



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

**Date:** December 17, 2025

**To:** Local Educational Agency Leads, Directors of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

**Route To:** High School Principals, Directors of Guidance, Directors of Special Education, Bilingual/ESL Coordinators, District Test Coordinators, Portfolio Appeals Coordinators

**From:** Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

## **Streamlined Portfolio Appeals Option Available for Students with Qualifying ASVAB Scores**

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to once again offer the streamlined portfolio appeals option introduced during the 2024-2025 school year. Local educational agencies (LEAs) and approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSDs) may continue to use the streamlined portfolio appeals option for students with a qualifying score on the Department of Defense Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) for the 2025-2026 school year.

Students who meet or exceed the minimum required ASVAB Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score of 35 may use the streamlined portfolio appeals option to demonstrate graduation readiness. As part of the collected documentation maintained on site for each student's portfolio appeals, there must be a record of any ASVAB scores used to qualify the student for the streamlined portfolio appeals option.

### **Requirements for Streamlined Portfolio Appeals**

The streamlined portfolio appeals option for students who meet or exceed the minimum ASVAB score of 35, allows for a 50 percent reduction per content area, in the quantity of portfolio appeals constructed responses tasks (CRTs) that would need to be submitted for eligible students. The CRT requirements for the streamlined portfolio appeals submission are as follows:

- For a student who qualifies for a streamlined ELA portfolio appeal:
  - One reading task (either literary or informational) must be successfully completed; and
  - One writing task that is connected to the selected reading task (either informative/explanatory, argument, or narrative) must be successfully completed.
- For a student who qualifies for a streamlined mathematics portfolio appeal:
  - One modeling task (representing one of the 5 conceptual categories not used for reasoning) must be successfully completed; and
  - One reasoning task (representing one of the conceptual categories not used for the modeling task) must be successfully completed.

### **Impacted Resources**

The following portfolio appeals documents include specific references to the ASVAB and will be available within the Portfolio Appeals project in NJDOE Homeroom:

- Portfolio Appeals Data Spreadsheet – includes an ASVAB AFQT score field (Column AQ) for LEAs and APSSDs to submit student scores to demonstrate eligibility for the streamlined portfolio appeals option.
- Portfolio Appeals Data Spreadsheet 2025-2026 Field Definitions – explains the expected values for the ASVAB AFQT score field (Column AQ).

The following updated portfolio appeals resources include references to the streamlined portfolio appeals option and will be found on the [Graduation Assessment Requirements](#) webpage under the section Third Pathway—Graduation Portfolio Appeal:

- Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP) – refers to the requirement to include a record of any ASVAB scores used to qualify a student for the streamlined portfolio appeals process and

references the streamlined portfolio appeals option in Table 3: Strengths and Needs Analysis.

- Informational Guide for the English Language Arts Portfolio Appeals Process – incorporates the requirements for a streamlined ELA portfolio appeal submission for qualifying students.
- Informational Guide for the Mathematics Portfolio Appeals Process – incorporates the requirements for a streamlined mathematics portfolio appeal submission for qualifying students.
- Frequently Asked Questions for Portfolio Appeals – includes questions referencing the ASVAB option and associated requirements.
- Streamlined Portfolio Appeals – includes information about eligibility, documentation expectations, and where to find more information about this option.

**Additional Considerations**

Please keep the following in mind regarding the ASVAB option for a streamlined portfolio appeal:

- This is available as an option for students expected to graduate with the class of 2026, but students are not required to take the ASVAB to submit a traditional portfolio appeal.
- If you are not submitting an ASVAB AFQT score for a student, the additional column in the updated spreadsheet template may be left blank.
- An ASVAB AFQT score that meets or exceeds the minimum of 35 allows for submission of a streamlined portfolio appeal for ELA, mathematics, or both.
- Please refer to the Portfolio Appeals Process – Information and Updates for 2025-2026 Submissions broadcast released on December 17, 2025, for additional resources and information, including technical assistance opportunities.

**Contact Information**

For questions, please contact the NJDOE’s Office of Assessments at [assessment@doe.nj.gov](mailto:assessment@doe.nj.gov) or (609) 376-3960.

c: Members, State Board of Education  
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