NORTH CALDWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025–2026

NEW JERSEY STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT

ADAPTIVE (NJSLA-A)

REPORT

Mr. Chris Checchetto | Superintendent of Schools

NOVEMBER 17, 2026

What Changed in 2026?

NJSLA-A | Assessment updates and reporting implications

ELA & MATHEMATICS

Adaptive assessment

Question difficulty adjusts to student responses.

New administration

Cambium replaced Pearson as the vendor, updated software and test blueprint.

Updated score reporting

New reporting system, scale and proficiency cut scores.

New assessment baseline

2025 and 2026 proficiency results are not directly comparable.

SCIENCE

Testing format, blueprint and scale/cut scores remained unchanged.

DISTRICT TAKEAWAY:

Use 2026 county and state results as the most meaningful comparison for district performance.

Understanding the 2026 NJSLA-A Cut Scores

How proficiency levels are set — and why the new baseline matters

HOW CUT SCORES ARE SET

1 Educators review standards and test items

2 Panels define performance expectations

3 Recommended thresholds are developed

4 Assessment data and technical analyses are reviewed

5 The State Board adopts final cut scores

WHAT CHANGED IN 2026

- First NJSLA-Adaptive administration
- 122 New Jersey educators participated in standard setting
- Updated assessment format, standards alignment, and proficiency expectations
- New ELA and math cut scores approved September 9, 2026

NORTH CALDWELL TAKEAWAYS

★ NEW BASELINE

Different assessments mean prior-year ELA/Math trends and cohort growth cannot be inferred.

★ NO SCORE CROSSWALK

No published crosswalk currently links NJSLA scores to NJSLA-A scores.

★ FIRST COMPARISON IN 2027

2027 will be the first true year-to-year comparison using the new assessment.

NJSLA-A Performance Levels: Example ELA Score Ranges

Illustrative scale-score bands provided for ELA — actual thresholds vary by grade and subject

1	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	1345–1437	Significant, ongoing academic support likely needed
2	Partially Met Expectations	1438–1468	Ongoing academic support likely needed
3	Approaching Expectations	1469–1499	Targeted academic support may be needed
4	Met Expectations	1500–1546	Meets grade-level expectations
5	Exceeded Expectations	1547–1652	Exceeds grade-level expectations

PROFICIENT = LEVELS 4 AND 5 | These ranges are examples, not universal NJSLA-A cut scores.

Performance Levels & Reporting

How NJSLA-A results are interpreted across subject areas

ELA & MATH

1 Not Yet Meeting

2 Partially Meeting

3 Approaching

4 Meeting • PROFICIENT

5 Exceeding • PROFICIENT

SCIENCE

1 Below Proficient

2 Near Proficient

3 Proficient • TARGET

4 Advanced • TARGET

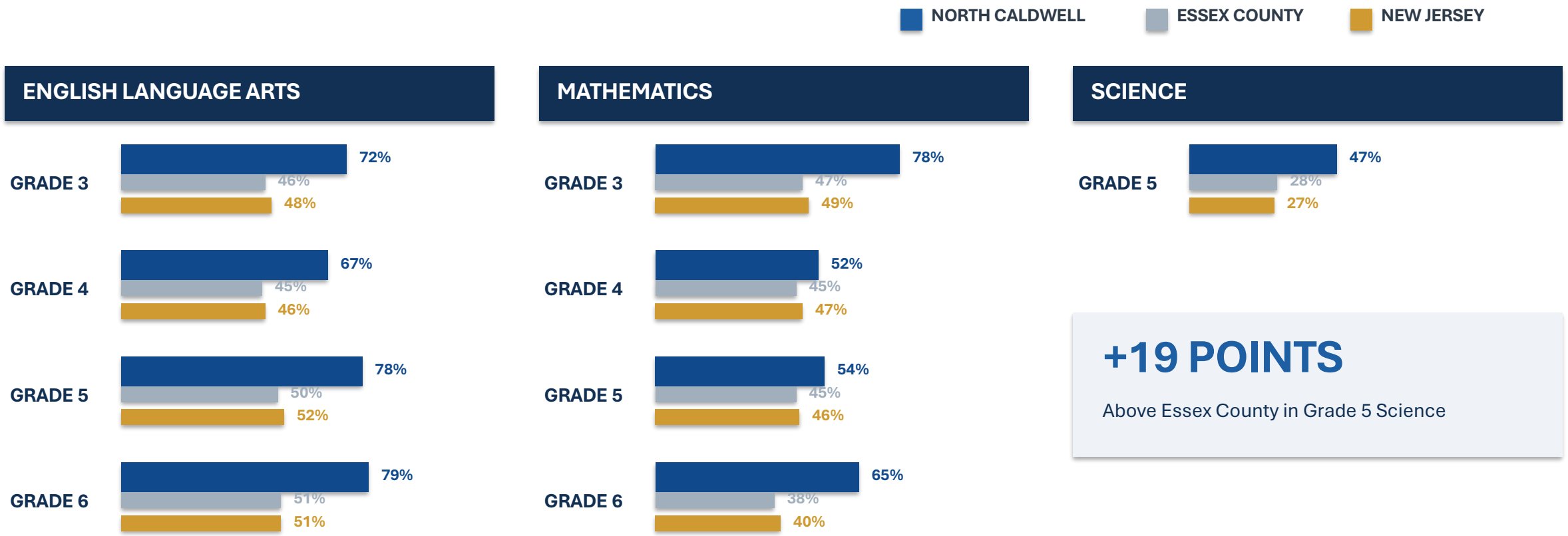
District tested grades: ELA 3–6 | Math 3–6 | Science 5

