

CURRICULUM OFFICE

Park Ridge School District



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Parents/Guardians:

I am writing to inform you of the state and standardized testing schedule for Park Ridge students during the 2025-2026 school year.

This year brings many changes from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). Most importantly, NJDOE has changed its assessment model for the required end-of-year course exams and graduation-readiness exam: the NJSLA and NJGPA. New Jersey is using a new vendor, Cambium (as opposed to Pearson), and the new tests will be *adaptive*, which means that the difficulty of questions will scale as each student works through the test. In theory, the adaptive nature of the tests could lead to more accurate scoring, since students who are prepared for more challenging questions will get more questions at a higher level of difficulty. However, the Department of Education has released little more information on the nature of these new tests and how the adaptive nature will interact with scoring and timing of the test. Please note that the NJGPA-Adaptive *remains a graduation requirement for the class of 2027*. All current 11th-grade students must sit for this exam to be eligible for graduation.

To prepare for the new testing platform and to gauge the question levels, the NJDOE is requiring that all districts field-test in grades four through eleven for ELA testing and four through twelve for mathematics. Students in all subjects will field-test the exam for the grade level below them, with students in grades nine through twelve *only testing if they took one of Math 8, Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II in 2024-2025*. This means, for example, that a fourth-grade student will field-test two tests: grade three ELA and grade three mathematics. Meanwhile, a student in grade 12 might only field-test for mathematics, based on 2024-2025 enrollment.

Although it does represent an extra disruption to our regular schedule, the field test will provide our students (and staff) with some valuable practice time on the new platform and question types. Due to the somewhat late notification of the field test and its requirements by NJDOE, our buildings are still working on developing the least disruptive schedules for our field tests. Building principals will share more information on the exact testing dates and times as we work out those schedules. Moreover, NJDOE has not yet announced the timing for units for the NJSLA-Adaptive and NJGPA-Adaptive. Again, building principals will send out the exact dates and timing for those tests as they become available from the NJDOE, and we craft our testing schedules in response.

Finally, New Jersey law now requires that all districts screen students for literacy skills in grades kindergarten through grade three - something that Park Ridge was already doing. What is new, however, is that we are required to send score reports from our screener, DIBELS, home with your child. If you have a child in these grades, you will

find more information on this test and score report in a letter being sent home from our Supervisor of Elementary Education, Lisa Conforti.

As always, I want to remind you that, although we are proud of the achievement of our students on these standardized tests, we in the Park Ridge School District view such tests as only one part of a child’s learning experience. At times, they do provide important data to help us address each student’s needs. Yet we strive to create welcoming and supportive classrooms, in which students are encouraged to be inquisitive and to grow as learners and members of our community. The arts, athletics, leadership and citizenship opportunities, extracurriculars - not to mention the love of reading and inquiry in ELA, math, and science - are all part of a full and rich life, and cannot be simply measured on a standardized test. Thank you for your continued support of Park Ridge Public Schools.

Patrick Bernardo
 Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology

Note: the dates of the Spring 2026 exams in the chart below are the Testing Windows set by the State Department of Education or vendor. As these exams draw nearer, your building principals will reach out with more information, including exact testing dates.

Assessment	Grade(s)	Dates or Testing Window and Timing	More Information (including Sample Questions)
DIBELS (Literacy screener) (State mandate)	Grades K-3	9/2025 5-7 minutes per student	Accessibility: Teacher-driven test includes extra time Sample Questions: Dibels Website
Savvas Progress Monitoring for Mathematics [No Mandate] *While created by Savvas, this is an assessment adapted by our teachers to provide ongoing data for mathematics instruction	Grades 1-6	Grades 1 and 2: 1/2026 and 6/2026 Grades 2-6: Classroom readiness 9/2026 Grades 3-6: Trimester progress monitoring	Accessibility: Teacher-driven test includes extra time Sample Questions: Not available through Savvas for enVision.
NJGPA (ELA and Math) Fall Block Testing (Optional)	Only Grade 12 students who require a second attempt on the test.	October 6 through October 10, 2025 Two 90-minute units; total time 180 minutes	Accessibility: Accessibility Manual online Sample Questions: NJGPA Practice Questions

		per subject* *Students may be only registered for one subject	
NJGPA and NJSLA Adaptive - Fall Field test [Required by State]	ELA: 4 through 11 Math: 4 through 12* Students in grades 9-12 will be tested based on 2024-2025 math enrollment - only Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II are tested	October 27 through November 14, 2025, testing window 3 hours of ELA testing, 1 hour of Mathematics testing	Sample items and accessibility information may be found on the New Jersey Assessment webpage .
PSAT (Optional)	10 and 11	October 22, 2025 2 hours and 45 minutes	Accessibility: Accommodations and supports manual Sample Questions: Practice Tests
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), ELA, Math, and Science (Fulfills State/Federal)	ELA and Math: 3-8, and 11 Science: 5, 8, and 11 (only applicable students)	State window: September 9, 2025 through December 19, 2025* *Specific times to follow from building No time limit	Accessibility: DLM Accessibility Manual Sample Questions: DLM released testlets
ACCESS for ELLs Testing (State/Federal)	K-12 ML students only	February 2, 2026 to March 27, 2026 4 hours total test time	Accessibility: WIDA Accessibility Accommodations Sample Questions: ACCESS preparing students: practice
NJGPA-Adaptive (ELA and Math) (State/Federal)	11	March 16 through March 20, 2026 Timing not yet released.	Sample items and accessibility information may be found on the New Jersey Assessment webpage .
NJSLA-Adaptive ELA, Math and NJSLA Science [Not adaptive] (State/Federal)	ELA: 3-9 Math: 3-8, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II*	April 27, 2026 through May 22, 2026 Timing not yet released	Sample items and accessibility information may be found on the New Jersey Assessment webpage .

	<p>Science: 5, 8, and 11</p> <p>*Students must sit for a math assessment in Grade 9</p>		
<p>Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), ELA and Math (State/Federal)</p>	<p>3-8, and 11 Science: 5, 8, and 11 (only applicable students)</p>	<p>April 6, 2026 to May 22, 2026*</p> <p>*Exact timing sent out by school.</p> <p>No time limit</p>	<p>Accessibility: DLM Accessibility Manual</p> <p>Sample Questions: DLM released testlets</p>
<p>AP Testing (Optional)</p>	<p>9-12 (students in applicable classes)</p>	<p>May 4, 2026 through May 15, 2026</p> <p>AP Schedule for 2025</p> <p>(Time varies based on subject but are usually about 3 hours.)</p>	<p>Accessibility: Accommodations for AP Exams</p> <p>Sample Questions: See Course and Exam pages</p>