



Brian J. Polito, CPA
Superintendent of Schools

Teresa Szumigala
Assistant Superintendent

Board of School Directors

Lori A. Pickens
President
John C. Harkins
Vice President
Jay Breneman
Gwendolyn Cooley
Daria S. Devlin
Lauren Gillespie
Sumner Nichols
Rosemary C. Sheridan
Leatra B. Tate

Angela G. Jones
Secretary

Erie's Public Schools
148 West 21st Street
Erie, PA 16502-2834
P: 814.874.6000
F: 814.874.6049
www.eriesd.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer

November 14, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Erie School District will administer the 2022-2023 Winter Keystone exams from December 5th to December 16th. The assessments will be given to students who were enrolled in Algebra I, Literature, and Biology that still need to take the exam. Keystone test administration is mandated for all school districts within the Commonwealth and has been included as a pathway to graduation. The assessments have been designed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to help determine the agreement of district curriculum with state standards. Testing as close to the end of the course as possible would be beneficial to the students. Students taking the state assessments will receive individual score reports. Your child's results will be distributed to you and the principal. The state will not receive any reports with individual names included.

You have the right to review the test items by making arrangements with the school principal. Students can be excluded from testing only if their parent/guardian finds the assessment items to be in conflict with their religious beliefs. Please read the attached flyer entitled: *Information for Parents or Guardians, Pennsylvania Keystone Exams* which will provide you with further information about the assessment.

Under state and federal law, the integrity of these tests cannot be compromised. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) prohibits cell phones and electronic devices from entering the testing location during the test administration. The consequence for using and/or having a cell phone or other electronic device during the test administration will result in the application of a "do not score" label/flag on the student's test and the student will not receive a score. Furthermore, if a student uses a cell phone or electronic device in any manner during the administration of the test, the device will be confiscated until the parent or guardian can come to the school, and in the presence of the parent or guardian, the cell phone or other electronic device will be viewed to ensure that no information or material regarding the assessment is present. Under PDE regulations, violation of the no cell phone or other electronic device will result in disciplinary action, the severity of which will vary depending on whether test material has been compromised. If any item on an assessment has been compromised and can no longer be used or needs to be replaced, the parent/guardian and/or student may be responsible for PDE's cost to replace the item/test statewide.

Please contact your child's counselor with any questions you may have regarding testing. Encourage your child to try their very best on these tests and be sure they come to school well-rested and ready to demonstrate all that they have learned. We thank you for your support of your student's achievement and appreciate your continued involvement in your child's education.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Polito, CPA
Superintendent of Schools