

January 22, 2025

Dear DC Public Schools (DCPS) Families,

A year ago, DCPS launched its five-year strategic plan, which is committed to ensuring students are mathematically strong, reading and writing proficiently across all grade levels, and are prepared for post-secondary success. Student assessment data is a critical resource for achieving these goals—which DCPS utilizes to inform educator training and provide resources that support student learning.

**To maintain the validity and reliability of the testing data, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) requires that all student assessments are conducted in-person.** Students may be exempt from in-person testing with an OSSE-approved medical exemption, if they are part of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), or if they are an English learner.

While each school will determine exact testing dates, students will take the following assessments in Spring 2025:

- **District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessments of Progress in Education (DC CAPE):** March 31 to May 23, 2025  
*Students in grades 3–8 and secondary students enrolled in Algebra I/II, Geometry, and English I/II will take the DC CAPE Assessment.*
- **DC Science:** March 31 to May 23, 2025  
*The DC Science Assessment is administered to students in grades 5 and 8 and those enrolled in high school biology.*

Students approved by OSSE to take alternate assessments and English language proficiency assessments will take the appropriate assessment(s) in Spring 2025:

- ACCESS (language proficiency test): February 10 to March 21, 2025
- Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): March 10 to April 25, 2025 (alternate assessment for science)
- Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA): March 10 to April 25, 2025 (alternate assessment for math or literacy)

Your child's assessment and academic success begins at home. Please help empower your student by ensuring they attend school every day and utilize the assessment resources from [osse.dc.gov/assessments](https://osse.dc.gov/assessments), which include [practice tests](#) and other [helpful resources](#).

Please reach out to your school if you have any questions. I wish you and your child the best of luck this assessment season and throughout School Year 2024-2025!

In partnership,



Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.  
Chancellor, DC Public Schools