



## **ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

April 27, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last month we shared with you that the state of New Jersey had filed for a waiver with the United States Department of Education (USED) regarding this spring's statewide assessments. On April 14th, the New Jersey Department of Education announced that their request for a waiver had been approved, and thus, they officially cancelled the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment or NJSLA for the 2020-21 school year. The USED, however, is still requiring the NJDOE to administer the ACCESS for ELLS (English Language Learners) and the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) for targeted students.

In place of the NJSLA, the state will administer its "Start Strong" Assessments in the fall of 2021 to all students in English Language Arts (ELA) grades 4-10, Mathematics grades 4-8, Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra II, and in Science Grades 6, 9 and 12. This flexibility is only being offered for the 20-21 school year due to the impact of COVID-19. This is the second year in a row that the standardized achievement tests have been cancelled due to the coronavirus. As of now, the "Stay Strong" assessments will be administered in person from September 13, 2021 through October 22, 2021. When the district receives more information from the state, regarding actual test logistics, we will certainly share all details with parents and families of students in grades 4-8.

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Alpaugh  
Superintendent