

April 10, 2018

Dear Catskill CSD Community:

The annual New York State Assessments for students in Grades 3-8 will be conducted on the following days:

Assessments	Administration Dates	Make-Up Dates
English Language Arts	April 11-12, 2018	April 16-18, 2018
Mathematics	May 1-2, 2018	May 4-9, 2018
Science- Written	June 4, 2018	June 5-6, 2018

This year's assessments include new changes to the format and how the tests are administered. Some of the changes include the following:

- Tests are reduced from three days to two days
- Shorter, untimed tests
- Teachers' evaluations will not be affected by students' scores
- Students with reading accommodations as documented on his / her IEP or 504 plan can have the test read to them.

The District is fully invested to ensure that all students take the 3-8 New York State assessments. Our elementary and middle schools are designated as "Focus Schools" primarily due to the student participation rate. We need 100% of our student population to take the assessments. Ninety-five percent is the minimum student participation rate required by SED to appeal to our "Focus School" designation.

In closing, our graduation rate for the 2016-17 school year was 90 percent. This data demonstrates that our students have the capacity to complete assessments with proficiency. Again, we just need them to take the assessments. The results from the assessments will assist us with the following:

1. Appeal to the State Department of Education to remove our schools off the Focus School designation list.
2. Serve as a source of data used to provide students with targeted intervention, instruction and enrichment.

As always, if you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (518) 943-4696.

Regards,

Dr. Ronel Cook
Superintendent of Schools