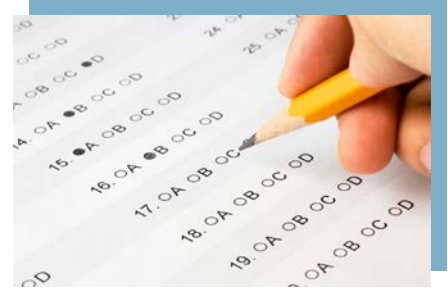


Southeast Delco School District

Board & Community Update

Pennsylvania System of School Assessments

In 1999, Pennsylvania adopted academic standards for Reading, Writing, Science, Mathematics, and Speaking and Listening. These standards identify what a student should know and be able to do at varying grade levels. Each year schools provide testing to students to assess if students have mastered the content articulated in the standards.



Students across the state will participate in the annual Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA.) PSSA Reading & Math assessments will be administered to students in grades 3 through 8 on March 24 - 28. Writing assessments will be administered to students in grades 5 & 8 on April 8 – 10, and grades 4 & 8 will take Science assessments on April 29 & 30.

The PSSA has four scoring categories: Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. These categories are used to provide feedback to students and parents in specific subject areas. The scores are also used to determine reward, focus, and priority Title I schools pertaining to school improvement efforts under the School Performance Profile.

The state provides a School Performance Profile, or SPP, score for every school in the Commonwealth. These scores are a combination of achievement scores, attendance data, course offerings, and other school-related data points. Each score is reported to the public as a means to provide feedback on a school's performance. The score is also used towards teacher evaluations under the Educator Effectiveness model.

We look forward to the results of this year's testing and will continue to make every effort to improve student and school scores at every level.

Work on the Budget Continues



Administration continues to work on the 2014 / 2015 budget. The preliminary budget was adopted at the January board meeting. According to the ACT 1 timeline developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, there are two budget adoptions remaining. The proposed final budget will need to be adopted at the April board meeting, followed by the final budget adoption at the May board meeting.

The budget remains a work in progress. At this time, the district is still waiting for information on federal grants and final subsidy amounts from the state. The March Committee of the Whole meeting will include a budget update.

Employee Insurance Premiums

Last week, the district received employee insurance premium rates for medical, prescription, dental, and vision coverage effective July 1, 2014. Three of the four plans saw an increase in premium.

- Health Insurance premiums for Keystone Direct Point-of-Service C1F1O1 will increase by 9.60%.
- Prescription insurance premiums for Express Scripts \$15/\$30/\$45 will increase by 31.28%.
- Vision insurance premiums for National Vision Administrators will increase by 7.57%.
- Dental insurance premiums for United Concordia have shown no increase and will remain the same.

The district provides what are called core insurance plans and buy-up insurance plans for our employees. If an employee selects the buy-up plan, they must pay the difference between the buy-up premium and the core plan premium. Therefore, the premium increases listed are for the core plans only and those are the numbers used to create the budget.

Staffing Requests for Fiscal Year 2014 / 2015

Members of the superintendent’s cabinet have submitted to the superintendent and business manager a proposal for staffing needs for the 2014 / 2015 school year. For the past three fiscal years, budget constraints have required the district to make reductions in staff. This coming year, the district has a need for several new positions. These new positions are necessary due to an increase in student enrollment in regular education or to meet special education legal requirements such as caseload limits or class size limits.



Following is a brief summary of what has been requested. Some of the positions will be filled through internal transfers, while others will need to be filled with new hires.

Professional Staff

Academy Park High School

New Reading Specialist
 New Social Studies teacher
 New cyber school teacher

Darby Township School

Professional staffing levels remain the same

Delcroft School

New autistic support teacher
 New speech and language therapist
 New classroom teacher for 2nd grade

Harris School

New classroom teacher for 3rd grade

Sharon Hill School

New classroom teacher for 1st grade

Kindergarten Center

Professional staffing levels remain the same

Support Staff

Academy Park High School

New special education classroom aide
 (5.5 hours / 190 days)

Darby Township School

Support staffing levels remain the same

Delcroft School

New special education classroom aide
 (5.5 hours / 190 days)
 New special education classroom aide
 (5.5 hours / 190 days)

Harris School

Support staffing levels remain the same

Sharon Hill School

Support staffing levels remain the same

Kindergarten Center

Support staffing levels remain the same

Future Board Meetings

Committee of the Whole	Thursday, March 20, 2014	6:00 PM
Board Business	Thursday, March 27, 2014	7:00 PM

School Events

- *Rising Scholars Meeting – March 22nd – 8:00 AM to Noon – APHS*
- *PSSA Reading & Mathematics Testing – March 24th through March 28th – Grades 3 – 8*
- *Early Dismissal – March 24th through March 28th – 1:30 PM – Grades K – 8*
- *End of 3rd Marking Period – March 26th*
- *Early Dismissal – District-wide – April 2nd*
- *Parent / Teacher Conferences – April 2nd*
- *Rising Scholars Meeting – April 5th – 8:00 AM to Noon – APHS*
- *Parent University*
 - *Alcohol Abuse Awareness – April 8th (tentative date) – 6:00 PM – Sharon Hill School*
 - *Center for Safe Schools – Bullying Awareness—April 8th – 6:00 PM – Academy Park HS*
- *PSSA Writing Testing – Grades 5 & 8 – April 8th through April 10th*
- *Spring Break – No School for Students – April 14th through April 18th*
- *PSSA Science Testing – Grades 4 & 8 – April 29th and April 30th*
- *Save the Date: District Family Literacy Night – May 28th at Darby Township School*