

New Jersey High School Graduation Assessment Requirements

On August 3, 2016, the State Board of Education approved updated state regulations for the high school graduation assessment requirements in both English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and mathematics for the Classes of 2016 through 2021 and beyond. These new state regulations ([N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1](#)) became effective on September 6, 2016 and are detailed below. In this document, you will find charts containing the list of assessment requirements in both ELA and mathematics for the high school graduation Classes of 2018 through 2021.

The Classes of 2018 and 2019

Students graduating as members of the Classes of 2018 and 2019 can meet graduation assessment requirements through any of these **three pathways**:

- (1) Achieve passing scores on high school level PARCC assessments;
- (2) Achieve scores defined in the table below on alternative assessments such as the SAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER; or
- (3) Submit, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

The Class of 2020

Students in the Class of 2020 can demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency through:

- (1) Achieve passing scores on PARCC Algebra I and English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) grade 10 assessments

The following pathways are available to students who took all PARCC tests associated with the high school level courses for which they were eligible and received valid scores¹:

- (2) Achieve scores defined in the table below on alternative assessments such as the SAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER, PARCC ELA 9, ELA 11, Geometry, Algebra II; or
- (3) Submit, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the NJDOE.

The Class of 2021 and Beyond

Starting with the Class of 2021, students will only have **two pathways** to meet the high school graduation assessments requirements:

- (1) Achieve passing scores on PARCC Algebra I and English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) grade 10 assessments

The following pathway is available to students who took all PARCC tests associated with the high school level courses for which they were eligible and received valid scores¹:

- (2) Submit, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the NJDOE.

Each school year the NJDOE will determine the proficiency level and/or cut scores needed on the assessments to meet the graduation assessment requirements. It is also important to note that our students have always been able to meet graduation assessment requirements through an alternative assessment or pathway to graduation throughout New Jersey's forty-year history with a statewide assessment program and will continue to be able to do so. **Special Education students, whose Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) specify an alternative way to demonstrate proficiencies, will continue to follow the graduation assessment requirements set forth in their IEPs.**

¹ "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receives a valid score. This includes the following courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11.

ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2018

This document continues to reflect current state requirements (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f)), effective September 6, 2016.

The format of this document was updated in December 2018.

Pathways Available	English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA)	Mathematics
First Pathway: <i>Take and Pass a PARCC Test</i>	PARCC ELA Grade 9 ≥ 750 (Level 4), <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 10 ≥ 750 (Level 4), <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 11 ≥ 725 (Level 3)	PARCC Algebra I ≥ 750 (Level 4), <i>or</i> PARCC Geometry ≥ 725 (Level 3), <i>or</i> PARCC Algebra II ≥ 725 (Level 3)
Second Pathway: <i>Meet Designated Cut Score on One of the Alternative Assessments</i>	SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16) ≥ 400 , <i>or</i> SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) ≥ 450 , <i>or</i> SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) ≥ 22 , <i>or</i> ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading ² ≥ 16 , <i>or</i> ACCUPLACER WritePlacer ≥ 6 , <i>or</i> ACCUPLACER WritePlacer ESL ≥ 4 , <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15) ≥ 40 , <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) ≥ 22 , <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Reading ² ≥ 422 , <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite ≥ 31	SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16) ≥ 400 , <i>or</i> SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) ≥ 440 , <i>or</i> SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) ≥ 22 , <i>or</i> ACT or ACT PLAN Math ² ≥ 16 , <i>or</i> ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra ≥ 76 , <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15) ≥ 40 , <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) ≥ 22 , <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Math ² ≥ 422 , <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite ≥ 31
Third Pathway: <i>Portfolio Appeals</i>	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math

² Test is no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year.

ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2019³

This document continues to reflect current state requirements (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f)), effective September 6, 2016. The format of this document was updated and Class of 2019 cut scores were included in December 2018. Please note the Class of 2019 cut scores are the same cut scores available to the Class of 2018.

