



Date: October 6, 2021
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: District Test Coordinators, District Technology Coordinators, School Test Coordinators
From: Lisa J. Gleason, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Fall Block 2021 State Assessments: Key Dates and Information

This memorandum provides districts with key dates and information for the fall block 2021 administration of the high school New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

Participation in the Fall Block NJSLA in ELA and Mathematics

The fall block NJSLA will be administered in person from **November 29, 2021 through January 14, 2022**. Districts must administer fall block assessments to students in grade nine who are enrolled in a fall block course for ELA and mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II). A fall block course is defined as a course that starts at the beginning of the academic year and completes instruction at the end of the fall semester.

Additionally, the fall block administration of the NJSLA high school assessments provides an opportunity for students who have not yet met their graduation assessment requirements to do so. A student may take any high school NJSLA assessment corresponding to a course that the student has completed or is currently enrolled in. Districts are strongly encouraged to work with students to determine which assessments, if any, in addition to those for courses in which the student is currently enrolled, would be academically appropriate for the student to take and would maximize the student's opportunities to meet his or her high school graduation assessment requirements. Districts are also encouraged to *offer* students targeted support prior to administering the assessments.

As a reminder, according to the consent order dated February 15, 2019 from the Appellate Division of the Superior Court, students in the class of 2022 have the same graduation assessment requirements that were in place for the classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019 as outlined in the [New Jersey High School Assessment Graduation Requirements](#). To meet the graduation assessment requirements, students who have not yet met their graduation assessment requirements by demonstrating proficiency on NJSLA ELA 10 or Algebra I, may demonstrate proficiency in English language arts and/or mathematics by meeting the designated cut score on one of the alternative assessments, which includes NJSLA in ELA 9, Geometry and Algebra II.

District Test and Technology Coordinator (DTC) Training

District Test and Technology Coordinators are required to familiarize themselves with the responsibilities associated with their roles, including training test administrators (TAs) on the proper administration of the NJSLA and ensuring the appropriate technology requirements are in place. A self-guided training presentation will be made available no later than **October 29, 2022** for DTCs to use as a companion to the test coordinator and test administrator manuals. These training materials will be found on the [Test Administration Resources](#) webpage of the [NJSLA Resource Center](#) under Educator Resources.

Student Registration/Personal Needs Profile (SR/PNP) Upload

For fall block NJSLA, districts must upload student registration files directly to PearsonAccess^{next} (PAN). The initial upload window for the fall block administration will open on **October 11, 2021**. Districts may continue to make updates to student data prior to and throughout the testing window until the district data clean-up window closes on **January 28, 2022**. Students taking the paper-based versions of the assessments must be included in the student registration upload.

Please take note of the following information:

- Students must be registered under the NJSLA-ELA/Math Fall Block 2021 scope in PAN.
- For students who attend an out-of-district placement, the testing site, not the accountable school, must register out-of-district students in PAN.
 - Be sure that the correct Accountable District Code and Accountable School Code are used, which will be different from the Testing Site District Code and the Testing Site School Code.
- Charter schools, renaissance school projects, choice schools, and vocational-technical schools (for students who attend full time) are the accountable districts and accountable schools for their students.

Test Coordinator and Test Administrator Manuals

Electronic versions of the fall block 2021 test coordinator manual and fall block 2021 test administrator manuals are scheduled to be posted no later than **October 29, 2021**. These manuals, with other helpful resources, will be found on the [Test Administration Resources](#) webpage of the [NJSLA Resource Center](#) under Educator Resources. Please note that districts will not receive paper copies of the test coordinator and test administrator manuals.

Paper Test Materials

All paper-based test materials must be ordered through the additional orders process, which will begin on **November 8, 2021**. Districts must specify the exact number of individual test booklets required.

The New Jersey Student Learning Assessments are computer-based assessments, and most students should take the assessment on a computer. Students who are unable to use a computer, based on a need documented in a valid Section 504 Plan or Individualized Education Program (IEP), will take the assessment using paper and pencil. The NJDOE will review the SR/PNP uploads and may contact districts to verify the accuracy of the student counts and test delivery modes if anomalies are detected.

Students receiving homebound instruction are not required to take the NJSLA using paper-based versions of the assessments. Districts have the option of administering the computer-based assessment to students receiving homebound instruction by using a district-supplied portable electronic device and a mobile hotspot. Additional information can be found in the [Homebound Test Administration Procedures](#) document, which can be found on the [NJSLA Resources for Districts](#) webpage under the Policies heading.

For more information regarding the fall block 2021 NJSLA administration key dates, please review the complete list of [fall block 2021 NJSLA key dates](#).

Contact information

If you have questions, please contact the Office of Assessments at (609) 376-3960 or assessment@doe.nj.gov.

Additional Resources

- [NJSLA Resource Center](#)
- [PearsonAccess^{Next} Online Support](#)
- [NJSLA Resources for Districts \(NJDOE\)](#)
- [Technology Setup](#)

c: Members, State Board of Education
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