



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 6, 2018
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: District and School Test Administrators
From: Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner of Education

Status Update on the Administration of PARCC Assessments

The purpose of this message is to provide a status update to local school leaders on the status of Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) administration this year, and the anticipated transition away from the assessment moving forward.

Because each statewide test-administration cycle is established a full year in advance, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will administer the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) in the spring of 2018, as planned. All students will be required to take the English language arts and mathematics PARCC assessments for the 2018 administration of the test in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d)* and *6A:8-5.1(a) - 6A:8-5.1(h)* and federal law under *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. The only exemption is for grade 11 students who pass an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) exam in lieu of ELA 11, as described in the NJDOE's [September 2015 memo](#).

However, the NJDOE is committed to fulfilling the Governor's call to transition away from and to improve upon the current system of PARCC assessments. This will occur in a thoughtful, deliberative process to ensure compliance with state and federal law, smooth school and district operational transitions and, most importantly, in a manner that is most beneficial and least disruptive to the students whom we serve.

Developing the next levels of our ever-evolving assessment system requires a tremendous amount of collaboration and input from practitioners and experts. With the input of teachers, support staff, supervisors, principals, test administrators, superintendents, parents, businesses, policy makers and broader community organizations, we will determine collectively the next stage of statewide assessments.

In the coming weeks, I will be forming an advisory group with representatives from diverse educational perspectives and strong technical knowledge of the realities of test administration. I also will be conducting a broader listening tour to hear from students and educators in every county.

There are many issues to take into consideration when transitioning an assessment system, including the amount of time needed to procure a new vendor, the fiscal and operational impact of assessments, and continued alignment to our New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Additionally, as state and federal law require all states to use assessments as one method to gauge and compare progress of students and student groups and to evaluate how schools support learning, we need to ensure our next generation of assessments provides a fair and accurate picture of student progress toward the mastery of the skills we expect them to achieve.

Following deep conversations, the NJDOE will present a transition plan to New Jersey's next generation of standardized, statewide assessments. In the meantime, the current statewide assessments, as well as federal and state accountability and graduation requirements, all remain in effect until further notified of changes in the regulations.

I look forward to our conversations and to enhancing our assessment process to ensure we are leading the nation in innovation.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group