TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons  
High School Principals and Supervisors  
School Counselors

FROM: Bari Anhalt Erlichson, Ph.D.  
Assistant Commissioner

RE: High School Performance Reports and changes to PSAT, SAT and ACT Testing Programs

College Board Assessments: PSAT and SAT


With the launch of their new assessment program, the College Board announced that it needed to limit its testing windows next fall for the PSAT/NMSQT to Wednesday only (eliminating the Saturday administration) due to a limited number of versions of the test, i.e., ‘testing forms.’ Approximately 75% of New Jersey’s schools that participated in the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall of 2014 already participated in the Wednesday test session. However, recognizing that some schools that tested in the Saturday session will not choose to test on Wednesday in 2015, NJDOE has made the decision to remove the participation target from the College and Career Readiness portion of the 2015-16 school performance reports. We will continue to report the actual participation rate, but will not benchmark it against a statewide target.

As you know, the school performance reports also include the percentage of students who met the 1550 benchmark established by the College Board as its College and Career Ready benchmark. With the redesigned SAT, the College Board will also need to re-establish their College and Career Ready Benchmark utilizing data from postsecondary studies such as first-year college course grades and persistence in additional years of postsecondary education. Thus, NJDOE will also need to revise its reporting around the SAT College and Career Ready benchmark in the upcoming years.
Please be aware that interactive study tools for the SAT developed in partnership with Khan Academy are now available. Students can try sample questions and practice tests at www.collegereadiness.collegeboard.org to become familiar with the redesigned assessments, or directly at KhanAcademy.org/sat.

**ACT**

In spring of 2014, ACT launched the ACT Aspire Summative Assessments in grades 3 – 10 and continues to offer the ACT in grade 11. **NJDOE will transition its participation rate calculation from the ACT Plan to the ACT Aspire beginning this year** and will report it alongside the PSAT participation rate, without a statewide target. However, as with the PSAT, no scores from the ACT Aspire will be presented on the performance report.

The ACT Aspire and ACT are now offered in both online and paper format. As you make your decisions about which format to utilize, please note that ACT will be using the Pearson on-line platform – TestNav – to deliver the computer based version of the test. This is the same testing platform used in the PARCC assessments.