

To: Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee of the Warren County School
District Board of Directors
From: Janet Peterson, Science Coordinator
Date:
Re: K-12 Science Curriculum

The science PSSA assessment requirement for Pennsylvania was mandated by Act 16 (the Empowerment Act) in 2000.

Our current science planned instructions were updated, revised or rewritten in 2001/02 after the release and final approval of the Science, Technology, Environment and Ecology(STEE) Pennsylvania State Standards. We designed our curriculum map and planned instruction based on the STEE standards and the benchmarks at grades 4, 7, 10, and 12 as prescribed by the standards. At that point in time, the expected testing grades were 4, 7, and 10. The STEE PSSA had been field tested and was ready to become operational in 2003.

Due to the implementation of NCLB, the STEE PSSA was postponed. During this time period, PDE developed assessment anchors, eligible content and item samplers for math and reading to focus on the specific standards and content to be tested by the PSSA. Additional resource materials were developed to aid educators in understanding PSSA data. PDE developed specific instructional materials and strategies for preparing students for attaining the proficient performance level on the reading, math and writing PSSAs.

Finally, PDE has released some of the same resource materials, the assessment anchors and eligible content, for the science PSSA. **The science PSSA test is only two years away!**

The following information is known about the Science PSSA

- Testing dates: Voluntary Field Test-Spring 2007
Operational Test-Spring 2008
- Testing grades: **Grades 4, 8, and 11** (changed from 4, 7, and 10)
- Assessment anchors and eligible content: Released Aug. 31/Sept. 1, 2005

Following the district's schedule for curriculum review, the science curriculum review would be scheduled for 2007-08 with implementation in 2008-2009.

So that WCSD students will be successful on the science PSSA, the K-12 science curriculum needs to be reviewed, realigned(course offerings may be affected) with materials purchased and in place for the 2007-08 school year.

Please keep in mind that while the science PSSA scores are not used for calculating AYP, similar sanctions may be imposed upon the district due to Act 16, the Empowerment Act.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via e-mail at petersonj@wcsdpa.org.
Thank you.