

May 13, 2020

Dear Uplift Parents,

The Teaching & Learning Team wants to ensure we are supporting you and your scholar to the best of our ability and we have some news to share about the State's End of Year STAAR assessments. Due to Covid-19, the State cancelled all spring and summer STAAR/EOC testing to allow families and districts to adjust to the remote learning environment without the stress of preparing for and taking these assessments.

As recently as a few weeks ago, the State offered optional End of Year assessments for school districts and families to participate in. These assessments are designed to analyze how scholar learning was impacted by the disruption of COVID-19 school closures. We applaud the State for offering this opportunity, but Uplift has chosen **NOT** to participate for several reasons:

1. Prior to school closure, we collected data that we feel is a strong predictor of STAAR/EOC performance. In Quarters 2 and 3, we administered released STAAR/EOC assessments. In February, our schools participated in NWEA's MAP assessment. As such, we do not feel it is necessary to re-assess at this time.
2. Uplift plans to administer NWEA's MAP assessment in August/September which will establish a new baseline for instruction and allow our schools to provide intervention and enrichment opportunities as needed for your scholars.
3. *Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we know that the closure of our schools and the shift to remote learning has been a challenging transition for all stakeholders involved. We did not think this was the appropriate time to ask our scholars or our teachers to take on the added stress of an unexpected assessment, nor do we think it would provide an accurate picture of our scholars' learning this year.*

Although Uplift has chosen not to participate as a District, parents can register their scholar(s) for the assessments. The State has a dedicated website ([click here](#), see the Optional End of Year Assessments section) that provides information on registration, accommodations, and when data will be available. If you are thinking about this option for your scholar(s), please consider their mindset towards testing, their level of engagement during remote learning, and what you wish to do with the data. We want to ensure your scholars are putting their best foot forward and that the data is reflective of what they have learned this year.

In Gratitude,

Remy L. Washington, EdD

Chief Academic Officer
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