

Glassboro Public Schools



MEMO

To: Dr. Mark Silverstein, Superintendent of Schools

From: Dr. Robert Preston, Chief Academic Officer

Date: February 14, 2023

Re: Action Memo
February 22, 2023 Board Meeting

Recommend BOE approve the New Jersey Department of Education Equivalency Application. We are seeking to use our in-house MAP benchmark test instead of the NJSLA as a “alternate means” to achieve proficiency. The NJDOE defines equivalency as “approval to achieve the intent of a specific rule through an alternate means that is different from yet judged to be comparable to or as effective as, those prescribed within the rule.” The NWEA MAP test is a nationally normed, highly regarded assessment that we have used since 2019.

New Jersey Department of Education

Equivalency Application

County Gloucester

County Code # 15

School District Glassboro Public Schools District Code # 1730

“Equivalency” means approval to achieve the intent of a specific rule through an alternate means that is different from, yet judged to be comparable to or as effective as, those prescribed within the rule.

1. List the specific Administrative Code citation(s) that necessitates the proposed equivalency. As **the Department cannot approve an equivalency for an entire chapter, subchapter or section** (e.g., N.J.A.C. 6A:5, N.J.A.C. 6A:5-1 or N.J.A.C. 6A:5-1.1, respectively), all applications must include a citation at least at the subsection level (e.g., N.J.A.C. 6A:5-1.1(a)). Do *not* include a statutory citation (N.J.S.A. or N.J.S.) as the Department does not have the authority to waive state law.

N.J.A.C. 6A:30-2.2(c) and Appendix A

2. Describe what the school district intends to accomplish through the equivalency that is currently prevented or disallowed by the existing rule(s).

The Glassboro Public School District is requesting to substitute Instruction and Program DPR Indicators 4 and 5, which utilize data from 2018-2019 and are not reflective of our current population and growth. The district believes it is in the best interest of its students and staff to measure its level of growth using 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 measures due to the absence of a state and federally mandated mSGP in 2021 and 2022. Growth will be demonstrated by using our 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Test for all subgroups.

3. Describe why an equivalency is necessary to accomplish the desired or measurable result(s).

By approving this application, the Commissioner will allow the Glassboro Public School District to be evaluated through an equivalent set of quality performance indicators. Utilization of student progress data from 3 years ago misrepresents the current state of academic progress in our district. The district is requesting permission to replace QSAC I&P indicators 4 and 5 with current data more reflective of our current practices.

4. Describe how the proposed equivalency meets the following three criteria, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:5-1.3(a):
 - The spirit and intent of N.J.S.A. 18A, applicable Federal laws and regulations, and N.J.A.C. 6A are served by granting the waiver;
 - The provision of a thorough and efficient education to the school district's students is not compromised as a result of the equivalency; and

- There will be no risk to student health, safety or civil rights by granting the waiver.

The equivalency will use district wide assessment data from school year 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. Our district wide assessment provides data breakdowns for all of our current students in entirety and by subgroups. We are proposing this equivalency as a means to utilize results and growth of our current students and staff as opposed to those who are no longer in our district. Additionally, as we have navigated through a global pandemic, a great deal of professional development time has been spent by our staff analyzing data and developing plans to expedite student growth. There is no risk to the health, safety, or civil rights of the students we serve by granting the equivalency.

5. Describe the process, including solicitation of input and public comment, employed to inform the community, parents, district board of education members, administrators and staff during the proposal's development.

1. **1/26/23** – Administrative team met to outline the ideas and timeline for the proposal.
2. **1/30/23**– Staff is provided the outline and asked to discuss and/or submit thoughts, ideas, and comment regarding proposal.
3. **2/15/23** – Proposal is presented to the **Instruction Committee** of the Board. After a thorough explanation, the committee is asked to discuss and/or submit thoughts, ideas, and comment regarding the proposal.
4. **2/16/23** – Proposal is sent to the remaining members of the board of education for review.
5. **2/22/23 – Public Board Meeting** – At this meeting, the Superintendent and Curriculum Coordinator/Testing Coordinator will review the school year 2021-2022 growth data in comparison to the 2018-19 mSGP data. We will provide a thorough explanation of the proposal and why it better reflects current practices and outcomes in the Glassboro Public School District. During that time, the board of education as well as the community/parents will have an opportunity to provide input, ask questions, and discuss thoughts/ideas.

6. Provide the date the district board of education adopted a resolution supporting the proposed equivalency.

The board of education will adopt a resolution supporting the proposed equivalency on (Add Date).

I, MARK SILVERSTEIN, certify the information presented in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

MARK SILVERSTEIN
Chief School Administrator


Signature

2/2/23
Date

Please submit the completed application to your executive county superintendent.