



Dear Third Grade Parents,

In 2014, the General Assembly amended Virginia code [22.1-253.13.3 C](#) to eliminate the state developed Standards of Learning online multiple choice assessments and replace them with locally developed alternative assessments. Like the SOL assessments, the Local Alternative Assessments are designed to measure student learning of the content standards.

In accordance with the Virginia Department of Education, all students in third grade must take alternative assessments to replace the eliminated Virginia Standards of Learning assessments that assessed the social studies and science standards for grade three. The Local Alternative Assessments are meant to engage students in critical thinking and use evidence to perform the assigned task.

Newport News Public Schools administers Local Alternative Assessments to all third-grade students in the contents of science and social studies.

Teachers will notify families of the student's academic performance after each assessment has been administered.

Local Performance Assessments will be administered to all third-grade students at the end of each social studies and science unit. The Local Alternative Assessments to be administered include:

- Unit 1- Civics
- Unit 2- Force, Motion, and Energy
- Unit 3- Matter
- Unit 4- History and Geography
- Unit 5- Living Systems
- Unit 6- Earth's Resources
- Unit 7- Earth and Space Systems
- Unit 8- Economics

Thank you for your support,

The NNPS Curriculum and Development Department