

March 1, 2023

Dear Families of Students in Fifth through Eighth Grade,

Wisconsin students in grades 3-8, and 10 will be participating in the Forward Exam between March 20 and April 28, 2023. State assessments, including the Forward Exam, are required by both State (Wis. Stat. § 118.30) and Federal ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Law. Students in the Fox Point-Bayside School District are scheduled to take the Forward Exam April 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20.

The Forward Exam tests students in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics in grades 3-8, Science in grades 4 and 8, and Social Studies in grades 4, 8, and 10. One or more subtests may be administered daily during our selected time frame. Please make sure students are healthy before sending them to school. Students not in school on testing days will be scheduled for a make-up test prior to the close of the testing window. You may opt your student out of the state test by writing a brief letter to the District Assessment Coordinator, Danny Westfahl, at dwestfahl@foxbay.org, including the reason why your student will be opting out.

The law requires that participation rates be calculated based on the higher of either a 95% participation rate for all students and each subgroup of students or the actual number of students tested. ESSA also references withholding federal funding for not meeting federal requirements, including requirements for test participation.

You may access the [Forward Exam Information for Families \(Spanish version\)](#) ([Hmong version](#)) by clicking on these links. The brochure gives more information about the assessment. The Forward Exam measures the knowledge and skills students should have for their grade-level. Their performance on the assessment will not affect their grades. Please encourage students to take the test seriously and do the best they can. The results of these tests will be used to help school staff make determinations regarding curriculum, placement, and services to best support students.

Students will need their assigned school device, **wired** headphones or earbuds, 2-3 pencils, a water bottle and a reading book. Please also note, electronic devices of any kind, including cell phones and smart watches, are strictly prohibited during testing sessions.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Dr. Westfahl.

Thank you,

Jodi Hackl, Principal

Danny Westfahl, Director of Curriculum and Instruction