

What steps do I need to take if I do not want my child to take a NJDOE assessment?

In the Princeton Public Schools, we do not endorse refusal by parents to have their children take state-mandated assessments. We do recognize, however, that a sensible, fair and child-centered set of protocols for those parents who choose not to have their child tested is in the best interest of all students. We also recognize that clearly communicating protocols in advance will avoid unnecessary confusion and misinformation as the testing dates approach. Our goal in outlining the following protocols is to minimize stress for children and families, to enable our schools to plan appropriately for technology, space, and other logistical considerations on the days of testing, and to enhance the smooth implementation of state-mandated and developed assessments that we are legally required to administer.

Please keep in mind as you consider what is in the best interest of your child that passing the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA) is currently a graduation requirement for all students graduating in 2023 or beyond. If an 11th grade student refuses to participate in the Spring administration of the NJGPA, they will be required to take it in a subsequent administration (either Summer or Fall).

NJSLA was developed to measure the NJ Student Learning Standards which are the basis for all state mandated testing, including NJGPA.

Protocols for test refusal are described below:

STATEMENT OF REFUSAL

- Parents and caregivers for each student assigned to testing must submit a [REFUSAL FORM](https://forms.gle/CtFxptPv2PKNA9RX6) (<https://forms.gle/CtFxptPv2PKNA9RX6>) prior to the actual dates of testing. This form will serve as documentation of their intention to keep their child from taking the designated NJSLA assessment.

We strongly urge parents who are contemplating the submission of such a statement to do so by **April 15th of the current school year or FIVE (5) days before the start of the state testing window, whichever occurs latest**, so that schools may plan accordingly. We encourage you to retain a copy of your form responses. Please understand that your early response will help our schools organize the needed technology, staffing and other resources needed.

STUDENTS

- Children whose parent(s) have submitted documentation of intent and who attend school on a NJDOE testing day will be marked present for the day. During the testing periods, those children will be located in a room separate from the “testing environment,” and will be asked to read or work independently and quietly while supervised by a staff member. The testing on most days will last between 90 and 180 minutes, depending upon the day and grade level, and we encourage children not sitting for a test to bring a favorite book or other material to read during that time.

ATTENDANCE

- Children whose parent(s) have NOT submitted documentation of intent but who are not present on the day of the assessment will be marked absent and will sit for NJDOE-mandated make-up tests as scheduled. Similarly, children whose parent(s) have not submitted documentation of intent and who arrive at school after the testing is completed, will be marked as tardy for the day and absent for the test. Those children will be required to sit for NJDOE-mandated make-up tests as scheduled.
- Children whose parent(s) have submitted documentation of intent and who do not attend school during testing will be marked absent. Those children will NOT be required to sit for the NJDOE-mandated makeup test. The reason these children will be marked absent is because even though the NJDOE-mandated testing is taking place on that day, it is not the only activity occurring throughout the day. Similarly, children whose parent(s) have submitted documentation of intent and who arrive at school after the testing will be marked tardy, although they will not be required to sit for the makeup test. Thus, even if you choose for your child not to take NJDOE-mandated tests, we encourage you to send your child to school on time on the testing days unless there is a verified reason not to send them to school (e.g., illness, doctor appointment).