

Quinton Township School District
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September 10, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

During the 2021-2022 school year, in order to comply with current state and federal regulations, the Start Strong assessment will be issued on October 5 - 7, 2021 for students in grades 4 - 8 in the areas of English/ Language Arts and Math. The Start Strong assessment will also be administered in science for the students in grade 6. In addition, the New Jersey Learning Assessment (NJSLA, and formerly known as PARCC) will be administered to all students who are currently enrolled in Grades 3-8.

This year, 2021-2022, will be the seventh year that the computer-based NJSLA Assessments will be administered to our students. This year, all of our students in grades 3 - 8 will take the NJSLA test in ELA and Mathematics during the week of May 9, 2022. The number of units for each section and times for each unit are attached to this letter.

Additionally, the science assessments will be administered this school year. The date of administration to the students who are in grades 5 and 8 will be on May 16th and 17th of 2022. Also, the computer-based assessments will be aligned to the New Jersey Learning Standards for Science.

The NJSLA assessments are aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and were created to measure the students' ability to apply their knowledge of concepts. The NJSLA assessments require students to apply skills and concepts, solve problems using mathematical reasoning and to be able to model mathematical principles while solving real-world problems. In English Language Arts (ELA), students will be required to closely read multiple passages and to write essay responses in literary analysis, research tasks and narrative tasks. Teachers and administrators use the results from these tests to make critical classroom and district-wide decisions that are intended to increase student achievement by providing targeted student support.

There are times when students may need accommodations made available to them to help take the test. These accommodations are identified ahead of time. The link attached is an accommodation manual from the department of education for your review.

<https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/resources/manuals/NJSLASpring2019AFA.pdf>

The NJSLA assessments are designed to reflect what students must know each year as they build toward the knowledge and skills needed for college and careers. The assessment has two components: performance-based (PBA) and end-of-year (EOY) assessments.

The performance-based (NJSLA-PBA) component captures critical-thinking, reasoning and application skills through “extended tasks.” In English language arts/literacy, the students will be asked to read passages from real texts-fiction and non-fiction, and sometimes will be asked to view videos or listen to audio. The students are then asked to write, using what they’ve learned from the passages and multi-media sources to support their arguments. These skills are important for students in college and in the workplace.

In mathematics, students will solve multi-step problems that require reasoning and address real world applications. Solving such problems requires students to use mathematical reasoning, make sense of quantities and their relationships to solve real-world problems, and show their understanding. The end-of-the-year (NJSLA-EOY) assessment consists of short-answer questions and items to measure concepts and skills. Students demonstrate comprehension of literary and informational texts and give definitions of words based on their reading of texts. Also, the students will be asked to show understanding of mathematical concepts, procedures and short applications. The PBA and EOY portions, administered in one testing window this year, of the test will be combined for one final score.

Individual student reports from last year’s assessments have already been sent home for parental and student review. These reports provide a detailed analysis of each student’s academic strengths and areas for growth in the core disciplines in an effort to assist teachers, parents and students in making informed decisions regarding academic programs to address individual student needs. Additionally, the results from last year’s NJSLA assessments will be presented to the Board of Education during our regularly scheduled Board of Education Meeting. (The presentation will be posted on the school district’s website for your review: www.quintonschool.info, **For Parents Tab, NJSLA Information Tab**.)

Please note that all testing will occur during the morning hours on the dates listed on the attached calendar, which has been updated to reflect an update in the NJSLA assessment administration dates and science assessment dates. Additionally, a testing administration and time schedule is included for your review. This schedule was previously made available on the 2021-22 school year calendar, which has been updated to reflect the aforementioned changes. Please note that the students taking the NJSLA assessment will complete one assessment unit each day beginning with English Language Arts. Once the students have completed the English Language Arts units they will begin working on the mathematics units.

The assessments will be scored and returned to the districts and once received will be disseminated to parents.

As always, if you have any questions regarding the upcoming testing administrations, please contact me at 935-2379 ext. 205 or you may visit the school’s website (For Parents Tab) and the NJSLA website at www.PARCCOnline.org where you will find additional information, including sample grade level tests, available student accommodations, navigational information and practice items.

Thank you for your cooperation in assisting your child to do his/her best on the upcoming assessment.

Sincerely,

Stewart Potter
Superintendent/
District Testing Coordinator

ELA, Math, and Science Testing Times for the Start Strong Assessments

2021 Start Strong - ELA, Math and SS Grades 4 - 8

Unit	Unit Testing Time (Minutes)	Date
ELA - Grades 4 - 8	45 - 60	10/5/21
Math - Grades 4 - 8	45 - 60	10/6/21
Science - Grade 6	45 - 60	10/7/21
Total: 2 Units for Grades 4, 5, 7, 8	90 - 120	
Total: 3 Units for Grade 6	Total: 135 - 180 Minutes	

ELA Units and Testing Times for Statewide Assessments

2022 NJSLA - ELA Grade 3

Unit	Unit Testing Time (Minutes)
Unit 1	75
Unit 2	75
Total: 2 Units	Total: 150 Minutes

2022 NJSLA - ELA Grades 4 through 8

Unit	Unit Testing Time (Minutes)
Unit 1	90
Unit 2	90
Total: 2 Units	Total: 180 Minutes

Mathematics Units and Testing Times for Statewide Assessments

2022 NJSLA - MATHEMATICS - Grades 3 to 8

Unit	Unit Testing Time (Minutes)
Unit 1	60
Unit 2	60
Unit 3	60
Total: 2 Units	Total: 180 Minutes

2022 NJSLA - High School Algebra I - For our 8th grade Algebra Students

Unit	Unit Testing Time (Minutes)
Unit 1	90
Unit 2	90
Total: 2 Units	Total: 180 Minutes

SCIENCE Units and Testing Times for Statewide Assessments

2022 NJSLA - Science Assessments Grade 5 & 8

Unit	Unit Testing Time (Minutes)
Unit 1	45
Unit 2	45
Unit 3	45
Unit 4	45
Total: 4 Units	Total: 180 Minutes