



January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is pleased to inform you that your child will be taking the next round of district Benchmark and/or Formative Assessment System Test (FAST) Assessments. The Benchmark and FAST assessment administrations will take place beginning on January 25th and go through February 19th. PGCPS will be using the Pearson TestNav platform to administer the Benchmark and FAST Assessments. Your child's teacher will be communicating with you and your child to provide technological support, logistics, and steps on how to access the assessments in the Pearson TestNav platform.

The assessments will cover the four major content areas of Mathematics, Reading/English/Language Arts (RELA), Science, and Social Studies. The testing program includes:

- RELA Benchmark assessments administered to students in grades 3 through 10.
- Mathematics Benchmark Assessments administered to students in grades K through 10.
- FAST Science assessments in grades 5, 8, and select high school courses and FAST Social Studies assessments in select high school courses will be administered.

The purpose of these assessments is to provide instructional tools for teachers to see what your child learned following recent instruction. No grades will be assigned based on these assessment results. The results of the Benchmark and/or FAST Assessments will be used by teachers and schools to enhance instruction on skills your child is learning in the classroom.

Your child will need your support by helping them select a quiet place to complete each assessment and removing all non-testing materials such as phones, textbooks, and notebooks to minimize distractions. Your child may also need your assistance with connecting to the appropriate technology platforms and applications. It is critical that your child take each assessment independently, with no assistance provided within the remote learning setting, so they can show what they have learned from the first quarter's instruction. We are truly excited to provide the best e-learning opportunity and continue to support your child's educational needs.

For more information on the assessment platform or technical assistance, please;

- Visit the PGCPS Distance Learning Site
<https://www.pgcps.org/offices/testing-research-and-evaluation/testing-resources>
- Visit the Distance Learning Parent Resources
<https://sites.google.com/pgcps.org/dl-parentresources/home?authuser=2>
- Visit the PGCPS Student Portal
<https://www.pgcps.org/offices/testing-research-and-evaluation/login-to-testing>
- Use the Parent Center Hotline. The Parent Center Hotline is available for parents to receive live support, request hotspots, and schedule appointments on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 am - 10:00 am and 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. The Parent Center Hotline phone number is 240-696-3315. The email address is pgcps.family@pgcps.org.
- Use the Distance Learning Support Hotline. The Distance Learning Support Hotline is available for parents to call for technical support and distance learning assistance. A live person is available Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. The Distance Learning Hotline phone number is: 240-696-6229. For Distance Learning Assistance: Press 1. For Technical Support: Press 2.