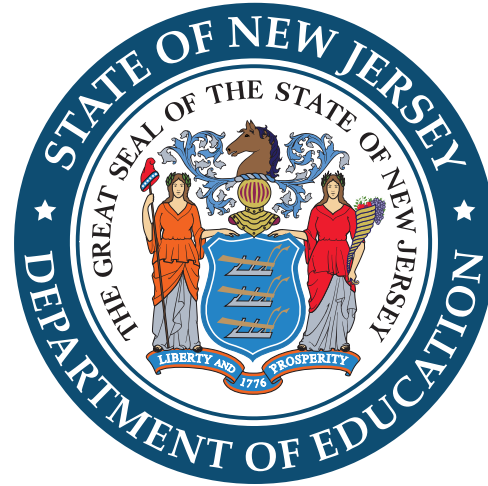




NJGPA-A Standard Setting Summary and Cut Scores

August 5, 2026

Agenda

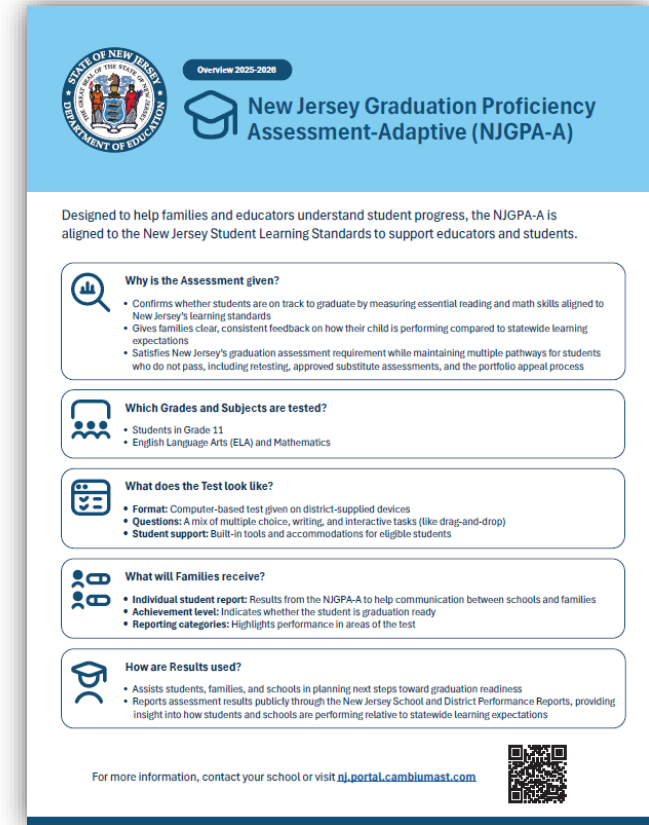


- How are the tests different?
- What is standard setting and who participated?
- Panelist Survey Results
- Recommended cut scores
- Graduation Pathways for the Class of 2027



Why is the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A) given?

- Confirms whether students are on track to graduate by measuring essential reading and math skills aligned to New Jersey's learning standards
- Gives families clear, consistent feedback on how their child is performing compared to statewide learning expectations
- Satisfies New Jersey's graduation assessment requirement while maintaining multiple pathways for students who do not pass, including retesting, approved substitute assessments, and the portfolio appeal process



The infographic is titled "New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A) Overview 2025-2026". It features the New Jersey Department of Education logo and a graduation cap icon. The text states: "Designed to help families and educators understand student progress, the NJGPA-A is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards to support educators and students." Below this, there are five sections, each with an icon and a title:

- Why is the Assessment given?** (Icon: magnifying glass)
 - Confirms whether students are on track to graduate by measuring essential reading and math skills aligned to New Jersey's learning standards
 - Gives families clear, consistent feedback on how their child is performing compared to statewide learning expectations
 - Satisfies New Jersey's graduation assessment requirement while maintaining multiple pathways for students who do not pass, including retesting, approved substitute assessments, and the portfolio appeal process
- Which Grades and Subjects are tested?** (Icon: three people)
 - Students in Grade 11
 - English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics
- What does the Test look like?** (Icon: document with plus)
 - **Format:** Computer-based test given on district-supplied devices
 - **Questions:** A mix of multiple choice, writing, and interactive tasks (like drag-and-drop)
 - **Student support:** Built-in tools and accommodations for eligible students
- What will Families receive?** (Icon: three people)
 - **Individual student report:** Results from the NJGPA-A to help communication between schools and families
 - **Achievement level:** Indicates whether the student is graduation ready
 - **Reporting categories:** Highlights performance in areas of the test
- How are Results used?** (Icon: graduation cap)
 - Assists students, families, and schools in planning next steps toward graduation readiness
 - Reports assessment results publicly through the New Jersey School and District Performance Reports, providing insight into how students and schools are performing relative to statewide learning expectations

For more information, contact your school or visit nj.portal.cambiumast.com



From Field Test to Standard Setting

Fall 2025

Field Test

Items from the vendor's bank were administered to students to gather real data on how each item performs.

