



James Heinegg, Superintendent
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Caldwell-West Caldwell Board of Education
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March 4, 2019

Dear Parents:

In 2019, the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) tests will be administered to our students as part of the annual state assessment program. The state of New Jersey has ended its membership in the interstate PARCC consortium. While the testing platform will remain the same, the tests will now be called NJSLA. This year, the assessment window will be from April 8 through June 7. Your child's individual testing schedule will be distributed by your building principal.

Neither the state nor the district has an "opt out" policy. That is, all students are expected to take the tests according to their grade and subject area requirements.

If your child is anxious about test-taking, simply keeping her/him from taking the test is not an effective long-term solution. Participation in the assessments and thoughtful dialogue about the process with parents and teachers are more likely to reduce student concerns in the long run. In addition, the test results can be a source of important information about your child's learning.

If you are refusing to allow your child to participate in the NJSLA testing, please send a signed letter to your building principal by Tuesday, March 19, to state that you are refusing to have your child take part. The schools cannot accept emails or phone calls to excuse students from testing. The schools will not establish alternative activities for non-testing students. Non-testing students should bring reading and/or other study material to school on testing days. PLEASE NOTE: Scheduling state assessments is a very complex process. If the school receives a test refusal note after March 19, we cannot guarantee that administration will be able to schedule your child as a non-tester.

You may have read in the news that graduation testing in the state has been the subject of a lawsuit, potential legislative action, and ongoing revision by the NJDOE. A summary of the

latest information we have from the NJDOE about graduation assessment requirements is included at the end of this letter. For more information about graduation assessment requirements or about NJSLA in general, please consult the NJDOE web site:
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parents/>

Practice NJSLA tests for students are available at:
<https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/english/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Heinegg". The signature is written in a cursive style.

James Heinegg

NJDOE Regulations on Graduation Assessment Requirements (as of 2/22/2019)

Classes of 2019 and 2020

Students graduating as members of the Classes of 2019 and 2020 can meet graduation assessment requirements through any of these three pathways:

- (1) Achieve passing scores on high school level NJSLA/PARCC assessments;
- (2) Achieve scores defined in the table (available via the link below) on alternative assessments such as the SAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER; or
- (3) Submit, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the NJDOE.

Each school year the NJDOE determines the proficiency level and/or cut scores needed on the assessments to meet the graduation assessment requirements. The updated Class of 2019 and 2020 proficiency levels/cut scores are on the [Graduation Assessment Requirements webpage](#).

Note: 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.

Class of 2021 and Beyond

The NJDOE will continue to work with the State Board of Education to address, through the regulatory process, the Appellate Division's December 31, 2018 decision.