



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: November 7, 2019
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Principals, Guidance Counselors, Instructional Coaches, District Test Coordinators, Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction
From: Linda P. Eno, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance

Updates and Reminders Regarding New Jersey Statewide Assessments

This memo includes a summary of updates to the 2019-2020 Statewide Assessments Testing Schedule, reminders about graduation assessment requirements for the class of 2019-2022, and recent proposed amendments currently before the State Board of Education.

New Jersey Statewide Assessments Testing Schedule

The [2019-2020 Statewide Assessments Testing Schedule](#) has been revised to include ACCESS for ELLs and a revised science testing window that matches the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – English Language Arts/Mathematics (NJSLA-ELA/Math) window.

NJSLA–ELA/Math Manuals

Since the New Jersey Department of Education’s (NJDOE) October 10, 2019 Broadcast memo, the date in which the District Test Coordinator and Test Administrator manuals will be available has been revised. These manuals are now expected to be available no later than February 21, 2020.

NJSLA–Science (NJSLA-S) Administration Window

The NJSLA-S assessment administration window has been revised to align with the administration of the NJSLA-ELA/Math assessments. This revised window was based on feedback obtained from educators across the state during Phases I and II of assessment outreach:

- Computer-Based Testing: April 20 to May 29, 2020
- Paper-Based Testing: April 20 to May 1, 2020

Reminder: Graduation Assessment Requirements for the Classes of 2019-2022

A [Consent Order](#) issued by the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey provides that students in the classes of 2019-2022 must demonstrate proficiency in the high school assessment graduation requirements in the following pathways:

- In **English language arts/literacy**, students must demonstrate proficiency:
 1. On NJSLA/PARCC ELA 10; or
 2. By meeting the designated cut score on an alternative assessment such as other high school-level NJSLA/PARCC assessments, the SAT, ACT or ACCUPLACER as defined in the [2019-22 Graduation Assessment Requirements chart](#); or
 3. By submitting, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the NJDOE.
- In **mathematics**, students must demonstrate proficiency:
 1. On NJSLA/PARCC Algebra I; or

2. By meeting the designated cut score on an alternative assessment such as other high school-level NJSLA/PARCC assessments, the SAT, ACT or ACCUPLACER as defined in the [2019-22 Graduation Assessment Requirements chart](#); or
3. By submitting, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the NJDOE.

Proficiency levels/cut scores for the classes of 2019-2022 are specified in the 2019-22 Graduation Assessment Requirements chart.

Additional Updates Regarding Proposed Amendments to *N.J.A.C. 6A:8 Standards and Assessment*

On October 21, 2019, the New Jersey State Board of Education voted to move to publish the [Notice of Substantial Changes](#) to the 2018 proposed amendments to *N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessment*. **These proposed changes have not yet been adopted.** Upon publication in the *New Jersey Register*, there will be a 60-day comment period for the NJDOE and State Board to hear feedback relating only to amendments proposed in this notice. A 60-day public comment period is scheduled to begin December 2, 2019.

This latest proposal represented the continued collaboration between the NJDOE and the State Board of Education and it included proposals regarding high school testing schedules and graduation assessment requirements. The NJDOE proposed the Notice of Substantial Changes in response to a December 2018 court decision that found former regulations did not meet the state statute requiring graduating students to take an assessment in the 11th grade. Therefore, proposed regulatory changes serve to codify the consent orders that extend current graduation requirements for the classes of 2019-2022 and establish a regulatory path forward for the classes of 2023-2025.

Future Implementation of New Jersey Statewide Assessments

The NJDOE will continue to transition to the next generation of statewide assessments over multiple years. To provide educators adequate time to prepare for the next assessment and to allow time for the NJDOE to procure a new assessment, the current NJSLA assessment system will remain in place through at least school year 2020-21. As incremental changes are developing and as the state's plan evolves, the NJDOE will provide all students, educators and broader school communities with timely information. The NJDOE is committed to continuing its collaboration with stakeholders to develop statewide assessment policies that comply with state and federal laws and support the success of all New Jersey students.

If you have any questions regarding high school assessment requirements, please contact the Office of Assessments at (609) 376-3960 or assessment@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
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