NJSLA Science Results: Spring 2019 Administrations

Keansburg School District
March 16, 2020

New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – Science (NJSLA-Science)

The NJSLA-Science:

- Is a federally required state assessment administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 11

- Provides a snapshot of student performance on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSLS-Science).

- Was developed in collaboration with NJ educators, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), and New Jersey's contracted science vendors

- Is significantly different from the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) because NJSLS-Science are more rigorous standards and NJSLA-Science focuses on the application of science knowledge and skills rather than memorization of content.

Comparison of Keansburg's
Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations
Science to New Jersey
Percentages for 2019

Grade	Level 1, District	Level 1, State	Level 2, District	Level 2, State	Level 3, District	Level 3, State	Level 4, District	Level 4, State
5	64.2	**34.8**	25.7	**36.0**	8.3	**22.7**	1.8	**6.6**
8	64	**35.7**	33.3	**44.5**	2.6	**15.3**	0	**4.5**
11	78.4	**49.0**	14.7	**23.6**	6.9	**19.5**	0	**7.8**

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Keansburg's
Number of Students Tested
in Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations
Science

Grade	Students Tested 2019
5	112
8	123
11	103
Total	338

Note: "Students Tested" represents individual valid test scores for Science.

Keansburg School District
Intervention Strategies

- Review and analyze data with Science Department
- Drill down and identify areas in most need of support
- Review proposed standards
- Unpack standards, discuss and identify what needs to be taught
- Review curriculum, rewrite and/or revise as needed based on data and standard analysis

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did we need a new test?

- A new test was needed to measure the State's new, more rigorous science standards (NJSLS-Science) that are informing classroom instruction.

- The NJSLS-Science standards were adopted by the State in 2014. The timeline for transition to the new standards for districts required full implementation in grades 6-12 by September 2016 and full implementation in grades K-5 by September 2017.

When will the NJSLA-Science scores be utilized in NJQSAC?

■ NJQSAC for school year 2021-2022 will be the first year in which results from the NJSLA-Science will be factored into NJQSAC, utilizing the results from the 2020-2021 administration of the assessment.

Does a student have to pass the NJSLA-Science to graduate?

- The NJSLA-Science is not a state graduation assessment requirement.

How can schools and districts use data from the NJSLA-Science?

- The NJSLA-Science data should be used to evaluate the district's science curriculum and school and classroom instruction.

- This data, in combination with classroom level data collected through formative, summative, and benchmark assessments, can provide schools and districts feedback on students' strengths and weaknesses with particular skills.

- The reports can be used as a catalyst for conversation and exploration of questions such as, but not limited to;

  - What do the patterns in the data suggest about the effectiveness of our program for English Language Learners, students who receive special education services, gifted and talented, general education students, and/or students who qualify for free or reduced lunches?

  - What do the patterns in the data suggest about the allocation of time and resources to our science program?

What resources are available for further support?

- The NJDOE Office of Standards has a repository of various resources to help support educators and districts with the implementation of the NJSLS-Science:

    - https://www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/science/mc.htm

- NJSLA-Science practice tests are also available online at the following site:

    - https://measinc-nj-science.com/

- The NJDOE plans to continue to develop additional resources, such as K-12 instructional units based on the 2020 NJSLS-Science and connect educators with free resources and course materials.