NJ State Assessments Achievement Summary

Tested Area	ELA 2026: NEW REFERENCE POINT/ BASELINE NJSLA-Adaptive	MATH 2026: NEW REFERENCE POINT/ BASELINE NJSLA-Adaptive	SCIENCE 2026: NJSLA-Fixed Form
Achievement Summary % (weighted avg)	**73%**	**63%**	**47%**
# of Valid Test Scores/ Participation %	383 (98.7%)	384 (98.9%)	83 (98.8%)

District Comparison: Essex County & New Jersey

SPRING 2026 NJSLA-A | PERCENT PROFICIENT



+19 POINTS

Above Essex County in Grade 5 Science

9 OF 9

North Caldwell exceeded both Essex County and New Jersey across every tested grade and subject.

2026 NJSLA-A | ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

North Caldwell • Grade-Level Performance Outcomes

74% DISTRICT PROFICIENT **47% ESSEX COUNTY** **49% NEW JERSEY**

Grade	Valid / Eligible	Avg. Score	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	NC L4–5	County	State
3	97 / 99	1468	1%	7%	20%	47%	25%	72%	46%	48%
4	107 / 108	1487	2%	9%	22%	31%	36%	67%	45%	46%
5	83 / 84	1514	5%	12%	6%	39%	39%	78%	50%	52%
6	96 / 97	1534	5%	16%	42%	42%	38%	80%	49%	51%
TOTAL	**383 / 388**	**1500**	—	—	—	—	—	74%	**47%**	**49%**

GRADE 4 • 36% exceeded vs. 31% met

GRADE 5 • 39% met and 39% exceeded

GRANDVIEW ELA ANALYSIS

Grade 3 | 2026 NJSLA-A | Instructional Priorities

STRENGTHS

Literary reading: distinguishing the reader's point of view from the narrator's or characters' perspectives.

TARGETED AREAS OF GROWTH

Informational reading: connecting sentences and paragraphs

Explaining sequence, comparison, and cause/effect

Using text connections to support an author's points

ACTION PLAN

- Deepen literary analysis with rigorous questions and text evidence.
- Strengthen informational reading and comprehension strategies.
- Target vocabulary, grammar, and explanatory writing.
- Build on narrative-writing strengths.
- Differentiate instruction and monitor progress.

GOULD ELA ANALYSIS

Grades 4–6 | 2026 NJSLA-A | Instructional Priorities

STRENGTHS

GRADE 4 • Informational text and opinion composition

GRADE 5 • Balanced literary, informational and language performance; 97% proficient in narrative composition

GRADE 6 • Literary text and narrative composition

TARGETED AREAS OF GROWTH

GRADE 4

Summarizing and identifying themes; comparing themes across texts

GRADE 5

Summarizing key details; comparing character and individual interactions

GRADE 6

Analyzing character change and text structure; comparing themes; citing evidence for inferences

ACTION PLAN

- Use LEARning NJ PDP strategies and rich texts in Science and Social Studies.
- Launch a schoolwide initiative to foster a love of reading.
- Build sustained reading stamina through longer texts and focused reading time, countering the pull of short-form digital content.

