



# FSD 145

Freeport School District

---

**DR. DUANE MEIGHAN**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Of Curriculum and  
Instruction  
Central Office

**SUE VALKEMA**  
Administrative Assistant

**TOM ELZEN**  
Director of Technology

**TARA HERSEY**  
Curriculum Coordinator  
For Math and PreK-12

**TIM MANGAN**  
Technology Integration  
Coordinator

**CHRIS PFEIFFER**  
Curriculum Coordinator  
For ELA-PreK-12 and  
Social Studies

**PAT SCHNEIDER**  
Curriculum Coordinator  
for Science and Advanced  
Learning

**TAMMY SHIPPERT**  
Curriculum Coordinator  
Assessment, Research and  
Accountability and Title I

**CHRIS WALOCHA**  
Curriculum Coordinator  
For 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning,  
IB and Kindergarten

March 16, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We appreciate your investment in your child's education and want to share with you some information about state and federally required assessments.

Federal law requires the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to administer certain assessments to **all students** who attend public schools in the state, including students who attend charter schools.

According to federal law:

- Students must take an achievement exam in reading/language arts and mathematics each year from **third through eighth grade**. In Illinois, students take the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (**PARCC**) exam.
- Students must take an achievement exam in reading/language arts and mathematics once in high school. In Illinois, **high school juniors** take the **SAT**.
- Students must take an achievement exam in science three times from third through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. In Illinois, students take the **Illinois Science Assessment** in **fifth grade, eighth grade, and after completing Biology I in high school**.
- Students identified as English Learners must take an English language proficiency exam once per year until English proficiency is reached. In Illinois, **English Learners** take **ACCESS**.
- Students with the most severe cognitive disabilities take alternate assessments in reading/language arts, mathematics and science. In Illinois, **students with severe cognitive disabilities** take the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (**DLM-AA**).

These are the only ISBE-required student achievement assessments.

Assessments help improve standards, curriculum, and instruction at the classroom, school, district, and state levels. Assessments play a role in helping ISBE and school districts identify areas where schools need targeted support. The average amount of time spent on accountability assessments represents **less than 1 percent of the school year**.

However, we want educators and students to devote as much time as possible to learning, not testing. We are working with districts and schools to evaluate local testing programs and reduce the amount of testing for students, where you can.



# FSD 145

## Freeport School District

**DR. DUANE MEIGHAN**

*Assistant Superintendent  
Of Curriculum and  
Instruction  
Central Office*

We encourage students to do their best on all assessments.

**SUE VALKEMA**

*Administrative Assistant*

School districts must administer assessments to at least 95 percent of students and at least 95 percent of each student demographic group or face lower public school recognition status, which leads to increased state oversight and puts districts' state and federal funds at risk. Individual high school students who had the opportunity to but chose not to take the required state accountability assessments (the SAT and the Illinois Science Assessment) lose their eligibility to receive a regular high school diploma. (Current high school seniors who may not have had the opportunity to take one of the required assessments will not be prevented from receiving a regular diploma.)

**TOM ELZEN**

*Director of Technology*

We encourage students to complete as much of each assessment as they can.

**TARA HERSEY**

*Curriculum Coordinator  
For Math and PreK-12*

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact ISBE Division of Assessment and Accountability at (866) 317-6034 or visit [www.isbe.net/Pages/Assessment.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Assessment.aspx).

**TIM MANGAN**

*Technology Integration  
Coordinator*

We thank you for your dedication to supporting all students.

**CHRIS PFEIFFER**

*Curriculum Coordinator  
For ELA-PreK-12 and  
Social Studies*

Sincerely,

*Tammy Shippert*

*Duane Meighan*

**PAT SCHNEIDER**

*Curriculum Coordinator  
for Science and Advanced  
Learning*

Tammy Shippert

Duane Meighan

**TAMMY SHIPPERT**

*Curriculum Coordinator  
Assessment, Research and  
Accountability and Title I*

Curriculum Coordinator

Asst. Superintendent

Assessment, Research, Accountability

Curriculum and Instruction

**CHRIS WALOCHA**

*Curriculum Coordinator  
For 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning,  
IB and Kindergarten*