



Parent Town Hall Meeting: Spring 2021 SOL Testing



Rachel Carson Middle School
Thursday, April 8, 2021



Our Goals for Tonight's Town Hall

- Share an overview of the approach to instruction and SOL testing for this school year
- Detail the SOL testing calendar
- Describe the test day planning and logistical considerations
- Respond to questions presented by families

Presenting this evening

- Gordon Stokes, Principal
- Lauren Ross, Assessment Coach

Instruction and SOL Testing for the 2020-21 School Year

- The Virginia Standards of Learning establish the curricula for courses taught throughout the state.
- Federal law requires standardized testing in the areas of reading, mathematics, and science.
- Teachers have implemented streamlined content and pacing guides to address essential standards and benchmarks.
- Some SOL tests have been replaced by local alternative assessments (History, Civics, and 8th grade Writing)
- The SOL test results provides feedback about student progress to the student, to the teacher, and to the school.

SOL Testing, Spring 2021

Because of COVID-19, the state has offered SOL flexibility to divisions.

Reduced testing: FCPS is using a state waiver to remove two SOL tests in Grade 8 for Writing and Civics/Economics.

Extended window: Schools have more time available to schedule SOL tests. This is important for social-distanced testing.

COVID-refusal option: A new state policy allows parents to refuse a SOL test without the student receiving a “0” score.

Remote test: For students attending virtually, a new progress monitoring test will be offered if parents refuse the SOL test.

Assessments

Grade	SOL Tests	Local Alternative Assessments
7	Reading, Mathematics*	Social Studies
8	Reading, Mathematics*, Science	Writing, Social Studies

** For middle school students enrolled in a high school credit-bearing mathematics course, the Algebra 1, Geometry, or Algebra 2 SOL test is used to fulfill the federal testing requirement. Note that the Virginia Remote Student Progress Monitoring Test is not available for high school credit-bearing mathematics courses.*

Testing Dates

Grade 8 Science: Monday, April 26th

Grade 7 Reading: Monday, May 3rd

Grade 7, 7 HN, 8, Algebra II: Monday, May 10th

Algebra I and Geometry: Monday, May 17th

Grade 8 Reading: Monday, May 24th

****All SOL testing must be completed in person at RCMS****

****All students need to report to Carson MS by 7:20 AM****

Make-up Dates

Grade 8 Science: Wednesday, May 5th and Thursday, May 6th

Grade 7 Reading: Wednesday, May 12th, and Thursday, May 13th

ALL Math: Wednesday, May 19th and Thursday, May 20th

Grade 8 Reading: Wednesday, May 26th and Thursday, May 27th

Testing for Students Attending In-Person and Virtually

- All SOL tests must be taken *in-person* at schools, they are not available for remote delivery.
- We will be utilizing all Mondays for In-Person testing with make-up opportunities offered during the week on an as needed basis.
- Families have the **right to refuse** testing this spring.

Virginia Remote Student Progress Monitoring Test (for Virtual students who refuse SOL testing)

- Those *Virtual* families who choose to refuse the grade 3-8 SOL reading and mathematics test for their virtual student, will have the opportunity to have their student complete **The Virginia Remote Student Progress Monitoring Test**. This is a virtual alternative to the SOL this year. More information on that coming soon.

Refusal Implications and Impacts

- Students will receive a “No Score” (NS) on their testing record
- Student’s instruction and delivery of content will not be impacted based on their decision
- Students in Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II who refuse testing this Spring will still receive a standard credit for the class if they pass the class
- An SOL refusal does not impact or hinder a student’s final grade or impact access to future classes

Standard Credit vs Verified Credit

- A **standard credit** is earned when the student *passes a course*.
- A **verified credit** is earned when the student passes a course and either the associated end-of-course SOL test or an authentic performance assessment in the areas of history and social sciences and English (writing).
 - ***Verified credits are used to meet High School graduation requirements.***
 - Students only need 1 verified math credit to receive a Standard or Advanced Studies High School diploma. All students will be required to take the next level math SOL exam in the Spring of 2022, and they can use that to earn their verified math credit. **This means that for most students, there will be no negative consequences for refusing to take the Algebra, Geometry, or Algebra II SOL this year.**
 - Most students enrolled in Geometry or Algebra II have already received their required verified credit for math.

Test Day Logistics

- We will be following the 6 ft of spacing between desks in classrooms
- About 15 students per classroom
- Face masks will be worn at all times
- Students will arrive no later than 7:20 AM and report to their testing rooms

Test Day Logistics (cont.)

- Breakfast will be provided in the Cafeteria to any student who would like one
- Grab-and-Go lunch bags will be provided after testing is completed
- Bus departure scheduled for 12:00 PM
- Kiss and Ride students will be dismissed once they finish their test

Testing Intention Form

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to complete this [testing intentions form](#) for your student.

If you'd like to resubmit your form because you've changed your mind, that is fine, too!

Student Laptop Update Event

Virtual students will need to run a Health Check on their FCPS laptop prior to SOL testing. This must be done while on the FCPS network.

Students should plan to visit the RCMS campus to complete the Health Check and receive system updates.

Two dates:

- Monday, April 12: 12PM - 4PM
- Monday, April 19: 10AM - 2PM

This Update Event only applies to virtual students.

Helpful Website Links

[Student Tests and Assessments](#)

[Assessment Information for Families](#)

[Assessment Notifications](#)

[Health and Safety Protocols for Assessments](#)

[Right to Refuse Assessments](#)

Testing Intentions Google Form (all students need to have a form submitted) - This form was emailed to parents.

What questions might you have at this time?
Use the chat function or raise your hand.

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Thank you so
much for joining
us tonight.

