



**Gloucester County Public Schools**  
**The Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center**  
**Office of Assessment**  
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March 26, 2021

Dear GCPS Families of Students in Grade 3-8:

The GCPS testing window for Spring Non-Writing SOL Testing is May 17 – June 16, 2021. Each school has a Testing Coordinator who will be developing a schedule with appropriate health and safety protocols. School-specific plans for Spring SOL Testing will be communicated by each school Principal. As usual, all regular SOL tests are to be administered under secure, standardized testing conditions in the presence of school personnel. SOL tests are not to be administered remotely to students in a virtual school environment.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has provided updated guidance for implementing SOL tests to students throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. Reflecting the recent February 22<sup>nd</sup> guidance from the United States Department of Education, VDOE has re-emphasized a commitment to continued flexibility where possible with state assessment options. This flexibility has included extending state and local test administration windows, the *Emergency Guidelines* providing multiple options for high school students to earn verified credits for graduation, and Local Alternate Assessment (LAA) options for Grade 4 Virginia Studies and Grade 8 Civics and Writing.

**Student Testing Requirements:**

- Grades 3-8: Students will complete a mathematics and reading SOL test for federal accountability. This includes Algebra 1 and Geometry for middle school students enrolled in those courses.
- Grade 5 and Grade 8: Students will complete a science SOL test for federal accountability.
- NEW for 2020-2021: Grade 4 Virginia Studies, and Grade 8 Civics and Grade 8 Writing will complete a set of Local Alternate Assessment (LAA) in lieu of the traditional SOL test at the end of the school year.
- As usual, since 2014-2015, Grade 6 & 7 students will complete the annual Local Alternate Assessment (LAA) for Social Studies, Grade 3 students will complete the annual LAA for Science and Social Studies, and Grade 5 students will complete the annual LAA for Writing.

Grade Level	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Social Studies/History
3	YES	YES	YES - LAA	YES - LAA
4	YES	YES	NONE	<b>NEW YES - LAA</b>
5*	YES	YES	YES	NONE
6	YES	YES	NONE	YES - LAA
7	YES	YES	NONE	YES - LAA
8*	YES	YES	YES	<b>NEW YES - LAA</b>

\*Grade 8 will also complete a Local Alternative Assessment (LAA) for Writing for 2020-2021; Grade 5 Writing has been an LAA since 2014-2015.

All students attending classes in person will be scheduled to complete required assessments on the days they attend school. Virtual students will be scheduled to complete required SOL tests as communicated by the School Test Coordinator.

If you have questions about these requirements or your school’s testing schedule, please contact your school’s Main Office and ask to speak to the School Test 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.