



Gloucester County Public Schools
The Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center
Office of Assessment
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Dear GCPS Families of Students in Grade 3-8:

A recent State Superintendent's Memo (#221-21, dated 8/13/21) provides an update on the new Fall Growth Assessments (FGA) required by General Assembly legislation. These new "pre" assessments in Grade 3-8 Reading and Mathematics are designed to assist educators in identifying unfinished learning from the previous school year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The FGA is computer-adaptive and shorter than traditional SOL assessments taken during May or June each year.

The GCPS testing window for these Fall assessments is September 13 – October 1. Each school will develop a schedule and anticipate one day of assessment for each content area, very similar to existing STAR Math and Reading assessments. School-specific plans for these assessments will be communicated by each school Principal. As usual, all assessments are to be administered under secure, standardized conditions in the presence of school personnel.

Student Assessment and Reporting Details:

- Grades 3-8: Students will complete a mathematics and reading growth assessment based on content from their spring grade-level enrollment (Ex. Grade 3 student will see Grade 2 content for math and reading; Grade 5 student will see Grade 4 content, etc.).
 - *All Grade 6 students will complete the Fall Grade 6 Growth mathematics assessment (e.g., based on Grade 5 mathematics content), regardless of course enrollment for 2021-2022.
 - **Grade 7 & 8 students enrolled in a high school course for mathematics (Algebra 1 or Geometry) will NOT participate in a Fall Growth Assessment for mathematics, but will complete the Reading assessment for their grade level.
- All students will then complete their regularly scheduled Spring SOL assessment.
- Student performance will include a Vertical Scaled Score that can show growth over time between Fall 2021 and Spring 2022; performance will also provide standards-based information but not an overall performance level like traditional Spring SOL performance reports.

If you have questions about these requirements or your school's assessment schedule, please contact your school's Main Office and ask to speak to the Assistant Principal who serves as the School Testing Coordinator. If you have additional questions after speaking to your school's Test Coordinator, please contact Dr. Bess Worley, Director of Assessment & Evaluation, 804-693-7498.