

February 11, 2021

Dear EBRPSS Families,

As a continuous learning organization, it is our essential duty to measure teaching and learning across our district. As a public-school system, state testing is mandated by state and federal requirements. During the spring of 2020, these requirements were waived for Louisiana school districts. As the State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Cade Brumley stated in a February 1, 2021 letter to school system superintendents, "Test participation remains a requirement... we do not currently plan to seek a waiver from this federal requirement." Currently, our team is proactively preparing for a safe and appropriate testing environment. The long list of measures taken across the district will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Social distanced testing areas with group sizes following state and CDC guidelines
- Frequent cleaning and sanitizing of high touch surfaces and materials in the testing areas at appropriate intervals such as break times and transitions
- Use of personal protective equipment such as hand sanitizers, cleaning wipes, and the required use of masks
- Temperature check screenings for all those present on the school/ testing site

Participation in state testing is extremely important. State policy requires that students take statewide assessments at an approved district testing site and does not allow for remote participation at this time. **Any students from grades 3-12 who do not participate in state testing will receive a zero on the assessment.** The Louisiana Department of Education specifies that state assessments for high school students account for required percentages of a student's final grade. Furthermore, passing scores on LEAP 2025 exams are a part of the high school graduation requirements for students in 9-12 grade.

Our team understands the concerns that families may have regarding testing this spring. For this reason, I am approving for principals to flex into hybrid or virtual learning modes during the testing windows in order to minimize the number of persons on campus at any one time and to keep the testing environment safe. By the first week in April, your child's school will notify you of their school's testing schedule and days that would require certain students to learn virtually. I have directed them to keep this to a minimal time frame. We regret any hardship this may cause on families due to child care needs, but believe this is essential to providing a safe and conducive testing environment. In all that we do, the safety of our students and staff remain our top priority. In the upcoming weeks, your child's school will be sending out additional communication regarding their school's testing schedules. Please address any specific questions you may have to your child's principal, and our team will support them in assisting you. As your child's first teacher, we thank you for being an essential part of our teaching and learning team.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sito Narcisse, Superintendent of Schools