STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: November 10, 2026

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

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

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Division of Academic Services

Streamlined Portfolio Appeals Options Expanded for 2026-2027 Submissions

This memorandum provides local education agencies (LEAs) and approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSDs) with information about the expanded streamlined portfolio appeals options available for 2026-2027 submissions. Due to updates made to N.J.A.C. 6A:8 in October 2025, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to share expanded streamlined portfolio appeals options available for 2026-2027 submissions. In addition to using qualifying Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Armed Forces Qualification Test (ASVAB AFQT) scores to access the streamlined portfolio appeals option, students who have earned a qualifying Industry-Valued Credential (IVC) or who have completed a qualifying Work-Based Learning (WBL) experience may also use this option.

LEAs and APSSDs should review data and student records for students in the class of 2027 to determine if students who will be participating in the portfolio appeals process may qualify for the streamlined portfolio appeals option.

Requirements for Streamlined Portfolio Appeals
The streamlined portfolio appeals option allows for a reduction in the quantity of portfolio appeals constructed response tasks that would need to be submitted for eligible students by 50 percent per content area. Students may qualify for a streamlined portfolio appeal by:

- Meeting or exceeding the minimum ASVAB AFQT score of 35;
- Earning a qualifying IVC; or
- Completing a qualifying WBL experience.

Please note that the specific criteria for qualifying IVCs and WBL experiences are outlined in the Streamlined Portfolio Appeals section of the Graduation Assessment Requirement webpage.

The constructed response task requirements for the streamlined portfolio appeals submission are as follows:

- For a student who qualifies for a streamlined English language arts (ELA) portfolio appeal:
    - One reading task (either literary or informational) must be successfully completed; and

    - One writing task (either informative/explanatory, argument, or narrative) must be successfully completed.
- For a student who qualifies for a streamlined mathematics portfolio appeal:
    - One task evidencing "4. Model with mathematics" (representing one of the five conceptual categories not used for the second task) must be successfully completed; and
    - One task evidencing either "2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively" or "3. Construct viable arguments" (representing one of the five conceptual categories not used for the first task) must be successfully completed.

Impacted Resources

The following portfolio appeals resources include specific references to ASVAB AFQT, IVC, and WBL and are available on the Graduation Assessment Requirements webpage under the section Third Pathway—Graduation Portfolio Appeal:

- Portfolio Appeals Data Spreadsheet – includes data fields for submission of scores, credentials, or experiences used to demonstrate eligibility for the streamlined portfolio appeals option.
- Portfolio Appeals Data Spreadsheet 2026-2027 Field Definitions – explains the expected values for each of the data fields.

The following portfolio appeals resources also include references to the streamlined portfolio appeals option and are available on the Graduation Assessment Requirements webpage:

- Educational Proficiency Plan – refers to the requirement to include a record of any scores or documentation used to qualify a student for the streamlined portfolio appeals process.
- 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 options students may use to qualify for a streamlined portfolio appeal submission and the associated requirements.

Additional Considerations

Please keep the following in mind regarding the options available for a streamlined portfolio appeal:

- This is **available as an option** for students expected to graduate with the class of 2027, but students are **not required** to take the ASVAB, earn an IVC, or complete a WBL experience to submit a traditional portfolio appeal.
- If you are not submitting a streamlined portfolio appeal for a student, the associated data fields (i.e., ASVAB AFQT, IVC, and WBL) in the spreadsheet template may be left blank.
- Additional resources, information, and technical assistance opportunities for the 2026–2027 Portfolio Appeals Process are forthcoming.

Contact information

For any questions, please contact the NJDOE's Office of Assessments at assessment@doe.nj.gov or (609) 376-3960.