



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 8, 2021
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Principals, Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Students
From: Lisa J. Gleason, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance

State Board Adoption of Graduation Assessment Requirements for Classes of 2023–2025

On September 8, 2021, the State Board of Education adopted graduation assessment requirements for the classes of 2023, 2024, and 2025. The new regulations comply with State statute (*N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 et seq.*) and require, as a prerequisite for graduation, all students to demonstrate proficiency by achieving a passing score on the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics components of the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment, by achieving a passing score on a substitute competency assessment, or by submitting portfolio appeals through their district.

Students in the classes of 2023, 2024, and 2025 will take the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11. The assessment will be aligned to New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) for grade 10 ELA and NJSLS for Algebra I and Geometry. The assessment format will be familiar to students and educators, as it will be delivered on the same platform students use for the current New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA).

If, after completing the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment, a student does not demonstrate proficiency on the ELA or Mathematics section, the student may take the following steps:

- Retake the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in the following summer or the following fall. A district must offer remediation and support to prepare the student to retake the assessment;
- Meet a designated cut score from the same menu of alternative assessments as the class of 2022; or
- Complete a portfolio appeal.

Reminders for the Class of 2022

On June 5, 2019, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) updated the high school graduation assessment requirements in both ELA and mathematics for the classes of 2019 through 2022, pursuant to an amended Consent Order issued by the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey.

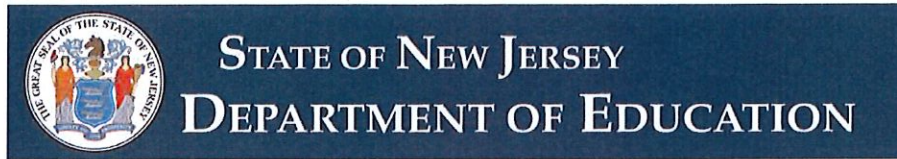
The [fall block administration](#) of the NJSLA high school assessments in ELA 9, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II is available to students in the class of 2022 who have not yet met the graduation assessment requirements. Additionally, districts may submit portfolio appeals for students in the class of 2022 beginning on January 3, 2022.

Additional Information

The [graduation assessment requirements](#) for students in the class of 2022 and the classes of 2023-2025 can be found on the NJDOE website. Additionally, resources to help districts prepare for the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment and information about the designated cut scores for the first and second pathways are forthcoming.

For questions or concerns, please reach out to assessment@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group



New Jersey High School Graduation Assessment Requirements

This document provides clarifications and updates regarding the graduation assessment requirements for the class of 2022 and the classes of 2023-2025.

On June 5, 2019, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) updated the high school graduation assessment requirements in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for the classes of 2019 through 2022, pursuant to an amended Consent Order issued by the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey.

The requirements in this document for the classes of 2023-2025 were adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education on September 8, 2021.

Graduation Assessment Requirements by Year

- [Class of 2022](#)
- [Classes of 2023–2025](#)

Class of 2022

This section reflects the high school graduation assessment requirements for the class of 2022, which were updated on June 5, 2019 pursuant to an amended Consent Order issued by the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey. The graduation assessment requirements for the class of 2022 are the same as they were for the classes of 2017–2019.

Graduation Assessment Requirements

In **ELA**, students must demonstrate proficiency:

1. On New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA)/PARCC ELA 10; *or*
2. By meeting the designated cut score on a substitute competency test such as other high school-level NJSLA/PARCC assessments, the SAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER as defined in Table 2; *or*
3. By submitting, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the New Jersey Department of Education.

In **mathematics**, students must demonstrate proficiency:

1. On NJSLA/PARCC Algebra I; *or*
2. By meeting the designated cut score on a substitute competency test such as other high school-level NJSLA/PARCC assessments, the SAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER as defined in Table 2; *or*
3. By submitting, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Proficiency levels/cut scores for the class of 2022 are specified further below.

Information for Students with Disabilities

Under the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA), all students with disabilities must be included in all general state and district-wide assessments. The Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) of students with disabilities will address whether the student must meet the passing score on the state assessments or demonstrate proficiency through an alternate pathway. Students with disabilities whose IEPs specify an alternative way to demonstrate proficiencies, will continue to follow the graduation assessment requirements set forth in their IEPs. It is the responsibility of the student's IEP team to ensure that the IEP is implemented as written, including components addressing state graduation assessment requirements.

IEP teams should reserve the exemption of the statewide assessment graduation requirement for students with significant intellectual disabilities and for students with disabilities who have made repeated unsuccessful attempts to meet statewide assessment requirements through the NJSLA, a substitute competency test, or a student portfolio appeal. Districts are encouraged to begin convening meetings of the student's IEP team when the student is in grade 9, or as early as possible. The IEP team includes the student, and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the student's specific graduation requirements.

Questions about IEP components concerning graduation assessment requirements should be directed to the Office of Special Education Policy and Dispute Resolution at oseinfo@doe.nj.gov.

Class of 2022

Pathways Available

First Pathway

Demonstrate proficiency in the high school end-of-course NJSLA/PARCC assessments in ELA-10 and/or Algebra I.

Table 1: First Pathway—NJSLA/PARCC

ELA	Mathematics
NJSLA/PARCC ELA Grade 10 \geq 750 (Level 4)	NJSLA/PARCC Algebra I \geq 750 (Level 4)

Second Pathway

Demonstrate proficiency in ELA and/or mathematics by meeting the designated cut score on one of the substitute competency tests.

