



March 9, 2021

Dear PCPS Parent/Guardian and Students:

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) requires that state and federal assessments be delivered under secure, standardized testing conditions in the presence of school personnel and may not be administered remotely to students. Students in any instructional model (Continuum or Poquoson Online) must be present in-person to participate in Standards of Learning (SOL) testing.

To support the health and safety of our students and staff, Poquoson City Public Schools (PCPS) will ensure that health mitigation strategies are in place, to include requiring the use of masks and physical distancing. Transportation will be provided to students as needed.

PCPS will be administering the Spring Writing SOL test to students enrolled in Grade 8 English and English 11 in April of 2021 and the Spring Non-Writing SOL tests to students in grades 3-12 in May of 2021. Specific testing schedules will be released in the coming month.

PCPS encourages all students to participate in SOL assessments; however, we understand that some families may have concerns about the in-person testing requirement. Parents who do not wish for their student to participate in state and/or federally mandated assessments may indicate their refusal by completing the PCPS Parent Refusal for SOL/VAAP Testing Form.

By Tuesday, March 16, PCPS is asking all parents who wish to submit a PCPS Parent Refusal for Testing Form in the Parent Portal. Instructions on how to access this form in your Parent Portal account can be found [HERE](#). (To complete and submit a form, parents should access Parent Portal from a web browser, rather than using the app on a phone.)

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.

It is important to note that students enrolled in a high school level course must accrue standard credits by passing a course and verified credits by passing an SOL test or board-approved [substitute tests](#) toward graduation. Additional information about verified credits can be found in the 2020-2021 Poquoson City Public Schools [Secondary Program of Studies](#).

Questions regarding assessment administration or requirements may be addressed to your child's school counselor, the School Based Testing Coordinator, or the PCPS Director of Accountability, Student Achievement, and Technology.

Poquoson Elementary Testing Coordinator
Ms. Ruth Marie Cason
ruth-marie.cason@poquoson.k12.va.us
(757) 868-6921

Poquoson Middle School Testing Coordinator
Ms. Kay Aultman
kay.aultman@poquoson.k12.va.us
(795) 868-6031

Poquoson High School Testing Coordinator
Ms. Patricia Owens
patricia.owens@poquoson.k12.va.us
(757) 868-6321

Director of Accountability, Student Achievement and Technology
Dr. Brandon Ratliff
brandon.ratliff@poquoson.k12.va.us
(757) 868-3055