Pennsylvania Firefly Student Progress Indicators

Quick Start Guide

Pennsylvania Department of Education

About PA Firefly

The *Pennsylvania Firefly Student Progress Indicators* (PA Firefly) are free, high-quality benchmark assessments that are designed for Pennsylvania, aligned to Pennsylvania standards, and created to measure the same knowledge and skills as the PSSA and Keystone Exams. PA Firefly is a fully online, computer-adaptive assessment designed to be administered as a single-session test using the same platform as the summative assessments. PA Firefly will be available for ELA grades 3-8, Mathematics grades 3-8, Science grades 5 and 8, Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.

Key Dates for 2025-2026

Access to PA Firefly in DRC INSIGHT Portal Available	**September 15, 2025**
PA Firefly Test Setup Available	**September 22, 2025**
First Day of PA Firefly Testing	**October 6, 2025**
Last Day of PA Firefly Testing	**April 17, 2026 (Grades 3-8)** **May 8, 2026 (High School)**

Participation Process

Step One

Superintendents and/or District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) should log into the DRC INSIGHT Portal and confirm they can access the 2025-2026 PA Firefly administration between September 15, 2025, and September 22, 2025. DACs who do not have access to PA Firefly or who do not have a user account for the DRC INSIGHT Portal must contact DRC's PA Customer Service team to have permissions granted.

Step Two

DACs should create or update user accounts for other district and school personnel, usually School Assessment Coordinators (SACs), who will need access to the PA Firefly administration in the DRC INSIGHT Portal. Refer to the *DRC INSIGHT Portal User Guide* using the link above for instructions on how to create new or update existing user accounts.

Note: When new accounts are created, users will receive a system-generated email informing them of the account details and how to access their DRC INSIGHT Portal account. If the user already has an account and the account was updated, new test administrations will appear in the drop-down the next time they login.

PA Customer Service Team - (800) 451-7849 or PAcustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com

Step Three

DACs, SACs, and Technology Coordinators responsible for managing the administration of the PA Firefly assessments will access the appropriate support documentation from the DRC INSIGHT Portal.

By clicking on the Documents tab from the General Information dropdown and selecting the PA Firefly administration, DACs, SACs, and Technology Coordinators can access and review the *2025 Technology Training* and the *DRC INSIGHT Portal User Guide*. Technology Coordinators who need to download and deploy the DRC INSIGHT test engine software should access the Technology User Guide. Administration training resources for PA Firefly can be found on the PSA Assessments website.

Step Four

After reviewing the support materials, DACs, SACs, and Technology Coordinators will coordinate the installation of the DRC INSIGHT software in all schools that plan on administering the PA Firefly assessments. The links to download the testing software will be available to district staff in the DRC INSIGHT Portal.

Note: This step is not necessary if the testing devices already have the DRC INSIGHT software installed for PSSA, Keystone, or CDT testing.

Step Five

DACs should ensure that all SACs have access to the appropriate PA Firefly supports materials from the DRC INSIGHT Portal and the PSA Assessments website.

Step Six

When the Test Setup window opens, DACs or SACs will create test sessions for the students who will take the PA Firefly assessments.

Note: Students must be uploaded to the DRC INSIGHT Portal for the PA Firefly administration to create test sessions. Refer to the *DRC INSIGHT Portal User Guide* for instructions on how to upload students and create test sessions.

This step allows DACs or SACs to generate test tickets and allows students to take the test. Students can take an assessment up to three times throughout the school year. For the grades 3-8 tests, schools are encouraged to re-test students across the established seasons.

For the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature tests, schools are encouraged to re-test students across the duration of the corresponding course (e.g., a student in a fall-semester course could test in early-October, mid-November, and late-December).

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Step Seven

Test Administrators administer the PA Firefly assessments to students.

Step Eight

DACs or SACs who have been given the appropriate permissions in the DRC INSIGHT Portal access the Individual Student Reports and roster reports from the DRC INSIGHT Portal. For ELA, Math, Literature, and Algebra, additional interactive reports will be released throughout the year to show student progress. For Science and Biology, 2025-2026 is a pilot year and only Individual Student Reports and roster reports will be available.

Step Nine

Teachers use the results to provide enrichment or remediation activities inside the classroom.

Step Ten

To track instructional impact with updated student results, schools may repeat steps Six through Nine throughout the test window.

Note: Students may complete the PA Firefly assessment three times per year.

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