Establishes the item-level evidence needed to judge quality.

Winter 2026

Educator Data Review

New Jersey educators reviewed content quality and flagged items that did not perform consistently across student groups.

Confirms fairness and validity; weak items are removed.

Spring 2026

Operational Administration

The first operational administration of NJGPA-A and NJSLA-A used only field-tested, educator-approved items.

Delivers a test built from proven, reliable items.

Summer 2026

Standard Setting

Educators set performance levels and cut scores using nationally recognized practices, defining what each score means.

Produces valid results, reporting can begin.



Considerations for the change in Graduation Ready rates



Transition from fixed-form to adaptive testing



Alignment to new academic standards



Updated performance level descriptors



Redesigned test blueprints



Transition from fixed-form to adaptive testing

- Increased precision
 - Adaptive tests target item difficulty to the student's ability level, producing more information and lower measurement error around the student's achievement level.
- Changes to the assessment platform and item structure
 - The way questions were phrased and how the student interacts with the testing platform can impact their performance until they become familiar with the new formats.



Alignment to New Academic Standards



- Test is now directly aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English language Arts and Mathematics (NJSLS-ELA/M)
 - The prior NJGPA was aligned to the PARCC evidence statements
- Shift Toward Higher-Order Thinking Skills
 - The standards require deeper conceptual understanding, more complex problem-solving, and enhanced application of knowledge.
- The revised NJSLS-ELA/M have shifted focus on some aspects of the standards and students are still adjusting to the newly implemented standards.



Updated performance level descriptors

- Performance level descriptors (PLDs) detail the knowledge, skills, and abilities a student needs to demonstrate to achieve a specific performance level, such as Graduation Ready.
- PLDs have been rewritten to align and represent the 2023 NJSLs-ELA/M.
 - Prior PLDs were aligned to the PARCC Evidence Statements.



Redesigned test blueprints

- Changes to the ELA assessment include:
 - Moving from two extended writing tasks to a single writing task,
 - Greater emphasis on reading standards, and
 - There are more passages for students to read and process on this assessment than the prior.
- Changes to the Mathematics assessment include:
 - Extended response items are no longer used on the assessment, and
 - Reporting categories have been redesigned to provide more meaningful results at the student and LEA levels.



What is Standard Setting?

- Process that takes the written descriptions from the Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) and applies them to determine a numeric value represented by the scale score.
- Standard setting involves determining the “cut points” (or where to “draw the lines”) that separate scores into those Performance Levels.
- New Jersey educators then make a recommendation to indicate where students demonstrated knowledge, skills, and abilities reflect graduation ready proficiencies as indicated by the PLDs.



NJGPA-A Standard Setting Panelist Information

- Thirty (30) educators across ELA and Math participated in the event.
- Representatives from north, central, and south regions.
- Mix of representation from urban, suburban, and rural schools.
- Panelists consist of a mix of roles within districts such as:
 - Teachers of general education students,
 - Teachers of special education students,
 - Teachers of multilingual learner students,
 - Administrators,
 - Supervisors,
 - Instructional coaches, and
 - Specialists.



Panel Consistency Across Rounds



- Panelists began with independent judgements and then refined their recommendations through discussion.
- The process was done over three rounds allowing for change, but the overall results were consistent in both subject areas.
- The final cut scores represent a collective judgment of educators rather than any single panelist or table.



Panelist Survey Results on the Process

- Educators reported a strong understanding of the workshop purpose and process.
- Panelists viewed the process as fair, unbiased, and supported by effective training.
- Participants reported that discussions, performance data, and supporting materials helped inform their decisions.
- Nearly all educators felt comfortable sharing their perspectives and believe all voices were heard.



Panelist Survey Results on the Cut Score Recommendation



All panelists expressed confidence in their ability to establish performance standards.



All ELA panelists and most Mathematics panelists supported the recommended Graduation Ready standard.



