



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: November 12, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Curriculum Supervisors, School Counselors, Principals and Teachers
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Readoption of N.J.A.C. 6A:8 Standards and Assessments

On October 8, 2025, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted revisions to New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C.) Chapter 6A:8 Standards and Assessments, which guides the implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) and the Statewide assessment system. As part of the readoption, the Department proposed amendments to streamline and clarify rules, procedures, and operations, and update terminology and rules to align with provisions throughout Title 6A of the New Jersey Administrative Code and Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes. The Department also deleted and repealed rules that were effective during a limited timeframe or referenced defunct programs. The revised chapter went into effect on November 3, 2025.

Key Amendments

- *Alignment with New Legislation*
 - N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.4(d)5 requires instructional tools to include universal literacy screeners and related instructional materials, as appropriate and as defined at and required pursuant to P.L. 2024, c. 52.
 - N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6 requires students in the graduating classes of 2025, 2026, and 2027 to complete a financial aid application for high school graduation or be exempted from the requirement, in accordance with procedures set forth at P.L. 2023, c. 295. and P.L. 2025, c. 95.
 - N.J.A.C. 6A:8-6.1(d)1 requires LEAs to offer instruction in information literacy pursuant to P.L. 2022, c. 138.
- *Accountability and Transparency in NJSLS Implementation*
 - N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1(a)3 requires district boards of education to make all approved curriculum pacing guides and citations for core instructional materials publicly available to offer greater transparency for families and communities.
 - N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.5 allows the Commissioner to assemble appropriate Department resources to provide technical support if a district board of education is found to be noncompliant with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3 to address and remediate identified curriculum deficiencies. If noncompliance persists after collaborative remediation, the district is required to create a corrective action plan.
- *Graduation Course Requirements*
 - N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a) requires that courses designed to meet local graduation requirements be “delivered by educators who are appropriately certified within each

of the NJSLS content areas,” underscoring that content must be delivered by a qualified educator who is able to accurately assess high school proficiency within the specific content area.

- N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1iii updates the science graduation requirement to provide districts with greater flexibility to adopt science courses that ensure all students are able to demonstrate proficiency with the full range of the NJSLS, rather than a prescriptive course sequence.
- N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2 provides additional clarity to individualized student learning opportunities (ISLOs).
- *Graduation Assessment Requirements*
 - The definition of “portfolio appeals process” states that the techniques and instruments may include, but are not limited to, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery-Armed Forces Qualifying Test (ASVAB-AFQT), Commissioner-identified industry-valued credential attainment, and work-based or service-learning experiences.
 - The definition of “substitute competency test” preserves its availability to students beyond the graduating class of 2025. The “Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery-Armed Forces Qualifying Test (ASVAB-AFQT)” has been removed from this list because it is now a component of a new pathway within the portfolio appeals process. For additional information on that pathway, please see the NJDOE’s [Graduation Portfolio Appeals FAQ](#).

Additional Information

Technical assistance will be offered on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 10:00 – 10:30 am
- Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 2:00 – 2:30 pm

Please register by Monday, December 1, 2025 through the Department’s [Calendar of Events](#).

Contact Information

Please contact chapter8@doe.nj.gov with any questions.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group