2026 NJSLA-A | MATHEMATICS

North Caldwell • Grade-Level Performance Outcomes

63%	43.75%	44.75%
DISTRICT PROFICIENT	ESSEX COUNTY	NEW JERSEY

GRADE	VALID / ELIGIBLE	AVG. SCORE	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5	DISTRICT	COUNTY	NJ
Grade 3	97 / 99	1411	3%	2%	16%	53%	26%	**79%**	47%	49%
Grade 4	107 / 108	1431	9%	10%	28%	40%	12%	**52%**	45%	47%
Grade 5	83 / 84	1467	5%	13%	29%	37%	16%	**53%**	45%	46%
Grade 6	96 / 97	1508	2%	11%	22%	40%	25%	**65%**	38%	40%
Grades 3–6 Total	383 / 388	1454	5%	9%	23%	42.5%	20%	**63%**	43.75%	44.75%

HIGHLIGHT • North Caldwell exceeded Essex County and NJ proficiency rates in all four tested mathematics grades.

GRANDVIEW MATH ANALYSIS

Grade 3 | 2026 NJSLA-A | Instructional Priorities

STRENGTHS

79% proficient

Above both the state (49%) and Essex County (47%).

Relative strengths in multiplication facts, arithmetic patterns, time, area, perimeter, graphing, and shape partitioning.

TARGETED AREAS OF GROWTH

Division as an unknown-factor problem

Fraction equivalence and comparisons

Measurement data and line plots

ACTION PLAN

- Review opportunities to expand math instructional time.
- Use grade-level teams and small groups to target division, fractions, and measurement.
- Reinforce skills through games, visual models, hands-on practice, and enrichment.
- Monitor progress with formative assessments and adjust interventions.

GOULD MATH ANALYSIS

Grades 4–6 | 2026 NJSLA-A | Instructional Priorities

STRENGTHS

Proficiency exceeds both Essex County and New Jersey in all three grades.

Grade 4: Base-ten operations

Grade 5: Algebraic thinking & measurement

Grade 6: Ratios & proportional relationships

TARGETED AREAS OF GROWTH

Grade 4: Factors, word problems, conversions, fractions & equations

Grade 5: Division, fractions, line plots & coordinate grids

Grade 6: Expressions, equations & coordinate grids

ACTION PLAN

- Reevaluate homeroom math time, accountability, and expectations.
- Integrate data literacy in Science and Multimedia.
- Explore master schedule changes to increase weekly math instruction.

2026 NJSLA | GRADE 5 SCIENCE

North Caldwell • Grade-Level Performance Outcomes

47%	DISTRICT PROFICIENT	28%	ESSEX COUNTY	27%	NEW JERSEY

GRADE	VALID / ELIGIBLE	AVG. SCORE	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	DISTRICT	COUNTY	NJ
Grade 5	83 / 84	191	17%	36%	34%	13%	**47%**	28%	27%
Essex County		170	36%	36%	20%	8%	28%	28%	—

HIGHLIGHT • North Caldwell exceeded Essex County by 19 points and New Jersey by 20 points in Grade 5 Science.

GRADE 5 SCIENCE ANALYSIS

Grade 5 | 2026 NJSLA | Instructional Priorities

STRENGTHS

47% proficient

Above Essex County (28%) and New Jersey (27%) by 19–20 points.

Earth & Space Science: 72% in the middle/high categories; Investigating Practices: 69%.

TARGETED AREAS FOR GROWTH

Sensemaking Practices

Physical Science

Critiquing Practices

ACTION PLAN

- Use item-level data to target sensemaking, physical science, and critiquing skills.
- Increase hands-on investigations, models, and evidence-based explanations.
- Practice evaluating claims and scientific reasoning in small groups.
- Monitor growth with short formative checks and reteaching.

Thank You

- To our students, parents, faculty and staff for their dedication and commitment to academic excellence!
- To the Board of Education for their unwavering support and commitment to student growth and achievement.