Pathways Available	English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA)	Mathematics
First Pathway: Take and Pass a PARCC Test	PARCC ELA Grade 9 \geq 750 (Level 4), <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 10 \geq 750 (Level 4), <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 11 \geq 725 (Level 3)	PARCC Algebra I \geq 750 (Level 4), <i>or</i> PARCC Geometry \geq 725 (Level 3), <i>or</i> PARCC Algebra II \geq 725 (Level 3)
Second Pathway: Meet Designated Cut Score on One of the Alternative Assessments	SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16) \geq 400, <i>or</i> SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 450, <i>or</i> SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 22, <i>or</i> ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading ⁴ \geq 16, <i>or</i> ACCUPLACER WritePlacer \geq 6, <i>or</i> ACCUPLACER WritePlacer ESL \geq 4, <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15) \geq 40, <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) \geq 22, <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Reading ⁴ \geq 422, <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite \geq 31	SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16) \geq 400, <i>or</i> SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 440, <i>or</i> SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 22, <i>or</i> ACT or ACT PLAN Math ⁴ \geq 16, <i>or</i> ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra \geq 76, <i>or</i> Next-Generation ACCUPLACER Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics (QAS) (beginning January 2019) ⁵ \geq 255, <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15) \geq 40, <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) \geq 22, <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Math ⁴ \geq 422, <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite \geq 31
Third Pathway: Portfolio Appeals	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math

³ These summarize the current rules governing state assessment in New Jersey. The proposed amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:8 will not affect the requirements for the Class of 2019.

⁴ Test is no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year.

⁵ Beginning on **Monday, January 28, 2019**, classic ACCUPLACER tests will no longer be available. QAS will replace ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra.

ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2020⁶

This document continues to reflect current state requirements (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f)), effective September 2016. The format of this document was updated December 2018.

Pathways Available	English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA)	Mathematics
First Pathway: Take and Pass a PARCC Test	Take and Pass PARCC ELA Grade 10 \geq 750 (Level 4)	Take and Pass PARCC Algebra I \geq 750 (Level 4) ⁷

The Pathways below are only available if a student took all PARCC tests associated with the high school level courses for which they were eligible and received valid scores.⁸

Pathways Available	English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA)	Mathematics
Second Pathway: Meet Designated Cut Score on One of the Alternative Assessments	PARCC ELA Grade 9 \geq 750 (Level 4), <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 11 \geq 725 (Level 3), <i>or</i> SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16), <i>or</i> SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later), <i>or</i> SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later), <i>or</i> ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading ⁹ , <i>or</i> ACCUPLACER WritePlacer, <i>or</i> ACCUPLACER WritePlacer ESL, <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15), <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later), <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Reading ⁹ , <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite	PARCC Geometry \geq 725 (Level 3), <i>or</i> PARCC Algebra II \geq 725 (Level 3), <i>or</i> SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16), <i>or</i> SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later), <i>or</i> SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later), <i>or</i> ACT or ACT PLAN Math ⁹ , <i>or</i> ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra, <i>or</i> Next-Generation ACCUPLACER Quantitative, Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics (QAS) (beginning January 2019) ¹⁰ , <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15), <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later), <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Math ⁹ , <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite
Third Pathway: Portfolio Appeals	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math

⁶ These summarize the current rules governing state assessment in New Jersey. Amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessment, were moved to proposal level by the NJ State Board of Education on October 3, 2018. The State Board's public comment period closes January 7, 2019; email stateboard@doe.nj.gov with feedback.

⁷ The NJDOE is providing [flexibility to meet the math assessment requirement](#) for students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to the September 6, 2016 effective date of the new high school assessment regulations.

⁸ "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receives a valid score. This includes the following courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11.

⁹ Test is no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year.

¹⁰ Beginning on **Monday, January 28, 2019**, classic ACCUPLACER tests will no longer be available. QAS will replace ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra.

ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2021¹¹

This document continues to reflect current state requirements (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f)), effective September 2016. The format of this document was updated December 2018.

Pathways Available	English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA)	Mathematics
First Pathway: Take and Pass a PARCC Test	Take and Pass PARCC ELA Grade 10 ≥ 750 (Level 4)	Take and Pass PARCC Algebra I ≥ 750 (Level 4) ¹²

The Pathway below is only available if a student took all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible and received valid scores.¹³

Pathways Available	English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA)	Mathematics
Second Pathway: Portfolio Appeals	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math

¹¹ These summarize the current rules governing state assessment in New Jersey. Amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessment, were moved to proposal level by the NJ State Board of Education on October 3, 2018. The State Board's public comment period closes January 7, 2019; email stateboard@doe.nj.gov with feedback.

¹² The NJDOE is providing [flexibility to meet the math assessment requirement](#) for students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to the September 6, 2016 effective date of the new high school assessment regulations.

¹³ "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receive a valid score. This includes the following courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11.