



March 30, 2021

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Upon the start of the 2020-2021 school year Statewide Assessment information was not available, but we have been monitoring it throughout the year. Updates were released in November, December, February and most recently on March 17, 2021. From the memo in March, the following was stated:

On or before March 19, 2021, the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE) will submit a detailed request for a complete waiver of the requirement to administer statewide assessments for the 2020-2021 school year. While the NJDOE is pursuing all flexibilities possible via the waiver process, school communities must prepare for all contingencies. Under federal law, the United States Department of Education (USED) has 120 days from submission to respond to NJDOE's waiver request. If the waiver is denied or is still pending as of the scheduled dates for administration, spring assessment administration will move forward as required by federal law. For this reason, the NJDOE will resume a significantly amended statewide assessment administration this spring.

Currently, our school uses the Dynamic Learning Maps® (DLM®) alternate assessment for our students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA).

As of the date of this letter, the waiver is still pending and spring testing is moving forward. The following indicate the type of test and dates:

Statewide Assessment	Original Start Date	New Testing Window
DLM	March 8, 2021	April 5, 2021 to June 11, 2021 *BCSSSD will begin April 19th and end on June 4th
NJSLA Math, ELA, Science	March 15, 2021	May 3, 2021 to June 11, 2021



Throughout this past school year at Burlington County Special Services your child has been provided academic instruction in English language arts, mathematics, and science using the NJ state learning standards.

Guidance has been provided that **only in-person students** may participate in the DLM Assessment. *Per your child's IEP, if they are scheduled to participate in the DLM testing, then families have the option to bring their child to the school to participate in testing.* When we return from spring break, you will receive a follow-up letter/ email where you can indicate if you would like your child to come on-site to participate in the testing.

For the NJSLA testing, **both in-person and virtual students** may participate in the testing. Further guidance will be provided after spring break.

If you would like additional information about the Dynamic Learning Maps alternate assessment, please visit <http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/>.

If you would like additional information about the NJSLA assessment, please visit <https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/resources/> and select NJSLA Resources for Parents.

If you have questions, please contact me at 609-261-5600 x2104 or via e-mail khardgrove@burlcoschools.org

Sincerely,

Katie Hardgrove, M. Ed

Katie Hardgrove- Acting Principal at BCSSSD, High School Supervisor of Education & District Test Coordinator