



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 11, 2018
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: District and School Test Administrators, Information Technology Directors, Curriculum and Instruction Supervisors, Principals
From: Jeffrey B. Hauger, Ed.D., Director
Office of Assessments
Division of Talent and Performance

Information About the Implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment for Science (NJSLA-S)

At its January 3 meeting, the New Jersey State Board of Education approved to move to the Proposal Level the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) request to assess students in grade 5, instead of grade 4, in order to align to the science standards. With this action by the State Board, the NJDOE is able to provide in this memo the following information about New Jersey's new science assessment being field tested in grades 5, 8 and 11 this school year:

- Uploading grade 5, 8 and 11 student-roster data to the science assessment system;
- Updates regarding grade 5 Individualized Education Programs;
- Upcoming training sessions for the science assessment; and
- The NJDOE's intent to seek a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education regarding certain federal science assessment requirements.

Data Upload

Districts must complete the initial Student Registration/Personal Needs Profile (SR/PNP) upload between January 18, 2018 and February 2, 2018 for middle school (grade 8) and high school (grade 11). The upload timeframe for elementary (grade 5) school data submissions has been extended until March 9, 2018.

Districts must upload their Spring 2018 Science Field Test SR/PNP files directly to the PearsonAccessnext online management system, not through NJ SMART. Please review the [NJSLA-S Spring 2018 Administration Student Registration/Personal Needs Profile Field Definitions](#) for information regarding the SR/PNP upload process. If you have any issues with your student registration file upload, please contact the Pearson NJ Science helpline directly at (888) 705-9416 or by clicking on the "Contact NJSLA-S Support" link on the [PearsonAccessnext New Jersey homepage](#). Districts should not contact NJ SMART regarding the Spring 2018 Science Field Test SR/PNP upload process.

NJSLA-S and Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)

Since the administration of the NJSLA-S will be a field test in spring 2018, changes in IEPs may not be necessary. Districts should review the accommodations for statewide assessments in the IEPs of students in grade 5 to determine whether they are appropriate for the NJSLA-S field test. Districts may amend IEPs for individual students if district staff determine it is necessary. Since students in grade 4 will no longer be tested in science, it is not necessary to revise the IEPs of students with disabilities currently in grade 4.

IEP amendments may be made through an IEP meeting, or without a meeting, in accordance with state regulations. IEPs must reflect the accommodations the student will receive during the assessment.

The accommodations available will be similar to those available for the PARCC English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments, but will not include American Sign Language.

Accessibility features similar to those available for the PARCC assessments will be available for the NJSLA-S for all students. These accessibility features do not have to be documented in the IEPs of students with disabilities.

Regional Test Coordinator Training

Over the next few months, the NJDOE will hold regional training sessions for district test coordinators that will cover test administration requirements, and security and technology procedures. Participants must [register online](#). Upon completing the online registration form, participants will receive a confirmation email that must be printed and brought to the training. The locations and dates for the sessions include:

Northern Region

Birchwood Manor
111 Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981
February 28, 2018 to March 1, 2018

Central Region

Forsgate Country Club
375 Forsgate Drive, Monroe Township, NJ 08831
March 5 to 7, 2018

Southern Region

Sheraton Atlantic City Conference Center Hotel
2 Convention Blvd., Atlantic City, NJ 08401
March 8, 2018

Additional Training and Support

In addition to the regional trainings, instructional guidance documents will be sent to districts in the coming weeks that detail the procedures for tasks related to the administration of the NJSLA-S, as well as information to aid in communicating to the school community about new assessments.

The NJDOE's Division of Teaching and Learning will also be hosting three concurrent half-day regional networking meetings in February that will allow school officials to learn firsthand about some major education initiatives, including the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science. Details on the networking meetings will be forthcoming.

NJDOE Waiver Request

To ensure fidelity to the federal *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* as amended by the *Every Student Succeeds Act* throughout this science assessment implementation process, the NJDOE intends to submit this [waiver request](#) to the U.S. Department of Education regarding certain federal science assessment requirements.

Among other flexibilities, the waiver request would allow the NJDOE to field test the new NJSLA-S-aligned assessment. All interested stakeholders are invited to submit feedback on this waiver request to essa@doe.state.nj.us by **Monday, February 12, 2018**.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Kimberley Harrington, Commissioner
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group