



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 14, 2026

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

Route To: District Test Coordinators, District Technology Coordinators, School Test Coordinators

From: Dr. Tiffany Neill, Acting Chief Academic Officer
Division of Academic Services

Fall Block 2026 New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Adaptive (NJSLA-A) Key Dates and Information

This memorandum provides local education agencies (LEAs) and approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSDs) with key dates and information for the fall block 2026 administration of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Adaptive (NJSLA-A) for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

Key Dates

The complete key dates schedule for the fall 2026 NJSLA-A is available on the [NJGPA-Adaptive/NJSLA-Adaptive/NJSLA-Science](#) section of the [Assessment](#) webpage.

The complete schedule for the New Jersey statewide assessment program for the 2026-2027 school year was released on May 13, 2026, and is available on the [Assessment](#) webpage under **Resources**.

Participation in the Fall NJSLA-A ELA and Mathematics Administration

The fall block NJSLA-A will be administered in person from **November 30 through December 16, 2026**. LEAs and APSSDs may use the full testing window to administer NJSLA-A and must ensure that participating students are provided with a regular testing date(s) as well as a make-up testing opportunity. Districts should begin administering make-up testing as soon as allowable within their testing schedule.

To meet the federal testing requirement, LEAs and APSSDs must administer fall block assessments to students in grade nine who are **enrolled in a fall block course** for ELA, mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II) or both. 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.

There may be some situations which would require a student in grade 10, 11 or 12 to take an NJSLA-A for mathematics (i.e., first time enrollment in an Algebra I course). Please note that students in grade 10, 11 and 12 may not be assigned the grade 9 ELA assessment. **Section 1.3 Who Must Test**

of the *Test Coordination Manual (TCM)* provides specific guidance on who must test for NJSLA-A and is available by searching “TCM” on [New Jersey Assessments Portal Resources](#).

Training, Manuals, and Resources

For the fall 2026 administrations, new resources and enhancements to certain existing resources from spring 2026 are now available. With the exception of new and updated resources to support fall administration, District Test Coordinators (DTCs) and District Technology Coordinators (TCs) should visit the [New Jersey Assessments Portal](#) under **Testing Personnel** for access to the spring 2026 training materials and other associated resources as well as the new and updated resources available for fall 2026.

New and updated resources made available on September 2, 2026, include:

- Guides and Manuals:
 - *Testing Attributes Reference Manual (TARM)*
 - *Testing Attributes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*
 - *Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) User Guide*

New and updated resources made available September 14, 2026, include:

- Guides and Manuals:
 - *Test Coordination Manual (TCM)*
 - *Student Interface Help Guide*
 - *Hotline Direct User Guide*
- Trainings (available in ClearCourse and on the [New Jersey Assessments Portal](#)):
 - *What’s New for 2026 – 2027*
 - *Test Administrator (TA) Essentials Certification Course*
 - *Hotline Direct*

Prior to each administration, DTCs are required to familiarize themselves with the responsibilities associated with their roles, including training test administrators on the proper administration of state assessments and ensuring the appropriate technology requirements are in place.

Secure Browser Use and Fall 2026 Technology Guide

A Secure Browser must be installed on each device used for student testing. More information about the secure browser requirements and technology information for the fall 2026 administration, including the *Technology Guide*, can be accessed on the [New Jersey Assessments Portal](#) under **Technology Coordinators**.

Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) Data

User Accounts

Updating TIDE user accounts regularly is essential to ensure the protection of confidential student information. DTCs are required to disable the accounts of individuals who no longer work in the organization. LEAs and APSSDs are reminded to make updates in NJDOE Homeroom as staff changes occur. Please also contact the Office of Assessments when there are changes to the Chief School Administrator (CSA) and DTC roles so the necessary updates to the organization information can be made in TIDE.

Student Registration and Testing Attributes Data Uploads

To register students, LEAs and APSSDs must upload the student file, testing attributes file and, if utilized, TIDE-Only rosters directly to TIDE. It is recommended that LEAs and APSSDs complete the initial upload of data by **November 9, 2026**. Updates to student data may continue throughout the testing window until the data clean-up window closes on **December 23, 2026**. Students taking the paper-based versions of the assessments must be included in the student file upload.

Please take note of the following information:

- Students must be registered in [TIDE](#) under the *New Jersey 2026–2027 Test Administration*. For more details about registering students, refer to the *TIDE Student Field Definitions Guide*. For more details about adding testing attributes, refer to the *TIDE Testing Attributes Field Definitions Guide*. Both documents are available in TIDE under **General Resources**.
- For students who attend an out-of-district placement, the testing site, not the accountable school, must register out-of-district students in TIDE. It is essential that the correct accountable district and school codes are used, which will be different than the testing site district and school codes. Sending LEAs will not be able to see their out-of-district placement students in TIDE. Sending LEAs must communicate with receiving LEAs and APSSDs to ensure that student records are accurate.
 - **Note:** Schools in sending/receiving relationships must verify and confirm that any out-of-district placement sites receiving their students are state-approved testing sites before identifying them in TIDE as a testing site. If the receiving school is not an approved testing site, the accountable district must identify themselves as the testing site and must either send staff to the out-of-district placement site to test the student(s) or bring them back to their district for testing.
- 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.

Paper Test Materials

Please note that, due to the requirements related to production and delivery of paper-based test (PBT) materials for NJSLA-A, students who require these materials will not receive an adaptive assessment. These tests will be delivered as a fixed form.

All paper-based test materials must be ordered through the additional order process, which will **begin on November 2, 2026, and end on December 9, 2026**. Materials ordered early in the window will arrive on approximately November 20, 2026. After an additional order has been reviewed and approved, it will take approximately four to five business days for materials to be delivered. Tracking information can be found in TIDE once materials have been shipped. LEAs and APSSDs must specify the exact number of individual test kits required.

As a reminder, LEAs and APSSDs must transcribe student responses directly into the Response Entry (RE) Interface by **December 16, 2026** and should refer to the *Directions for Entering Student*

Responses in the Response Entry (RE) Interface available on the [New Jersey Assessments Portal](#) under **Resources**.

Tutorials and Practice Tests

LEAs and APSSDs are strongly encouraged to use the sample items, item type tutorials, and practice tests available on the [New Jersey Assessments Portal](#) to help educators, students, and parents familiarize themselves with the content and interface of the assessments and test delivery platform. Sample items and item type tutorials familiarize students and educators with the item types, testing tools and features, accommodations, and test format and/or navigation of the test delivery platform (computer-based testing only) that are used for the NJSLA-A. **Section 3.5 Prepare Students for Testing** in the updated *TCM* includes additional information related to the use of tutorials and practice tests prior to testing. Practice tests provide an opportunity for students to become familiar with the types of items and to respond to test questions similar to the questions students will be asked to answer on each assessment.

Contact Information

For any questions regarding the fall 2026 NJSLA-A administration, please contact the Office of Assessments at (609) 376-3960 or assessment@doe.nj.gov.