Results indicate strong confidence that the recommended cut scores appropriately reflect the expectations in the PLDs.



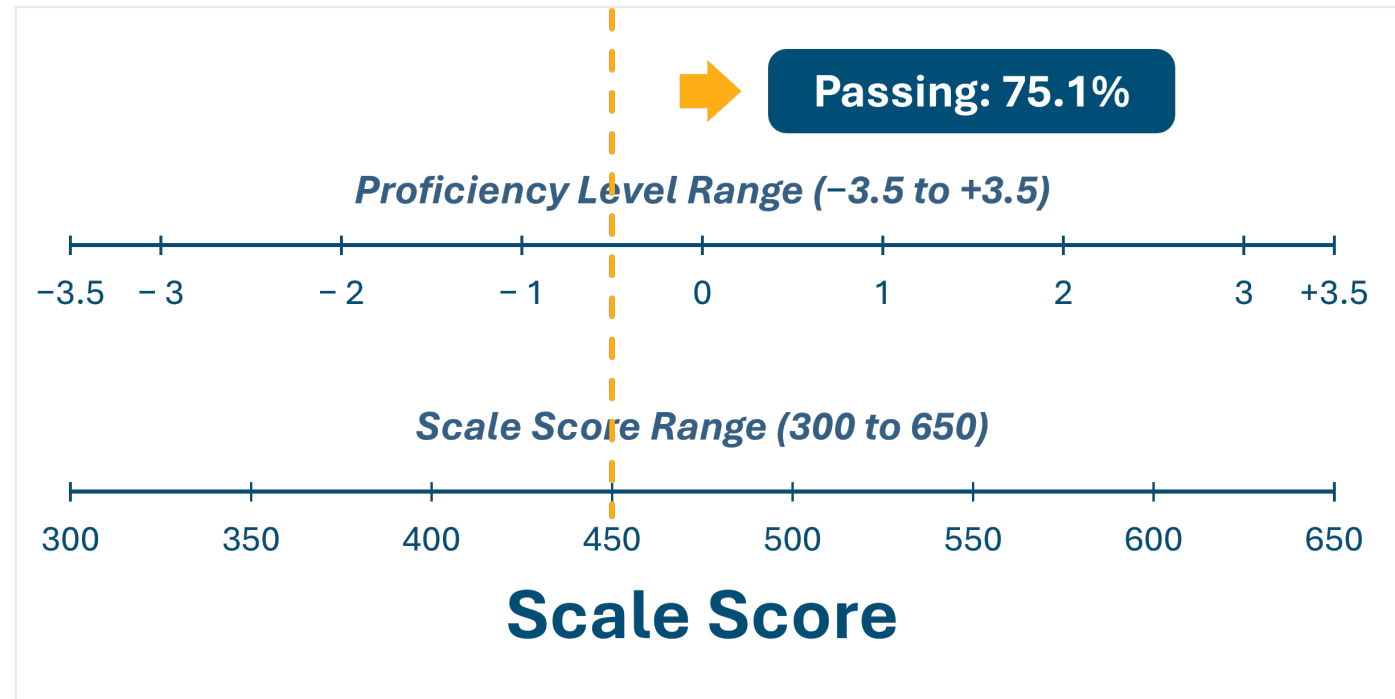
The recommendations are supported by educators who participated directly in the standard-setting process.



NJGPA-A ELA Recommended Cut Scores

- NJGPA-A Scale: 300–650
- Scale Score Cut Point: 450
- Graduation Ready Cut Score: -0.335
- 2026 Graduation Ready rate: 75.1%
- 2025 Graduation Ready rate: 81.3%
- The Passing Cut on the underlying proficiency scale is what will be held constant and what future administrations of the assessment will be compared to.

