

2622 PUPIL-STUDENT ASSESSMENT

The Commissioner of Education, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 et seq. and 18A:7E-2 and 3, may implement assessments of student achievement in any grade(s) and by such assessments as he or she deems appropriate. The Commissioner shall report to the State Board of Education the results of such assessments.

The Commissioner shall implement a system and related schedule of Statewide assessments to evaluate student achievement of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs). The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, shall define the scope and level of student performance on Statewide assessments that demonstrate thorough understanding of the knowledge and skills delineated by the NJSLs at grade levels three through twelve. After consultation with the Commissioner, the State Board of Education shall establish by resolution uniform Statewide criteria defining adequate school district progress toward meeting the NJSLs.

State assessments provide parents/legal guardians with important information about their child's progress; detailed diagnostic information about each individual student's performance that educators, parents/legal guardians, and students can utilize to enhance foundational knowledge and student achievement; and include item analysis which will clarify a student's level of knowledge and understanding of a particular subject or area of a subject. The data derived from State assessments will be utilized by teachers and administrators to pinpoint areas of difficulty and customize instruction accordingly. Such data can be accessed and utilized as a student progresses to successive school levels.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(b) and (c), all students at grade levels three through twelve, and at any other grade(s) designated by the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(a), shall take all appropriate Statewide assessments as scheduled. There is no provision for a student to opt-out of Statewide assessments. If a student is absent on a testing date, the student will be expected to take the missed test on another school day. Parents/legal guardians and students will be informed of all scheduled testing dates, including make-up testing dates for students who missed the initial testing date.

~~The Board of Education requires all pupils leaving grades four, eight and eleven should demonstrate competency in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards as established by the New Jersey State Board of Education.~~

~~The Board will comply with law and rules of the State Board of Education in the assessment of pupil achievement and needs in order to determine the progress of pupils toward mastering established course proficiencies and to assist pupils towards attainment of the goals of this district.~~

Statewide Assessments System

~~The Superintendent shall develop and annually present to the Board annually for its approval an assessment program that complies with the rules of the State Board of Education ~~and that serves to promote the district mission of educational excellence for all students.~~ The assessment program shall:~~

- ~~• Describe the board's policy regarding the philosophical framework for the design of the program and student assessment plan, direct both formative and summative assessment of the curriculum by course and grade and expectations of ongoing program evaluation and direct use of data to analyze group, school, program, and system student trends.~~
- ~~• Explicitly include a formative and summative assessment system to carry out board policy. Provide for regular formative and summative assessment at all levels of the system (organization, program, student).~~
- ~~• Provide for frequent diagnostic (formative) instructional assessments aligned to district curriculum, which teachers use to make ongoing decisions concerning which learner objectives and level of difficulty are most appropriate for each student (i.e., provides data for differentiated instruction).~~
- ~~• Provide a list of assessment tools, purposes, subjects, type of student tested, timelines, etc.~~
- ~~• Identify and provide direction in the use of diverse assessment strategies for multi-purposes at all levels: district, school, and classroom.~~
- ~~• Specify the roles and responsibilities of the superintendent, central office staff, and school-based staff for assessing all functions and operations of the system.~~
- ~~• Specify the connection(s) among district, state, and national assessments.~~
- ~~• Specify overall assessment procedures and analysis procedures to determine curriculum effectiveness.~~
- ~~• Require aligned assessment examples and tools to be placed in curriculum, instruction, and assessment guides.~~

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- Evaluate and compare the effectiveness of district programs across all grades, levels, schools and disciplines.
- Specify how equity issues will be identified and addressed using data sources as well as controls for bias.
- Identify the factors, processes, and structures of the program assessment and how data will be used to determine continuation, modification, or termination of a given program.
- Monitor that assessment tools and strategies are used in every classroom.

The assessment program shall employ standardized tests approved by the Board of Education to monitor students' progress and provide remediation or enrichment when needed. The program will evaluate the degree to which annual and multi-year goals relative to student achievement have been met.

The assessment program will reflect academic growth of students with comparisons to local and national groups. Results of all assessments shall be presented to the Board and the public annually.

Students entering the District will be evaluated through an abbreviated standardized test, past performance in another school, teacher observation and/or any combination of these or other appropriate measures for placement in our school system.

Records

Notwithstanding Policy No. 8330, information regarding individual pupil test scores shall be released only to the pupil, his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or individuals eligible by court order and school personnel and school officials deemed appropriate by the Commissioner.

Dissemination of Information

The school district shall release to the public the results of statewide assessments in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Education guidelines. Additionally, the results of the performance of school district pupils on statewide assessments shall be released annually through the dissemination of the school district's New Jersey School Report Card and other such means as determined by the Superintendent. Pupils with disabilities and Limited English Proficiency may not be included in the summary data.

The Board of Education shall, according to a schedule prescribed by the Commissioner, administer the applicable Statewide assessments, including the following major components: the elementary assessment component for grades three through five; the middle school assessment component for grades six through eight; the high school end-of-course PARCC assessments; and the alternative assessment for students with disabilities; and provide

notification to each student entering grades three through twelve of the Statewide assessment schedule.

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The Department of Education shall implement the elementary component of the Statewide assessment of the NJSLs consisting of continued administration of mathematics and English language arts in grades three, four, and five, and of science in grade four.

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The Department of Education shall implement the middle school component of the Statewide assessment of the NJSLs consisting of the following: continued administration of mathematics and English language arts in grades six, seven, and eight; and of science in grade eight.

