests. We are redesigning how instruction is being delivered, reducing the number of assessments students take, building confidence within our students, establishing high expectations for all students and developing a spirit of competition.

With the redesign of our state assessments, along with the changes we are making instructionally, I am positive our students will see improvements academically. It will also build student familiarity and confidence with taking other achievement tests or placement tests such as the SAT, ACT, PSAT, ASFAB, Advanced Placement Test, and/or future certification or job related exams. For further information on the current state assessment, please visit the following website: <https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/parents/>

Somerdale Park School will be administering the state assessment to students during the week of May 6th. After reading this letter and visiting the above website, you are opting to have your child not participate in the state assessment at Somerdale Park School during the week of May 6th, please proceed to take the following steps:

1. Complete the attached form with rationale supporting why you are choosing to have your child not participate in the state assessment.
2. Sign and return the form to the school no later than May 3, 2019.
3. Contact Ms. Nancy Strassle at 856-783-6261 x 811 to schedule an appointment with Principal/Superintendent, Mr. Pease to further discuss your concerns.

If all of the steps listed above are not completed prior to May 3, 2019, your child will be participating in this year's state assessment. Thank you for your time and attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Pease, Superintendent/Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Pease'.

Mr. Robert Ford, Vice Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ford'.



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Re: State Assessment 2018-2019

Dear Parent or Guardian: By signing this form, you are acknowledging that your son or daughter is refusing to take the 2019 New Jersey mandated state assessment at Somerdale Park School. Additionally, you recognize that these days are state mandated for attendance purposes and refusal to participate in NJSLA may impact the academic level placement of your student when he/she transitions to a secondary school.

Students refusing to take the state assessment will be provided an alternative educational space to complete instructional assignments unrelated to the state assessment. ALL FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY Friday, May 3, 2019.

For more information, please contact Somerdale Park School Vice-Principal and Testing Coordinator, Mr. Robert Ford at rford@somerdale-park.org.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Rationale for choosing to have student not participate on the 2018-2019 state assessment:
