Date: March 12, 2026

Subject: Important NJGPA-Adaptive Information

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter outlines key updates and insights regarding the NJGPA-A, provided by the New Jersey Department of Education on March 9, 2026, in preparation for the upcoming testing window.

Next week, your child will participate in the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment – Adaptive (NJGPA-A) for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. This state-required test provides one important way to understand how well students are learning grade-level skills in English, math, and science.

The NJGPA-A is based on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), which describe what students should know and be able to do at the 11th grade level. While the NJGPA-A may look a little different this year, it still measures whether students are learning skills and knowledge expected for their grade.

Testing Schedule

The New Jersey Department of Education has set the following testing schedule for the NJGPA-A: March 16-April 1.

As a reminder, below is Montgomery High School's testing schedule, and linked is the March 17th, 18th, & 19th NJGPA for ALL Juniors, Special Schedules Linked eBlast that was sent on March 3rd by Principal Pino-Beattie.

Assessment	Test Administration Dates
NJGPA-A Reading	March 17, 2026
NJGPA-A Math	March 18, 2026
NJGPA-A Writing	March 19, 2026

About the ELA and Math Tests (NJGPA-A and NJSLA-A)

This spring, for the first time, statewide tests in English and math (NJGPA-A and NJSLA-A) will be computer-adaptive. As your child answers questions, the test adjusts in real time. If a question is answered correctly, the next one may be slightly more challenging. Questions will be presented to students in sets varying from 3 to 5 items. If your child struggles, the test may provide questions that are less difficult. This helps the assessment "zero in" on your child's understanding more precisely.

Every student receives a different mix of questions, but all questions are reviewed together to measure the same grade-level standards and skills. Adaptive tests do not change what students are expected to know; they simply help measure those skills more accurately.

For the NJGPA-A ELA, there are approximately 36 scored items. This includes approximately 35 items on the Reading Unit and 1 item on the Writing Unit. Students may receive an additional 10 field-test items in their Reading Unit that are not included in their scores.

For the NJGPA-A Math, there are approximately 40 items that are scored.

The NJGPA-A consists of three (3) units: ELA-Reading, ELA-Writing, and Mathematics.

Unit Testing Times

Unit	Session 1 Testing Time (minutes)	Session 2 Testing Time (minutes)	Total Test Time (minutes)
ELA-Reading	75	75	150
ELA-Writing	90	N/A	90
Mathematics	75	75	150

During NJGPA-A testing, students will be able to see the percentage of items that they have answered for the total unit (150 minutes for Math/Reading & 90 minutes for Writing). This will allow them to see the progress they are making towards completing the testing unit.

During the testing session, students will be able to change their answers; this will not alter the set of questions they were previously assigned.

Students with extended-time considerations will be given a full school day to complete a session, if needed.

Practicing the Test

Practicing for the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A)

Purpose of Statewide Assessments

Students take different kinds of tests during the school year, and each type of test serves a different purpose. New Jersey's statewide assessments are one important way to show families and communities how well students, schools, and districts are meeting the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which describe what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

These results provide schools with valuable insight into students' progress and help educators refine instruction when needed to strengthen learning. They allow teachers and school leaders to see how students grow from year to year, and to ensure all students have access to strong, grade-level instruction. This information also helps districts confirm that their curriculum aligns with the state standards. Overall, statewide tests give families and schools an understanding of how students are growing and where support may be needed so every child can succeed.

Testing the Test

In fall 2025, to ensure a smooth transition to this new type of test, students in grades 4–12 took part in a field test for the adaptive ELA and math assessments. A field test is a way for the New Jersey Department of Education to try out new test questions before they officially count toward student scores. The test designers, including educator committees, review these results to make sure the test questions are clear, fair, and appropriate for students and that they produce helpful data to

families, schools, and the public. This process helps keep statewide assessments accurate and aligned with what students are expected to learn.

For additional information about these assessments, please visit the NJDOE Assessments webpage for a series of pamphlets that provide a quick overview of the new assessments. You may also wish to visit the Students & Families page on New Jersey Assessments Portal, and the Parent and Student Resources page on the New Jersey Science Assessments Resource Center.

If you have any questions about the upcoming assessments, please feel free to contact Heather Pino-Beattie, Principal, Montgomery High School, at hpino@mtsd.us. Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's learning.

Sincerely,

Damian Pappa
Assistant Superintendent of Schools