

IT'S ALL GOOD!

NYS Assessments - News You Can Use

THE GOOD NEWS!!!

- The NYS Education Department has listened to parents, teachers, administrators, etc. regarding problems with the assessments.
- Significant changes have been made:
 - Administering tests reduced to two days; no time limits when taking the tests.
 - Assessments will *not* be used to evaluate teachers or school buildings.
 - No financial penalties from NY State on schools with high opt-out rates.

WHY TAKE ASSESSMENTS: THEY FOCUS ON THE STUDENTS:

- They are one of many measures to analyze students' successes and needs for remediation if necessary.
- They are indicators that help determine effective programs that insure continued student success.
- They are indicators to help schools recognize the best trends in educational strategies for student success.
- They offer data in a timely fashion to help improve educational instruction.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT PARTICIPATION RATES:

- The Federal Government is still requiring school districts to raise assessment participation rates to 95%.
- Lake Shore's participation rates have grown steadily in recent years. We thank our parents and teachers for their diligence in supporting students taking these tests.
- Even with this growth, Lake Shore is still far below the target of 95% participation.
- A high participation rate helps the District to gather data to evaluate educational programming.
- We want enough data to show that LSC is very successful and one of the finest Districts in WNY.

MOVING FORWARD:

- Lake Shore fully realizes each parent's right to opt-out his/her child in taking the NYS Assessments.
- Parents may discuss their children's Assessment Scores by contacting their principals.
- Lake Shore sincerely asks that all students participate in the NY State Assessments.



The Lake Shore Board of Education sincerely appreciates the efforts that our students, parents, teachers, and administrators have expended working with these assessments. In order to continue to focus on our students, we will continue to look for opportunities for more dialogue and input regarding these assessments, and we look forward to a successful administration of these tests.

ELA, Grades 3-8: Middle School – April 1 & 2 / Elementary Schools – April 3 & 4

MATH, Grades 3-8: Middle School – April 30 & May 1 / Elementary Schools – May 6 & 7

SCIENCE, Grades 4 & 8: Middle School – May 29 & June 3 / Elementary Schools – May 29 & June 3