



DISTRICT News

WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Winter 2012

Common Assessments Developed for the Elementary Level



One of the District goals during the 2010-2011 school year was to begin the process of creating common assessments for specific grades and specific courses. The use of district wide common assessments enhances the District's ability to ensure that students are receiving the same rigorous program, regardless of where they live. This monumental mission was spearheaded by the respective mini-curriculum committees throughout the school year. At the elementary level, we focused the majority of our efforts on creating these assessments in the areas of reading and mathematics.

At the elementary level, the common "benchmark" assessments were created by our mini-curriculum teams and are administered three times throughout the school year; August/September, December/January and May/June. The benchmarks give teachers immediate, formative feedback on how their students are performing. The consistent utilization of benchmark assessments is a tool that we expect to assist us in boosting student achievement. Currently, the elementary level has established common reading benchmarks in grades one through five and common math benchmarks in kindergarten through grade five.

The elementary mathematics mini-curriculum committee worked collaboratively to develop common assessments used for each topic the students are taught. We currently have common assessments established for kindergarten through grade two. These assessments have clearly defined student performance outcomes directly linked to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. These assessments are summative in nature and allow our teachers to see the skills and concepts that our students have mastered during the unit of study.

The development of common assessments in elementary core subject areas and all secondary subjects will continue throughout the 2011-2012 school year. We are excited about being able to utilize the data obtained from these assessments to specifically address the academic strengths and areas of needed improvement for our students. These assessments help teachers ensure their students are reaching the curricular goals and help our teachers customize their instruction to the needs of the individual students within their classrooms.

Special Education Public Notice

The West Shore School District is required to identify students who may have disabilities. The required Public Notice for Child Find for the District is currently available online. Visit www.wssd.k12.pa.us and select the Departments tab to view the Special Education page and public notice. If you have difficulty accessing this or have questions, please contact Mrs. Rosemary Holecki, Coordinator of Special Education, at 938-9577 or email rholecki@wssd.k12.pa.us.



Working Toward Adequate Yearly Progress

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) mandates that schools and school districts achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on required statewide assessments. Adequate Yearly Progress is defined by a minimum percentage of students who meet or exceed academic proficiency standards in reading/language arts and mathematics on the Pennsylvania State System of Assessment (PSSA) in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11. Political discussions suggest that the requirements of this law may change in the near future, but until any changes are approved, the District will continue to comply with the existing requirements.

For 2011, the percent of the students taking the reading PSSA tests must have met or exceeded the proficiency standards. In reading, 72 percent of the students must have met or exceeded proficiency standards. In mathematics, 67 percent of the students must have met or exceeded proficiency standards. Those required percentages were raised for 2011 and will increase every year until 2014 when the current federal mandate calls for 100 percent proficiency in reading and mathematics for ALL students.

The district-level results for 2011 were as follows:

Reading Performance

Target - 72% Proficiency Level

District Grades 3-5.....	76.6%
District Grades 6-8.....	75.6%
District Grade 11	72.7%

Mathematics Performance

Target - 67% Proficiency Level

District Grades 3-5.....	81.3%
District Grades 6-8.....	72.4%
District Grade 11	61.2%

Each school as well as school district must meet these performance targets.

Every student subgroup, consisting of 40 or more students, must achieve the performance targets in reading/language arts and mathematics for the school and school district to be considered "making AYP."

Subgroups include the following:

- Students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- Economically Disadvantaged students
- Students with Limited English Proficiency
- Students representing various racial/ethnic groups

The District, as a whole, achieved AYP for 2011. The following schools met AYP: Fishing Creek Elementary School, Newberry Elementary School, Highland Elementary School, Hillside Elementary School, Mt. Zion Elementary School, Lower Allen Elementary School, Red Mill Elementary School, Rossmoyne Elementary School, Washington Heights Elementary School, and Red Land High School.

Schools in Warning (Did not meet AYP in 2011)

- **Fairview Elementary School** - The IEP and Economically Disadvantaged subgroups missed the reading and math performance targets.
- **Allen Middle School** - The IEP and Economically Disadvantaged subgroups missed the math performance target.
- **Crossroads Middle School** - The IEP subgroup missed the math performance target.
- **Lemoyne Middle School** - The IEP subgroup missed the reading and math performance targets.

