



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 2, 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: Jorden Schiff Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Fall 2026 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive 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 2026 administration of the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A).

Key Dates

The complete schedule for the fall 2026 NJGPA-A is available on the [NJSLA-Adaptive/NJGPA-Adaptive](#) 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 NJGPA-A Fall Administration

The fall administration of NJGPA-A provides a retake or initial testing opportunity for students who are scheduled to graduate in the class of 2027. The fall NJGPA-A will be administered in person from **October 13 through October 28, 2026**. LEAs and APSSDs may use the full testing window to administer NJGPA-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. Any student who did not meet the minimum cut-score on the English language arts (ELA) component, the mathematics component, or both during a previous attempt **must be offered** a retake opportunity. LEAs and APSSDs must offer targeted support prior to any student retaking one or both components of the assessment.

Students who are eligible to participate in the fall administration of the NJGPA-A include:

- Students who took the NJGPA-A during a previous administration but did not meet the minimum 450 cut-score on the ELA component, the mathematics component, or both.

- Students in the class of 2027 who have not yet taken one or both components of the NJGPA-A are **required** to participate in testing.

Please note that students must receive a valid score in each component of the NJGPA-A prior to accessing the alternative pathways available to their graduating class for that specific component.

Please also note that students in grade 11 who are anticipated to graduate in the class of 2028 must wait until the spring 2027 administration to take the NJGPA-A for the first time.

Please see the August 5, 2026 broadcast, [Graduation Ready Cut Scores Established for the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive \(NJGPA-A\): English Language Arts \(ELA\) and Mathematics, and Alternative Assessments](#), for information on the approval of cut scores for the class of 2027.

Training, Manuals, and Resources

For fall, new resources and enhancements to certain existing resources from spring 2026 will be available to support fall administration.

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. New and Updated resources are expected to be released as follows:

Resource	Available by
• Guides and Manuals: ○ <i>Testing Attributes Reference Manual (TARM)</i> ○ <i>Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) User Guide</i>	September 2, 2026
• Guides and Manuals: ○ <i>Test Coordination Manual (TCM)</i> ○ <i>Student Interface Help Guide</i> ○ <i>Hotline Direct User Guide</i> • Trainings: ○ <i>What's New for 2026 – 2027</i> ○ <i>Test Administrator (TA) Essentials Certification Course</i> ○ <i>Hotline Direct</i> • Scripts: ○ Fall NJGPA-A Test Administrator Scripts	September 14, 2026

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.

Additional training resources will be available on ClearCourse on the [New Jersey Assessments Portal](#) under **Testing Personnel**. Training descriptions are available below:

- *What's New for 2026 – 2027* provides an overview of updates and enhancements to CAI systems.
- *Test Administrator (TA) Essentials Certification Course* provides an overview and interactive opportunity for test administrators to gain more experience starting, monitoring and stopping test sessions.
- *Hotline Direct* provides an overview of the new system for delivery of student response alerts which were previously sent through the Secure File Center. This new system provides LEAs and APSSDs with the ability to receive, acknowledge, and route student response alerts more efficiently. Hotline Direct will be implemented beginning with the fall 2026 NJGPA-A test administration. The Hotline Direct User Guide will be available to support training and use of this new system.

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. District Test Coordinators (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 **September 30, 2026**. Updates to student data may continue throughout the testing window until the data clean-up window closes on **November 2, 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 the 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 NJGPA-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 **September 14, 2026**, and end on **October 21, 2026**. Materials ordered early in the window will arrive on approximately **September 29, 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.

Additional PBT Information

As a reminder, answer documents are no longer used for paper-based testing. Instead, students are expected to write their answers in their test booklet. LEAs and APSSDs will transcribe these student responses directly into the Response Entry (RE) Interface by the established deadline 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**. Additional guidance and instructions for the handling of physical test materials and the transcription of student responses to the RE Interface will be included in the *Fall 2026 TCM* and is available in the Spring 2026 District Test Coordinator and District Technology Coordinator Trainings.

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 NJGPA-A. **Section 3.5** Prepare students for Testing in the updated *Fall 2026 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 which will be asked to answer on each assessment.

Contact information

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