



## PARENT/GUARDIAN REFUSAL INFORMATION FOR THE VIRGINIA ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

### General Information

For the 2020-2021 school year, the United States Department of Education (USDE) and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will not be providing any waivers to accountability or graduation requirements as they did last school year in response to the closure of schools in March of 2020 due to COVID-19.

Virginia does not have an assessment opt-out provision; however, parents/guardians may refuse to permit their student to participate in one, some, or all of Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments or the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP). Annual refusals must be made in writing, using this form, and must be retained in the student's Scholastic Record.

The [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#) requires that school divisions assess students annually in Reading and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and once in Science at the elementary and middle school level. High school students (grades 9-12) must be assessed once in Reading, Mathematics, and Science during their high school tenure.

Virginia's revised [Standards of Accreditation](#) require that school divisions assess students annually in Reading and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and once in Science and History at the elementary and middle school level. Middle school students must also be assessed once in Writing. High school students (grades 9-12) must be assessed as determined by their [diploma requirements](#) and as directed by ESSA.

The revised Standards of Accreditation also state that "students shall not be required to take an end-of-course SOL test in an academic subject after they have earned the number of verified credits required for that academic content area for graduation, unless such test is necessary in order for the school to meet federal accountability requirements." Examples of tests for federal accountability include:

- Eighth grade students enrolled in Geometry are expected to take the Geometry SOL test even though they may have already earned the mathematics verified credit they need for their diploma.
- Ninth grade students enrolled in Geometry or Algebra II are expected to take the corresponding SOL test even though they may have already earned the mathematics verified credit they need for their diploma.
- Tenth or eleventh grade students enrolled in Biology are expected to take the Biology SOL test even though they may have already earned the science verified credit they need for their diploma.

For the 2020-2021 school year, a student's SOL assessment record will be coded as "Parent Refusal" and will be shown on the student's score report as an "NS" or "No Score." A parent/guardian refusal will have no impact on the student's grade in the course or promotion to the next grade/course.

However, parents and guardians should be aware that receiving a passing score on an end-of-course (EOC) SOL assessment may be required for a student to earn verified credit toward his/her diploma. This means that a student may need to take the SOL assessment for the course next year if the parent/guardian refuses that the student take the test this school year. Parents and guardians with questions about this should speak to their student's school counselor.

### **2020-2021 School Year - Poquoson Online Students Only**

For our Poquoson Online students in grades 3-8, the VDOE recently announced the option for fully virtual students to complete the Virginia Remote Student Progress Test (VRSPT) in the place of the SOL assessment. The VRSPT can be completed by the student at home, however, it does not count as an SOL assessment. Parents will also have the option to refuse this assessment for their student in the Parent Portal.

### **How to Submit a Parent/Guardian Refusal Form**

PCPS makes this form available to parents and guardians through PowerSchool. This process is similar to the process parents/guardians have used to complete other PCPS forms. Using your specific Parent Portal log-in and password, follow the directions in the link below to access the Parent/Guardian Refusal Form.

[Directions on How to Electronically Sign a Form in PowerSchool](#)

Important Details:

- A form will need to be completed for each child enrolled in PCPS.
- The specific SOL assessments the parent/guardian is refusing must be checked on the form.
- Parents/Guardians may refuse for their child to take one, some, or all of the SOL assessments they need for this school year (2020-2021).

### **Questions Regarding the Parent/Guardian Refusal**

Please contact your student's school testing coordinator, his/her school counselor, a school administrator, or the Division's Director of Accountability, Student Achievement and Technology if you have any questions about SOL Assessments.

#### **School Phone Numbers & Testing Coordinators**

*Primary School*

(757) 868-4403

Ms. Courtney Spence

*Elementary School*

(757) 868-6921

Ms. Ruth Marie Cason

*Middle School*

(757) 868-6031

Ms. Kay Aultman

*High School*

(757) 868-7123

Ms. Patricia Owens