

WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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November 14, 2016

Dear Elementary and Middle School Parents,

We have good news regarding elementary and middle school Standards of Learning Tests that could impact your child this year. The Virginia Board of Education will allow students in grades three through eight to retake their Standards of Learning tests which were failed by a narrow margin. The only test where this is not allowed is the eighth grade English writing test.

Thus, if your elementary or middle school child scores between 375 and 399 on a SOL test, or an extenuating circumstance has occurred, they are now able to have a second opportunity at passing their SOL test. This is called an expedited retake, and has been allowed since 2000 for high school students whose test results are linked to earning a high school diploma.

Retaking a Standard of Learning test that has been failed by a narrow margin will give your child a second opportunity to demonstrate proficiency based on what they have learned during the school year, and hopefully serve as a morale booster and recognition of their hard work. If they pass the expedited retake, the school also benefits in the state Standards of Learning and federal No Child Left Behind accreditation reports.

Specific remediation and tutoring will be offered to students who achieve a qualifying score prior to their second test, based on areas of need indicated by the first administration. The remediation provided to your child could be different than another child's, depending on what they did not answer correctly on the first test. We have access to reports which help identify specific tested areas where your child may have not been successful. This information and remediation, which will be provided by classroom teachers, does not guarantee your child will pass the second administration, however, it gives us an excellent chance to help them be successful.

If you chose to not let your child participate in a test retake, there will not be a negative impact on your child's grade or academic record.

If you agree with your child participating if they qualify for an expedited retake, please sign the consent form enclosed and return it to your child's teacher. We must have your permission to provide your child this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Noe
Assistant Superintendent

JN/jhm

Parental Consent Form

_____ I hereby consent to allow my child to retake Standard of Learning Assessments for which he/she qualifies.

_____ I do not consent to allow my child to retake Standard of Learning Assessments for which he/she qualifies.

Parent Name:

Parent Signature:

Child's Full Name:

Date:
