



## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

In accordance with the law and regulations governing high school graduation requirements, the Elizabeth Board of Education shall inform students and their parents/guardians at the beginning of the ninth grade as to assessments, demonstrated proficiencies, course and credit hour requirements, attendance policies and other State and local requirements needed for high school graduation.

The Elizabeth Board of Education shall award a state-endorsed diploma to acknowledge the successful completion of the requirements for high school graduation. The Elizabeth Board of Education diploma will represent a high standard of curriculum content, instruction, and student learning, thereby ensuring post-secondary readiness for all graduates in the 21st century.

The high school graduation requirements for the awarding of a state-endorsed diploma from the Elizabeth Public Schools are:

- A. Meet the district student attendance requirements;
- B. Demonstrate proficiency in all sections of the State Assessment process applicable to the class graduating in the year they meet all other graduation requirements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(b) through (d);

- C. Complete successfully any course requirements stated in the administrative code as well as meeting the district's standards. The proficiencies required must include the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) approved by the State Board of Education;
- D. Select and complete successfully enough academic and elective credits to meet the district minimum of 120 credits;
- E. Perform a total of 60 hours of community service with a recommended minimum of 30 hours completed by the end of tenth grade.

### **Academic Requirements**

- A. Twenty credits in language arts literacy;
- B. Fifteen credits in mathematics (including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and higher mathematics);
- C. Fifteen credits in social studies (including 10 credits in the history of the United States in satisfaction of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 and 2; and 5 credits in world history); and the integration of civics, geography and global content in all course offerings;
- D. 2.5 credits in financial literacy;
- E. Fifteen credits in science, including at least five credits in laboratory biology/life science; an additional five credits in a laboratory/inquiry-based science course including chemistry, environmental science, or physics; and third and fourth laboratory/inquiry-based science courses.
- F. Sixteen credits in physical education, health, and safety during each year of enrollment, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A: 35-5, 7 and 8;
- G. Five credits in visual and performing arts;
- H. Five credits in 21st century life and careers, or career-technical education;
- I. Ten credits in world languages;
- J. Technology literacy, consistent with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, integrated throughout the curriculum;
- K. All courses shall be taught at the college preparatory, honors, or advanced placement levels;
- L. Students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses are required to take the designated AP examination administered by the College Board. If the student does not take the AP exam, the student's AP course designation must be changed from Advanced Placement to Honors and the modification must be recorded in the student's records and transcript; and
- M. Effective beginning with the high school graduating class of 2014, and all subsequent graduating classes, students must take the SAT®, ACT®, or equivalent college entrance exam.

Students at Elizabeth High School are required to meet the same standards, as listed previously in Academic Requirements A-M, and are also required to successfully complete:

- N. Five additional credits in world languages (local requirement); and
- O. Senior Project (local requirement)

Successful completion means that the student has demonstrated the degree of proficiency required by the district to indicate achievement of the district goals for the particular course, and has attended the required number of course sessions.

Transfer students must meet all State and local requirements in order to receive an Elizabeth Board of Education diploma.

The Chief School Administrator shall put into effect the procedures necessary to assess each student upon entry into the system, and, annually thereafter, to identify those students not meeting the state

or district proficiency requirements. He/she shall develop the programs necessary to remedy these deficiencies at the lowest possible grade level. **(EBOE Policy Code 6146)**

## Assessment Requirements

Students must take and demonstrate proficiency in grade 11 on the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment, which includes content aligned to the grade 10 New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) in ELA, and the NJSLS in Algebra 1 and Geometry. If after completing the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment a student does not demonstrate proficiency on the ELA or mathematics section, the student may retake the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in the following summer or fall.

A student with disabilities whose IEP states that they are not eligible for the alternate assessment (Dynamic Learning Maps) must take the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11.

On May 3, 2023, the State Board of Education approved the graduation ready cut score for the ELA and mathematics components of the NJGPA, as well as the menu of alternative assessments and aligned cut scores. The cut scores for both ELA and mathematics indicating that a student is graduation ready is  $\geq 725$ .

The requirements in this section were adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education on September 8, 2021 for the classes of 2023–2025. The option put in place in 2021 in the second pathway of the ELA and mathematics component of meeting the cut score on “a substitute competency test such as other high school-level NJSLA/PARCC assessments” is no longer applicable. All other components of the second and third pathway established in September 2021 still apply for students expected to graduate with the classes of 2024 or 2025.

*Note: Special Education Students, whose Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) specify an alternate way to demonstrate proficiencies, will continue to follow the graduation assessment requirements set forth by their IEPs.*

## English Language Arts and Literacy (ELA)

If, **after completing the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11**, students did not demonstrate proficiency by passing the ELA component, such students may access the following pathways:

- **Second Pathway:** By meeting the designated cut score on a substitute competency test such as PSAT, SAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER; or
- **Third Pathway:** By submitting, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the New Jersey Department of Education.

## Mathematics

If, **after completing the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11**, students did not demonstrate proficiency by passing the mathematics component, such students may access the following pathways:

- **Second Pathway:** By meeting the designated cut score on a substitute competency test such as PSAT, SAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER; or
- **Third Pathway:** By submitting, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the New Jersey Department of Education.

## Class of 2024 and 2025 (Updated May 2023) High School Graduation Assessment Requirements

On **May 3, 2023**, the State Board of Education approved the graduation ready cut score for the ELA and mathematics components of the NJGPA, as well as the menu of alternative assessments and aligned cut scores.

The requirements in this section were adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education on September 8, 2021 for the classes of 2023–2025.

### First Pathway—NJGPA

ELA	Math
New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment— ELA $\geq 725$ (Graduation Ready)	New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment— Mathematics $\geq 725$ (Graduation Ready)

### Second Pathway—Menu of Substitute Competency Tests

**Note:** This pathway is only available to students who completed the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11.

ELA	Math
One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Reading <math>\geq 17</math></li> <li>• Accuplacer WritePlacer <math>\geq 5</math></li> <li>• Accuplacer WritePlacer English Second Language <math>\geq 4</math></li> <li>• PSAT10 Evidence Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) <math>\geq 420</math></li> <li>• PSAT10 Reading <math>\geq 21</math></li> <li>• PSAT/NMSQT EBRW <math>\geq 420</math></li> <li>• PSAT/NMSQT Reading <math>\geq 21</math></li> <li>• SAT EBRW <math>\geq 450</math></li> <li>• SAT Reading <math>\geq 23</math></li> </ul>	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Math <math>\geq 17</math></li> <li>• Accuplacer Elementary Algebra <math>\geq 49</math></li> <li>• Accuplacer Next-Generation QAS <math>\geq 250</math></li> <li>• PSAT10 Math Section or PSAT/NMSQT Math Section <math>\geq 420</math></li> <li>• PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math <math>\geq 21</math></li> <li>• SAT Math Section <math>\geq 440</math></li> <li>• SAT Math Test <math>\geq 22</math></li> </ul>

### Third Pathway—Portfolio Appeals

**Note:** This pathway is only available to students who completed the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in grade 11.

ELA	Math
Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math