



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 2, 2022
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Principals, Curriculum Supervisors, District Test Coordinators, Teachers, School Counselors, Students
From: Gilbert E. Gonzalez, Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA) Update: Cut Scores and English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Resources

State Board of Education Adopts NJGPA Graduation Ready Cut Score:

On September 8, 2021, the State Board of Education adopted graduation assessment requirements for the classes of 2023, 2024 and 2025. The new regulations comply with State statute (N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 *et seq.*) and establish, as one pathway for graduation, achieving a graduation ready cut score on the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics components of the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA). On February 2, 2022, the State Board of Education adopted the recommended graduation ready cut score of 750 for both the ELA and mathematics components of the NJGPA. This update for the classes of 2023-2025 has been posted to the [Graduation Assessment Requirements webpage](#).

NJGPA ELA and Mathematics Resources

The NJGPA, consisting of an ELA component and a mathematics component, will be delivered on the same platform (TestNav) that students are familiar with from the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA). The NJGPA consists of two units for ELA (three units for districts selected for the ELA field test sample) and two units of mathematics. There will be 90 minutes of testing allotted for each unit. To assist districts in preparing for the NJGPA, the NJDOE is providing access to resources created specifically for the NJGPA, including blueprints practice tests. These resources are available on the [NJGPA section](#) of the New Jersey Assessments Resource Center under "Test Content and Other Resources."

English Language Arts

The ELA component of the NJGPA, which is aligned to the grade 10 standards and evidence statements, is designed to measure the degree to which a student has demonstrated graduation readiness in ELA. The assessment requires students to read and analyze passages from authentic texts, both fiction and nonfiction, as well as multimedia. Students will also be required to cite textual evidence, synthesize information and ideas across texts, determine the meaning of words and phrases, and write effectively when analyzing sources.

The NJGPA resource document for ELA includes information on the following topics:

- Overview of the NJGPA for ELA.
- Blueprint.
- Claims Structure and Point Distribution by Claim.
- Evidence Statements.
- Rubric for Prose Constructed Response Items.
- Item Types and General Scoring Rules.
- Task Generation Model Description.

Additional test support documents for ELA include:

- Combined Task Models Reflecting Grade 10 ELA Standards.
- ELA Text Complexity Analysis.
- ELA Passage Selection Guidelines.

Mathematics

The mathematics component of the NJGPA, which is aligned to the standards and evidence statements for Algebra I and Geometry, is designed to measure the degree to which a student has demonstrated graduation readiness in mathematics. The assessment requires students to solve problems involving the Major Content and Additional and Supporting Content in Algebra I and Geometry with connections to the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Students will also be required to express mathematical reasoning and solve real-world problems by developing, analyzing, and using mathematical models.

The NJGPA resource document for mathematics includes information on the following topics:

- Overview of the NJGPA for Mathematics.
- Blueprint.
- Assessment Claims.
- Evidence Statements.
- Task Types.
- Scoring Rules.

Practice Tests

Practice tests for the NJGPA are available on the [NJGPA section](#) of the New Jersey Assessments Resource Center under “Getting Started Online.” The practice tests are available in computer-based and paper-based formats, including accommodations such as text-to-speech and large print.

Districts are strongly encouraged to provide opportunities for students to take these practice tests prior to the spring administration of the NJGPA. These practice tests will help students and educators familiarize themselves with the format, item types and item functionality they will see on the assessment in March. Since the practice tests are available in accommodated forms, it is important that students take the practice test that incorporates the accommodations they will receive during testing.

For questions or concerns, please reach out to assessment@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group