

SOL Testing at Rocky Run

Spring 2021

Why are SOL tests given at Rocky Run and in Virginia?

- Federal law requires schools to give SOL tests in Reading, Mathematics, and Science.
- State policy requires schools to use local alternative assessments in grade levels and content areas where SOL tests have been removed.
- SOL tests measure what students have learned of the content and skills detailed in the Virginia Standards of Learning.
- Tests provide information about student achievement to the parent, school, school division, and state.



SOL Testing, Spring 2021

Because of COVID-19, the state has offered to FCPS flexibility in testing by:

- **Reduced testing:** FCPS is using a state waiver to remove two SOL tests in Grade 8 for Writing and Civics/Economics.
- **Extended window:** Schools have more time available to schedule SOL tests. This is important for social-distanced testing, using days when students are already in the building where possible.
- **COVID-refusal option:** A new state policy allows parents to refuse a SOL test without the student receiving a “o” score.
- **Remote test:** For students attending virtually, a new progress monitoring test will be offered if parents refuse the SOL test.

What Content Areas are Assessed at Rocky Run?

Grade	SOL Tests	Local Alternative Assessments
7	Reading, Mathematics*	Social Studies
8	Reading, Mathematics*, Science	Writing, Social Studies

** For middle school students enrolled in a high school credit-bearing mathematics course, the Algebra 1, Geometry, or Algebra 2 SOL test is used to fulfill the federal testing requirement.*

What SOL Tests will be given this year?

- Reading 7
 - Reading 8
 - Math 7
 - Math 8
 - Science 8
 - Algebra 1*
 - Algebra 2 *
 - Geometry *
- * Verified credit for HS credit bearing courses

Writing 8 and Civics SOL tests have been replaced by alternate assessments this year. There will be no SOL test record for students completing these assessments.

Does my child have to take the SOL test at Rocky Run?

- All SOL Tests have to be taken in person as there is no option for remote testing at home.
- If your child is scheduled to be in person at Rocky Run, then they will be tested on the day that they are scheduled to attend.
- If your child is participating in full-time virtual learning, then they will have to come to Rocky Run to take the SOL test.
- Families have the right to refuse testing this spring.
 - This is a **personal choice** for you and your child.



What are the Scheduled Dates for Testing?

- The scheduled dates established by VDOE are from **April 26 – June 4, 2021**.
- Testing at Rocky Run is tentatively scheduled as follows:
 - Reading 7 & 8 – Week of May 3 – 7
 - Science 8 – Week of May 10 – 14
 - Math – Week of May 17–21
 - Most virtual students will be tested on Mondays
- The week of **May 31 – June 4, 2021** is for Expedited Retakes.
 - Expedited Retakes for this year will be for Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry only.



SOL Test Options for this year

- Have your child take the SOL test when it is scheduled.
- **Parents can refuse to have their child test under the COVID-19 Guidelines.**
- **Parents can refuse to have their child test for reasons other than COVID-19.**
- Those families who choose to refuse the grade 7-8 SOL Reading and Mathematics test for their virtual student, will have the opportunity to have their student complete [The Virginia Remote Student Progress Monitoring Test.](#)



What Happens if I Choose the COVID-19 Option for my Child?

- If you choose not to have your child test this year on an SOL test, then it will be listed as a Non-Score (NS) for the year.
 - There will be a footnote that the student did not take the test due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- If you choose not to have your child take an SOL test that has a verified credit (Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry):
 - The same listing will still apply as stated above.
 - They can take the appropriate SOL test in the Fall of 2021 either at Rocky Run (if your child is a rising 8th grade student) or at the high school your child will be attending (as a rising 9th grade student).
 - Keep in mind that the high school testing timeline may vary from school to school.
 - Knowledge retention could be a factor in taking the SOL test.

What Happens if I Choose the COVID-19 Option for my Child?

- If you choose not to have your child take an SOL test that has a verified credit (Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry):
 - Your child can bypass taking the SOL and take the next level SOL test in the Spring of 2022 as only one verified credit in Math is required for the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas at the high school level.
 - Your child would get the standard credit for the previous Math class, but would get both the standard and verified credit for the class that they would take the Math SOL test.
 - If your child has completed Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry at the middle school level, the verified credit can be met by taking an AP level math class or take the SAT test in high school.
 - This year, Spring 2021, students that score between a 350-399 will be automatically awarded a locally verified credit or “LVC” that counts as the verified credit needed for graduation.
 - Below 400 is still considered “failing” on the SOL, but from 350-399 (this year) is still high enough to count for the LVC.

Can I Refuse To Have My Child Take Some, But Not All SOL Tests?

- The answer is Yes
 - For example:
 - A parent can choose for their child not to take the Reading 7 SOL test, but can allow their child to take Algebra 1 SOL test .

What if my child is an in-person student and I do not want them to take an SOL test?

- The same guidelines would apply if you use the Covid-19 option to exclude your child from SOL testing.
- On the scheduled testing day, your child will attend classes at Rocky Run as normal.



If My Child Attends Their Classes Online, When Would They Take the SOL Test?

- Rocky Run will be testing all online students on Mondays.
- The bell schedule will be different than the in-person student bell schedule
- If your child lives more than 1 ½ miles in walking distance from Rocky Run, we will be able to provide bus transportation.



How do I Share My Decision to Refuse Testing?

- Should you want your child to refuse testing this year, please fill out [Rocky Run Middle School SOL COVID-19 Refusal Option Form](#) by March 31, 2021.
- If you do not want to refuse testing for your child, the form does not need to be filled out.
- Finalized testing schedules and dates will be released as soon as we can.

Helpful Website Links

- [Student Tests and Assessments](#)
- [Assessment Information for Families](#)
- [Assessment Notifications](#)
- [Health and Safety Protocols for Assessments](#)
- [Right to Refuse Assessments](#)

Questions? Contact Dr. Karl Gussow, School Test Coordinator
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Questions
