



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 18, 2018  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
Route To: District Test Coordinators, Principals, Guidance Counselors  
From: Linda P. Eno, Ed.D. Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Teaching and Learning

### Clarification of Graduation Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2020

This memo provides clarification regarding recently amended [supplemental guidance](#), which was posted on the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) website on May 11, 2018. This amended supplemental guidance included a chart that more accurately reflects the class of 2020 graduation assessment regulations at *N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5(f)*. The previous version of the document could have been improperly interpreted if not read in its entirety.

Please note, these regulations **have not** undergone recent revision; they were adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education and went into effect on Sept. 6, 2016.

According to *N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f)2*, members of the graduating class of 2020, current 10th graders, have three pathways by which to meet the graduation assessment requirements:

- **First Pathway:** Students pass the PARCC Algebra I and English language arts/literacy (ELA) grade 10 assessments.

*If students have taken all applicable PARCC assessments for each of the courses in which they are enrolled, they may then utilize the next two pathways.*

- **Second Pathway:** Students achieve scores defined in the amended [supplemental guidance](#) on alternative assessments such as the SAT, ACT, or Accuplacer, PARCC ELA 9, ELA 11, Geometry, Algebra II; or
- **Third Pathway:** District submits students' portfolios through the NJDOE's portfolio appeals process.

Students who did not participate in the PARCC assessments necessary to utilize the second and third pathway above can make them up at the following times:

- **Spring 2018:** Available through June 8, 2018. The Office of Assessment can work with districts to develop a make-up testing plan.
- **Summer 2018:** Available from the end of the school year through the end of August. More information on summer PARCC administration will be forthcoming next week.
- **Fall Block:** Available November 26, 2018 to January 15, 2019.

For general assessment questions or for help with scheduling, please reach out to [assessment@doe.nj.gov](mailto:assessment@doe.nj.gov) or contact (609) 376-3960.

Please note, the NJDOE has initiated a [stakeholder outreach](#) initiative to gather input from educators, parents, teachers and students regarding the next generation of statewide assessments and associated rules and policies. Over the course of the next few months, we will take all recommendations and determine what changes can be implemented in the short-term and long-term. If you were not able to sign up for an in-person event, please email suggestions to [assessment@doe.nj.gov](mailto:assessment@doe.nj.gov).

The NJDOE staff regrets any confusion caused by revising the guidance without providing context regarding the clarifications. The Office of Assessments and all NJDOE staff are committed to working with schools and districts to ensure every student has a pathway to meeting graduation assessment requirements.

c:       Members, State Board of Education  
          Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner  
          NJDOE Staff  
          Directors of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities  
          Directors of a State Facility  
          NJ LEE Group  
          Garden State Coalition of Schools  
          Statewide Parent Advocacy Network