



MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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KENDRA V. JOHNSON, J.D., ED. D.
Superintendent of Schools

UPDATE on NEW JERSEY STATE ASSESSMENTS

April 4, 2019

Hello District Families and Staff,

Montclair Public Schools will administer the **New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA)**, described below, to our students this spring. The dates for administration are outlined by school in the attached letter.

NJSLA-ELA - The test in English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy assesses student proficiency in reading and comprehending a range of grade appropriate material independently. It also provides a measure of how effectively a student writes when using and/or analyzing sources.

NJSLA-M - The test in Mathematics (M) measures student competencies in the major and additional/supporting content in mathematics for grade or course, as well as grade-appropriate mathematical reasoning and modeling skills.

Note: NJSLA-ELA and NJSLA-M replace the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

NJSLA-S - This new assessment measures student proficiency in science (S) according to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. These standards require schools to teach students to use science and engineering practices, to make sense of phenomena, and to design solutions to problems. The NJSLA-S uses the same familiar testing platform that NJSLA-ELA and NJSLA-M uses.

Note: NJSLA-S replaces the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) for Science and the New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT).

Additional information for the assessments in the above areas can be found on the state's Assessments page: <https://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/>.

TEST PREPARATION: Please visit the NJSLA-ELA/NJSLA-M Portal at <https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/> for useful information including: Sample items, practice tests, tutorials, accommodation information and other resources.

SCORES: You can view your child's ongoing record of standardized assessments in Parent Access in Genesis by clicking on the Assessments tab. Spring NJSLA 2019 test scores will be mailed to parents and uploaded to Genesis by September 2019.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

As per the New Jersey State Department of Education (NJDOE):

- **Class of 2019 and 2020** Options for assessments and scores needed were updated as of February 22, 2019. For details go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parents/GradReq.pdf>.

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- **Class of 2021 and Beyond** The NJDOE will continue to work with the New Jersey State Board of Education to address, through the regulatory process, the Appellate Division's December 31, 2018 decision. It is the goal of the NJDOE to address this matter in a thoughtful, yet expeditious manner.

MONTCLAIR HIGH SCHOOL (MHS) ASSESSMENT PLAN

Due to the limited available rooms for testing at MHS, MHS will only administer the graduation requirement NJSLA assessments for students listed below:

FRESHMEN and SOPHOMORES (Class of 2021 and 2022)

- All sophomores will be administered the **NJSLA-ELA 10** assessment.
- Students who are enrolled in Algebra 1 will be administered the **NJSLA-Algebra 1** assessment.
- Please note: The graduation requirements for students in the Class of 2021 and 2022 are currently being reviewed by the state; for details go to:
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parents/GradReq.pdf>.
- Therefore, MHS will administer all required assessments next year as needed.

JUNIORS (Class of 2020)

- **WILL NOT BE TESTED:** The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in consultation with the State Board of Education, will NOT require districts to administer end-of-course statewide assessments in ELA and mathematics to students in grade 11. See [memo](#).
- Class of 2019 and 2020 students will continue to have the option of various alternative assessments listed here: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parents/GradReq.pdf>.
- Students who need an assessment to graduate will have additional opportunities next school year to complete an assessment from the choices in the document linked above.

K-8 ASSESSMENT PLAN

- All students in grades 3-8 are required by the state of New Jersey (NJ) to complete NJSLA for ELA, Math and Science. See the 2019 NJSLA Spring Calendar for Testing attached.
- Middle school students who are enrolled in Algebra A or Algebra A accelerated are administered their grade level math assessment.
- Middle school students who are enrolled in Algebra B or Algebra B accelerated are administered the Algebra 1 assessment which continues to be a state graduation assessment requirement towards graduation.
- ALL ALGEBRA B and ACCELERATED ALGEBRA B STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE NJSLA ALGEBRA 1.

PLEASE NOTE:

State test score reports such as NJSLA are a part of student achievement data and may be used as a criteria option for program and/or course placement.

TEST REFUSAL: As required by the State of New Jersey Department of Education, Montclair students will not be permitted to “Opt-Out” of testing. If parents/guardians do not want their child to test, this decision will be documented as a “TEST REFUSAL.”

TEST REFUSAL CONSEQUENCES: If you refuse to have your child participate in NJSLA testing, it is with the understanding that it is a state requirement and the student’s achievement record will be incomplete.

DEADLINES TO REFUSE TESTING: Parents are required to complete a form in the Genesis Parent Portal as instructed below by the following deadlines-

- Glenfield Middle School by midnight of **April 2, 2019**
- Charles H. Bullock Elementary School and Montclair High School by midnight of **April 14, 2019**
- All other schools by midnight of **April 29, 2019**.

TEST REFUSAL FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

- **If your child is going to take the NJSLA, do NOT follow the directions below.**
- **This form is only available for grades 3-8, ELA 10 and Algebra 1.**
- Logon to your Genesis Parent Access account: <https://parent.montclair.k12.nj.us/genesis/parents>.
- Choose the appropriate child from the “SELECT STUDENT” dropdown.
- (Repeat for each child as needed.)
- Click on the Forms tab and then click the Testing Refusal form link.
- Read all of the information in the form.
- Choose “Yes” to the statement at the bottom of the form if you agree.
- Check the green “Update Answers” box at the bottom of the form.
- Click the Finalize box and Click Ok.
- Click Update answers.

If you have done everything correctly, you will see a submitted date listed along with your email address on the Forms Library screen. If you have any issues with logging onto your account, you can email parentaccess@montclair.k12.nj.us.

If you have any questions about testing, please contact your child’s school counselor or principal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kendra V. Johnson
Superintendent