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The Department of Education shall implement a high school assessment program component of the NJSLs that assesses, at a minimum, English language arts, mathematics, and science with the exception that students may receive a waiver from the Board of Education from taking the high school end-of-course PARCC assessment in ELA 11 due to the student's participation in another English language/literature college placement assessment during the same school year.

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The Board shall provide appropriate accommodations or modifications to the Statewide assessment system as specified by the Department of Education for English Language Learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 or eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as determined by the IEP or 504 Team in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d)1. The Board may administer the Statewide assessments in mathematics to ELLs in their native language, when available, and/or English. The Board of Education shall have the option for a first-year ELL of substituting a Department of Education-approved language proficiency test only for the English language arts section of the elementary or middle school component of the Statewide assessment, when the student has entered the United States after July 1 of the calendar year prior to the test administration.

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The Board of Education shall ensure students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 participate in Statewide assessments in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10.

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At specific times prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education shall administer the alternative assessment for students with disabilities to students with severe disabilities who cannot participate in other assessments due to the severity of their disabilities. The Department of Education shall implement the alternative assessment for students with disabilities according to the schedules in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(c)1, 2, and 3. The alternative assessment for students with disabilities measures the progress of students who have been determined eligible for the alternative assessment for students with disabilities by the IEP team in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10.

- The Boards of Education shall implement alternative ways for students to demonstrate graduation proficiency in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f).

Test Administration Procedures and Security Measures

- The Board of Education shall be responsible for ensuring the security of all components of the Statewide assessment system that are administered within the school district. All Statewide assessments shall be administered in accordance with the Department of Education's required test administration procedures and security measures. Any breach of such procedures or measures shall be immediately reported to the Superintendent or designee.

Documentation of Student Achievement

- The Department of Education shall provide the Superintendent with documentation of student performance after each test administration in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2(a). The Board shall maintain an accurate record of each student's performance on Statewide assessments in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2. Information regarding individual student test scores shall only be released in accordance with Federal and State law.

- The Board of Education shall transmit within ten business days any official records, including transcripts, of students who transfer to other school districts or institutions.

- The Board of Education shall maintain an accurate record of each student's performance on Statewide assessments.

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The Board of Education shall maintain for every student a ninth grade through graduation transcript that contains the following, as available:

- 1. Results of all applicable State assessments, including assessments that satisfy graduation requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6;
- 2. Results of any English language proficiency assessments according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(h);
- 3. Evidence of instructional experience and performance in the NJSLs;
- 4. Evidence of technological literacy;
- 5. Evidence of career education instructional experiences and career development activities;
- 6. Evidence of State-issued occupational licenses and credentials, industry-recognized occupational credentials, and/or technical skill assessments for students enrolled in Department of Education-approved career and technical education programs pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:19-3.2; and
- 7. Any other information deemed appropriate by the Board of Education.

Accountability

The Superintendent shall report preliminary and final results of annual assessments to the Board of Education as required by the New Jersey Department of Education. The Board of Education will provide parents/legal guardians, students, and citizens with results of annual assessments according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2. The Board shall provide appropriate instruction to improve skills and knowledge for students performing below the established levels of student proficiency in any content area either on Statewide or local assessments. All students shall be expected to demonstrate the knowledge and skills of the NJSLs as measured by the Statewide assessment system.

- Annual Review and Evaluation of School Districts

- The Department of Education shall review the performance of schools and school districts in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.4.

- Public Reporting

- In accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.5, the Department of Education shall report annually to the State Board of Education and the public on the progress of all students and student subgroups in meeting the NJSLs as measured by the Statewide assessment system by publishing and distributing the Department of Education's annual New Jersey School Report Card in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7E-2 through 5. After each test administration, the Department of Education shall report to the Board on the performance of all students and of student subgroups. The Department of Education shall report performance on the APA with the same frequency and in the same detail as it reports on other Statewide assessments, including school and school district means, and the number and percentage of participating students. In public reporting of school and district performance data, the Department of Education shall not compromise the confidentiality of individual students.

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Parental Notification

Parents/parents/legal guardians or legal guardians shall be informed of the district assessment program-system and of any special tests that are to be administered to their children.

Pupils with Disabilities

~~— Pupils with disabilities shall participate in all state assessments unless the pupil's disability is so severe that the pupil is not receiving instruction in any of the knowledge and skills measured by the statewide assessment in a subject area with or without accommodations. The Board shall provide appropriate accommodations or modifications to the statewide assessment system as specified by the New Jersey Department of Education as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A: 14-1.3 or eligible of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as determined by the Individual Education Plan (IEP) Team or the 504 Team in compliance with the New Jersey Department of Education guidelines. Special Review Assessment (SRA)~~

~~may be used for pupils with disabilities or the Alternate Proficiency Assessment may be used for pupils with severe disabilities.~~

~~Pupils with Limited English Proficiency~~

~~A pupil with limited English proficiency shall participate in all statewide assessments and may be provided appropriate accommodations or modifications as specified by the New Jersey Department of Education. High School pupils with limited English proficiency may demonstrate proficiency for graduation through one or more of the following means:~~

- ~~1. High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA);~~
- ~~2. Special Review Assessment (SRA) in English;~~
- ~~3. Special Review Assessment (SRA) in the native language along with an English proficiency assessment; or~~
- ~~4. Special Review Assessment (SRA) process in English with accommodations.~~

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 et seq.; 6A:8-5.1; 6A:14-1.1 et seq.;

6A:14-3.7; 6A:14-4.10

~~N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-6.2~~

~~N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.5; 6:8-2.2 et seq.;~~

~~6:39-1.1 et seq.; 6A:14-3.7;~~

~~6A:14.4.12; 6A-15-1.11.~~

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