



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 5, 2018 (*Update regarding statewide assessment unit times added Jan. 11, 2019*)
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction, Principals, School Counselors, Instructional Coaches, District Test Coordinators
From: Linda P. Eno, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance

Spring 2019 State Assessment Name, Length and Time Changes

To build a stronger and fairer New Jersey Education System, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is committed to working in partnership with educators and families in districts from across the state to build a coherent system of aligned academic standards and assessments.

The NJDOE has worked in collaboration with the State Board of Education and other stakeholders to develop [proposed changes](#) to Chapter 8, Standards and Assessment, of the administrative code. These proposed changes that are being considered by the State Board – addressing the number of required assessments in high school and the graduation assessment requirements – are summarized on the [NJDOE Assessments website](#). The proposed changes have not been adopted and the current regulations remain in effect.

Separately, the NJDOE is implementing changes starting with the Spring 2019 test administration. These changes do not go through the State Board process, but are implemented by the Commissioner. This memo describes the assessment name, length and time changes that have been implemented by the Commissioner.

State Assessment Name Change

The State of New Jersey has ended its membership of the interstate consortium that produced the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments. While the online platform will remain the same, the state's mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) assessments will no longer be called Partnership for Assessment of College and Career Readiness (PARCC).

The statewide assessments for ELA and mathematics will be called:

- *New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-ELA (NJSLA-ELA)*
- *New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Mathematics (NJSLA-M)*

Reduction in the Length and Time of the Tests

Starting with the Spring 2019 statewide assessment, the item counts (i.e., test questions) will be reduced, resulting in fewer units for ELA. The number of units for ELA will be reduced from three to two, resulting in a reduction of 75 minutes for grade three and 90 minutes for grades four through high school (ELA 10). New testing units and times for ELA 9 and ELA 11 will be provided as soon as possible. *

For mathematics, the item counts are being reduced, resulting in fewer units, or testing blocks. In grades three to five; the number of units will be reduced from four to three, resulting in a reduction of 60 minutes of testing time. For grades six to eight, the number of units remains at three, but the time allotted for each 80-minute unit will be reduced by 20 minutes per unit for a total reduction of 60 minutes in testing time. Within each unit, the item

counts have also been reduced. Similarly, the Algebra I end-of-course tests will be reduced from three units to two units of 90 minutes each, for a total reduction of 90 minutes of testing time.*

Please keep in mind that these are interim changes resulting from the Phase I outreach to stakeholders. The NJDOE will explore long-term changes to the state's assessment systems and high school assessment policies during the next phase of stakeholder outreach, which begins this fall.

Notice on Statewide Assessment Unit Times

Jan. 11, 2019 update: A previous version of this memo contained tables with statewide assessment unit times. The NJDOE is now directing school staff to the [Statewide Assessment Unit Times webpage](#) for the most recent information. This webpage will be updated as needed; please refer to it for the most accurate information.

For additional information, please contact the NJDOE's Office of Assessments at assessment@doe.nj.gov or (609) 376-3960.

* The NJDOE and State Board of Education have proposed regulations that would require districts to administer ELA 9, 10 (eliminating ELA 11) and an end-of-course math in 9th and 10th grade (Algebra I and Geometry or Geometry and Algebra II). As these amendments are currently only proposed, we have referenced all the assessments required by the current regulations.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group