



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 11, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Principals, School Counselors, Instructional Coaches, District Test Coordinators and Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction
From: Linda P. Eno, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance
Deadline: May 11, 2020 for reporting results to local boards of education (60 days after March 11)

Spring 2019 New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Science Results

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) would like to thank all districts for making the spring 2019 New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Science (NJSLA-Science) administration a success. The spring 2019 testing was the first operational administration of the test. The results are provided to districts, educators, families, reported publicly to the federal government and posted on the NJDOE website.

The NJSLA-Science was designed to measure student proficiency on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSLS-Science). The Department recognizes that districts require more time to delve into their data and make the necessary adjustments in curriculum and instruction. The NJDOE has determined that New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) for school year 2021-2022 will be the first year in which results from the NJSLA-Science will be factored into NJQSAC, utilizing the results from the 2020-2021 administration of the assessment.

Resources for Districts

The NJDOE has developed the following resources to assist districts in communicating statewide assessment results with educators, boards of education, and parents/guardians:

- [Sample cover letter for the mailing of Individual Student Reports \(ISRs\)](#)
- [Score interpretation guide for NJSLA-Science](#)
- [Sample PowerPoint template for reporting NJSLA-Science results to local boards of education](#)
- [NJSLA-Science Overview Presentation](#)

The NJSLS-Science sets a high bar for science performance which requires changes to instruction. The NJDOE recognizes that due to the new standards and new assessment, districts may need additional support. The NJDOE plans to continue to develop additional resources to support educators, such as K-11 instructional units based on the 2020 NJSLS-Science, and to connect educators with resources and course materials to help support the implementation of the NJSLS-Science.

Reporting Recommendations and Requirements

The NJDOE strongly encourages school and district leaders to review, analyze and discuss all assessment results with staff as soon as possible. The scores from the 2019 administration should be used in conjunction with local assessment results and educator input to drive internal discussions on the implementation plan of science curriculum.

As a reminder, ISRs for the NJSLA-Science will be distributed to district central offices by March 11, 2020. ISRs will be sent to both the sending and receiving districts for students who receive instruction at a school other than their accountable school. **Once districts receive the ISRs, a copy should be immediately mailed to parents/guardians.** To support your communication efforts please reference the sample parent/guardian cover letter, above.

Districts must report the NJSLA-Science assessment results to local school boards within 60 days of receipt, which will be May 11, 2020 (60 days after March 11).¹ The report must include subgroup data and appropriate intervention strategies.²

We look forward to working with you to support student growth in the important skills and knowledge associated with the NJSLA-Science. If you have any questions regarding the release of the spring 2019 NJSLA-Science results, please contact the Office of Assessments at (609) 376-3960 or assessment@doe.nj.gov.

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

¹ Per *N.J.A.C.* 6A:8-4.3(a): Chief School Administrators are required to report assessment results to district boards of education within 60 days of receipt of reports

² *N.J.A.C.* 6A:30: Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts Appendix A and Appendix B