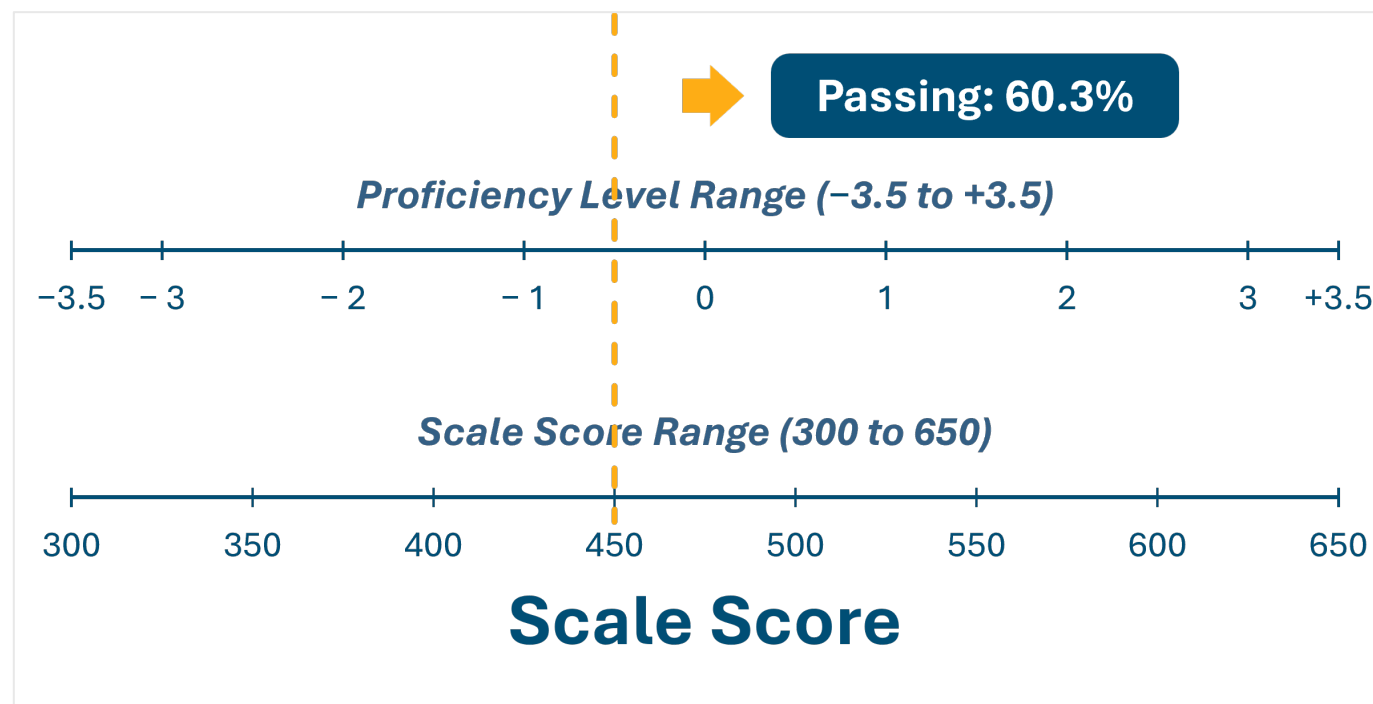
ELA: Proficiency-to-Scale Alignment
Graduation Ready Cut
 $\theta = -0.335$ (Scale 450)



NJGPA-A Mathematics Recommended Cut Scores

- NJGPA-A Scale: 300–650
- Scale Score Cut Point: 450
- Graduation Ready Cut Score: -0.450
- 2026 Graduation Ready rate: 60.3%
- 2025 Graduation Ready rate: 58.5%

Mathematics: Proficiency-to-Scale Alignment
Graduation Ready Cut
 $\theta = -0.450$ (Scale 450)



Graduation Pathways – Class of 2027

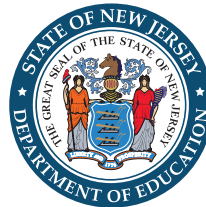
Students who took but did not demonstrate “Graduation Ready” performance can use the following pathways:

- Retest NJGPA-A
 - The next administration of the NJGPA-A will occur October 13-28, 2026.
- Menu of Alternate Assessments
 - The cut scores for the assessments will remain the same as they were for the class of 2026.
- Portfolio Appeals
 - Submissions for the class of 2027 opens January 4, 2027.



Thank You

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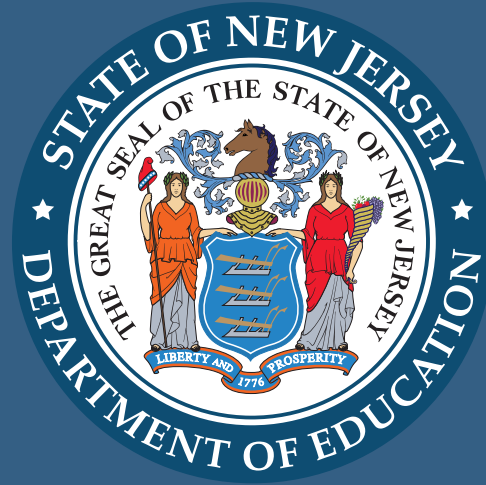
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