

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19130

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

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March 13, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The School District has entered a very critical part of our school year where consistent student attendance is critical. It is difficult for schools to maintain a consistent student body enrollment and prepare students for the standardized test, if students are frequently transferring between schools. To that end, we are seeking your support and cooperation with a moratorium on student transfers between School District of Philadelphia schools that was recently implemented. This means that transfers of students from one Philadelphia School District school to another will be strongly discouraged from March 11-May 3 for elementary and middle schools and March 11-May 24 for high school. Only transfers based on extreme circumstances will be considered and each will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

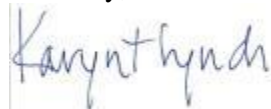
The school community has begun to administer state mandated standardized tests called the PSSAs (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) in grades 3-8. Following the PSSAs, high school students will be taking the Keystone Examinations, which are state mandated end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in various subjects. Below is a complete schedule of the testing dates.

March 11-15	PSSA Writing	Grades 5-8
March 18-22	PSSA Writing Make-Up Testing	Grades 5-8
April 8-19	PSSA Math and Reading	Grades 3-8
April 22-26	PSSA Science	Grades 4-8
April 29-May 3	PSSA Make-Up Testing in Math, Reading, and Science	Grades 3-8
May 13-24	Keystone Testing- Algebra I, Biology, and Literature	Grades 9-12

These tests are extremely important. The results are used to determine how well students are performing on grade level in math, reading, writing, and science. The results are also used to make major decisions about the strategies implemented to improve students' academic success in schools.

Please keep this moratorium in mind as you make personal and family plans that may impact your child's school assignment or attendance in school. Thank you for partnering with us as we work together to prepare and administer high stakes test to all students. Please feel free to contact your school's principal should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Karyn T. Lynch
Chief, Student Support Services

c: Assistant Superintendents
All Principals

Translated versions of this document are available at: www.philasd.org/translation