



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 22, 2019  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
Route To: Principals, Directors of Curriculum and Instruction, Test Coordinators and Teachers  
From: Diana Pasculli, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Performance  
Division of Academics and Performance

## Spring 2019 Blueprints for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA)

This memo provides educators with additional information about the spring 2019 administration of the English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics state assessments. The links below provide educators the assessment blueprints, which include information such as the total number of tasks and/or items for any given grade or course.

For the first time, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is providing blueprint companion guides to continually improve the quality of assessment support. However, we recognize the blueprints are being released later than usual and apologize for any inconvenience caused.

### NJSLA Blueprints

As [previously announced](#), the spring 2019 statewide assessment in ELA and math will be the NJSLA-ELA/M. The number of test items will be reduced on all ELA and mathematics state assessments beginning with the spring 2019 administration, resulting in fewer units on most state assessments as compared to prior years. The NJSLA-ELA/M measure the same constructs and use the same item banks as the previous assessments. As a result, the current assessments support reporting using the same scale scores and performance levels as in prior years.

### NJSLA-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. While there is a reduction in the number of units and test items, students will be assessed on the major claims of reading and writing and all subclaims.

See the NJDOE's [District Guidance webpage](#) for the spring 2019 administration [blueprints for the NJSLA-ELA](#) and the [companion guide](#) to the NJSLA-ELA.

### NJSLA-M

For the spring 2019 administration of the NJSLA for math (NJSLA-M):

- Grades three to five math assessments will be reduced from four to three units resulting in a reduction of 60 minutes of testing time.
- Grades six to eight math assessments will remain at three units, 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 number of test questions has been reduced.
- Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II 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.

See the NJDOE's [District Guidance webpage](#) for the spring 2019 administration [blueprints for the NJSLA-M](#) and the [companion guide](#) to the NJSLA-M.

**Contact information**

For more information or to provide feedback on the new resources, contact the NJDOE Office of Assessments at [assessment@doe.nj.gov](mailto:assessment@doe.nj.gov) or call (609) 376-3960.

c:      Members, State Board of Education  
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