Date: March 27, 2026

Subject: Important NJSLA-Adaptive and NJSLA-Science Information

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This spring, your child will participate in New Jersey's statewide assessments. These state-required tests provide one important way to understand how well students are learning grade-level skills in English, Math, and Science.

Depending on their grade level, your child may participate in one or more of the following tests:

- New Jersey Student Learning Assessments – Adaptive (NJSLA-A) for ELA
- New Jersey Student Learning Assessments – Adaptive (NJSLA-A) for Mathematics
- New Jersey Student Learning Assessments – Science (NJSLA-S)

All of New Jersey's statewide assessments are based on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), which describe what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. While the state test 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 NJSLA-A & NJSLA-Science: **April 27 - May 29, 2026**. Each school will communicate their respective schedule to their parents/guardians in the near future.

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 3-5 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.

Village Elementary School (VES)

- For the NJSLA-A ELA Grade 3, there are approximately 33 items that are scored. This includes approximately 32 items on the Reading Unit and 1 item on the Writing Unit. Students may receive an additional 10 field-test items that are not included in their scores.
- For the NJSLA-A ELA Grade 4, there are approximately 35 items that are scored. This includes approximately 34 items on the Reading Unit and 1 item on the Writing Unit. Students may receive an additional 10 field-test items that are not included in their scores.
- For both Grades 3 & 4 NJSLA-A Math, there are approximately 41 items that are scored. Students may receive an additional 10 field-test items that are not included in their scores.

Montgomery Lower Middle School (LMS)

- For the NJSLA-A ELA Grade 5, there are approximately 33 items that are scored. This includes approximately 32 items on the Reading Unit and 1 item on the Writing Unit. Students may receive an additional 10 field-test items that are not included in their scores.
- For the NJSLA-A ELA Grade 6, there are approximately 36 items that are scored. 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 that are not included in their scores.
- For NJSLA-A Math Grade 5, there are approximately 41 items that are scored.
- For NJSLA-A Math Grade 6, there are approximately 46 items that are scored.
- Students may receive an additional 10 field-test items that are not included in their scores.

Montgomery Upper Middle School (UMS)

- For both Grades 7 & 8 NJSLA-A ELA, there are approximately 36 items scored. 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 that are not included in their scores.
- For NJSLA-A Math Grade 7, there are approximately 46 items that are scored.
- For NJSLA-A Math Grade 8, there are approximately 43 items that are scored.
- For NJSLA-A Algebra I, there are approximately 43 items that are scored.
- For NJSLA-A Geometry, there are approximately 45 items that are scored.
- For NJSLA-A Algebra II there are approximately 43 items that are scored.
- Students may receive an additional 10 field-test items that are not included in their scores.

Montgomery High School (MHS)

- For NJSLA-A ELA Grade 9, there are approximately 36 items that are scored. 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 that are not included in their scores.
- For NJSLA-A Algebra I, there are approximately 43 items that are scored.
- For NJSLA-A Geometry, there are approximately 45 items that are scored.
- For NJSLA-A Algebra II, there are approximately 43 items that are scored.
- Students may receive an additional 10 field-test items that are not included in their scores.

NJSLA-A Unit Structure
The NJSLA-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 NJSLA-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.

Within the testing session time, students will be able to change their answers, it will not alter the set of questions that 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
https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/adaptive/docs/NJSLA-A_Practice-tests.pdf

About the Science Test (NJSLA-S)

The science assessment is not adaptive but rather a fixed-form test, meaning all students receive the same questions. While the test will now appear in the same online platform as the ELA and math assessments, the format and content remain the same as last year.

Unit Testing Times (NJSLA – Science)

Science Grade Level	Units (total number)	Testing Time per Unit (minutes)	Total Test Time (minutes)
Grades 5 and 8	4	45	180
Grade 11	4	60	240

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 their curriculum matches 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 at nj.gov/education/assessment/adaptive for a series of pamphlets focused on providing a quick overview of the new assessments. You may also wish to visit the Students & Families page on New Jersey Assessments Portal at nj.portal.cambiumast.com and the Parent and Student Resources page on the New Jersey Science Assessments Resource Center at nj.mymisupport.com.

If you have any questions about the upcoming assessments, please feel free to contact:

VES - Ms. Jessica Glover, Vice Principal

LMS - Mr. Scott Pachuta, Vice Principal

UMS - Ms. Meghan Moore, Vice Principal

MHS - Ms. Heather Pino-Beattie, Principal

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's learning.

Sincerely,

Damian Pappa
Assistant Superintendent of Schools