- **New Cumberland Middle School** - The IEP and Economically Disadvantaged subgroups missed the math performance target.

Schools in School Improvement II

- **Cedar Cliff High School** was placed on School Improvement I in 2009 and was deemed to be “making progress” in 2010. Cedar Cliff High School did not make AYP in 2011 and is now in School Improvement II. In 2011, the school and its Hispanic, IEP, and Economically Disadvantaged subgroups missed the math performance target. The IEP and Economically Disadvantaged subgroups also missed the reading performance target.
- **Red Land High School**, which was placed in School Improvement II in 2010, made AYP in 2011 and is considered “making progress.”

All schools within the District are developing School Improvement Plans during the 2011-2012 school year. These plans will align with the District’s Comprehensive Strategic Planning efforts and will help schools meet the increasing student performance requirements of NCLB. Continued work with Response to Intervention and Instruction at the elementary level, increased academic time in the middle schools, realignment of the secondary math curricula (in progress), and focused work with struggling students will help increase student performance throughout the District.

NCLB legislation also mandates that schools and school districts meet established targets in attendance rates at the elementary and middle school level, graduation rates at the high school level, and participation rates at all levels. Participation rates are determined by the actual number of students who take the tests from the number of students who are “eligible” at that grade level to take the assessments.

All West Shore schools met the thresholds established for attendance or graduation rates and participation rates.

Attendance Rate

Target - 90% or growth from one year to the next if below 90%

District Attendance Rate 95.4%
as reported by PA Department of Education

Middle Schools

Allen Middle School 94.9%
Crossroads Middle School 95.1%
Lemoyne Middle School 94.8%
New Cumberland Middle School 94.9%

Elementary Schools

Fairview Elementary School..... 95.5%
Fishing Creek Elementary School..... 95.9%
Highland Elementary School..... 95.8%
Hillside Elementary School 95.9%
Newberry Elementary School 95.4%
Red Mill Elementary School..... 95.4%
Rossmoyne Elementary School 96.1%
Washington Heights Elementary School 95.1%

Lower Allen and Mt. Zion are not listed as they are K-2 schools and PSSAs are not administered at that level.

Attendance rates are from the 2009 - 2010 school year, the most current year for which the State provides data.

Graduation Rate

Target - 85% graduation rate or a 10% reduction of the difference between the previous year’s graduation rate and 85%

District Graduation Rate..... 89.8%
as reported by PA Department of Education

PSSA Participation Rate

Target - 95% student population

District Grades 3-5..... 99.8%
District Grades 6-8 99.8%
District Grades 11 99.8%



Mission Statement

The West Shore School District is committed to providing all students with a quality education to prepare them to be responsible and successful citizens.

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Superintendent
David M. Zuilkoski, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

West Shore School District

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The West Shore School District shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or disability, in accordance with Title VI-VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Act Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation of the Handicapped Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, in its educational and vocational programs and in its recruitment and employment practices. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, the ADA and the implementing regulations may be referred to the Director of Human Resources, 507 Fishing Creek Road, P. O. Box 803, New Cumberland, PA 17070-0803, telephone (717) 938-9577.

Welcoming the Class of 2025

The District will be conducting kindergarten registration March 26-29, 2012, at the Administration Center for Education. Students will be registered for kindergarten by appointment only. Please contact the building principal of the elementary school in your attendance area to schedule an appointment and obtain a registration packet. To be admitted to kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year, children must be at five years of age prior to October 1, 2012, and have an official birth certificate and proper immunization records.

Parents of a child turning five between October 1 and November 30, 2012, and petitioning the District for early admission must contact the school's guidance counselor prior to May 1, 2012, for necessary testing information.

Registering New Students

New registration, change of parent or guardian, and change of address for the District are conducted at the Administration Center for Education (ACE) by appointment only. Registration takes approximately one hour. Call 717-938-9577 or visit ACE to obtain an enrollment packet. Packets are also available in each school office.

Additional information about the District's Central Registration for new students is available online at www.wssd.k12.pa.us under the Our District tab on the About Us page.

Share Your Thoughts If you have a concern, question, suggestion, or solution, please share them with me. Send comments to: Jemry L. Small, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, West Shore School District, 507 Fishing Creek Road, P.O. Box 803, New Cumberland, PA 17070; call: 717-938-9577; or e-mail: jsmall@wssd.k12.pa.us.