Important Notes:

- Tests marked with an asterisk (*) are no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year.
- Beginning on **Monday, January 28, 2019**, classic ACCUPLACER tests were no longer available. QAS replaced ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra.

Table 2: Designated Cut Scores for Second Pathway

ELA	Mathematics
<p>One of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJSLA/PARCC ELA Grade 9 \geq 750 (Level 4) • NJSLA/PARCC ELA Grade 11* \geq 725 (Level 3) • SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16) \geq 400 • SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 450 • SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 22 • ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading* \geq 16 • ACCUPLACER WritePlacer \geq 6 • ACCUPLACER WritePlacer ESL \geq 4 • PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15) \geq 40 • PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) \geq 22 • ACT Aspire Reading* \geq 422 • ASVAB-AFQT Composite \geq 31 	<p>One of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJSLA/PARCC Geometry \geq 725 (Level 3) • NJSLA/PARCC Algebra II \geq 725 (Level 3) • SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16) \geq 400 • SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 440 • SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 22 • ACT or ACT PLAN Math* \geq 16 • ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra \geq 76, • Next-Generation ACCUPLACER Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics (QAS) (beginning January 2019) \geq 255 • PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15) \geq 40 • PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) \geq 22 • ACT Aspire Math* \geq 422 • ASVAB-AFQT Composite \geq 31

Class of 2022

Third Pathway

Demonstrate proficiency in ELA and/or mathematics through a portfolio appeal.

Table 3: Third Pathway—Portfolio Appeals

ELA	Mathematics
Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Mathematics

Classes of 2023–2025

The requirements in this section were adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education on September 8, 2021 for the classes of 2023-2025.

Graduation Assessment Requirements

ELA

If, after completing the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11, students did not demonstrate proficiency by passing the ELA component, such students may access the following pathways:

- **Pathway 2:** By meeting the designated cut score on a substitute competency test (see Table 5 under Pathway 2 below); or
- **Pathway 3:** By submitting, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Mathematics

If, after completing the required New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11, students did not demonstrate proficiency by passing the mathematics component, such students may access the following pathways:

- **Second Pathway:** By meeting the designated cut score on a substitute competency test (see Table 5 under Second Pathway below); or
- **Third Pathway:** By submitting, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Information for Students with Disabilities

Under the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA), all students with disabilities must be included in all general state and district-wide assessments. IEPs of students with disabilities will address whether the student must meet the passing score on the state assessments or demonstrate proficiency through an alternate pathway. Students with disabilities whose IEPs specify an alternative way to demonstrate proficiencies, will continue to follow the graduation assessment requirements set forth in their IEPs. It is the responsibility of the student's IEP team to ensure that the IEP is implemented as written, including components addressing state graduation assessment requirements.

IEP teams should reserve the exemption of the statewide assessment graduation requirement for students with significant intellectual disabilities and for students with disabilities who have made repeated unsuccessful attempts to meet statewide assessment requirements through New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment, a substitute competency test, or a student portfolio appeal. Districts are encouraged to begin convening meetings of the student's IEP team when the student is in grade 9, or as early as possible. The IEP team includes the student, and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the student's specific graduation requirements.

Questions about IEP components concerning graduation assessment requirements should be directed to the

Classes of 2023–2025

Office of Special Education Policy and Dispute Resolution at oseinfo@doe.nj.gov.

Pathways Available

First Pathway

Students must take and demonstrate proficiency in grade 11 on the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment, which includes content aligned to the grade 10 New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) in ELA, and the NJSLS in Algebra 1 and Geometry. If after completing the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment a student does not demonstrate proficiency on the ELA or mathematics section, the student may retake the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in the following summer or fall.

A student with disabilities whose IEP states that they are not eligible for the alternate assessment (Dynamic Learning Maps) must take the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11.

Table 4: First Pathway — New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment

ELA	Mathematics
New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-ELA	New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Mathematics

Second Pathway

Note: This pathway is only available to students who completed the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11.

Students who sat for the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11 and did not demonstrate proficiency are able to demonstrate proficiency in ELA and/or mathematics by meeting the designated cut score on one of the assessments on the menu of substitute competency tests in Table 5 on the next page.

Important Notes:

- Tests marked with an asterisk (*) are no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year.
- Beginning on Monday, January 28, 2019, classic ACCUPLACER tests were no longer available. QAS replaced ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra.

Classes of 2023–2025

Table 5: Second Pathway – Menu of Substitute Competency Tests

ELA	Mathematics
<p>One of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJSLA/PARCC ELA Grade 9 • SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16) • SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) • SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) • ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading* • ACCUPLACER WritePlacer • ACCUPLACER WritePlacer ESL • PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15) • PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) • ACT Aspire Reading* • ASVAB-AFQT Composite 	<p>One of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJSLA/PARCC Algebra 1 • NJSLA/PARCC Geometry • NJSLA/PARCC Algebra II • SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16) • SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) • SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) • ACT or ACT PLAN Math • ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra • Next-Generation ACCUPLACER Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics (QAS) (beginning January 2019) • PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15) • PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) • ACT Aspire Math* • ASVAB-AFQT Composite

Third Pathway

Note: This pathway is only available to students who completed the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11.

Students who completed the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11 and did not demonstrate proficiency are able to demonstrate proficiency in ELA and/or mathematics through a portfolio appeal in grade 12.

Table 6: Third Pathway —Portfolio Appeals

ELA	Mathematics
Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math