

## **2622 STATE STANDARDIZED PUPIL ASSESSMENTS**

The Commissioner of Education, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 et seq. and 18A:7E-2 and 3, may implement assessments of pupil achievement in any grade(s) and by such assessments as he or she deems appropriate. The Commissioner shall report to the State Board of Education the results of such assessments.

The Commissioner shall implement a system and related schedule of Statewide assessments to evaluate pupil achievement of the standards adopted by the State of New Jersey. The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, shall define the scope and level of pupil performance on Statewide assessments that demonstrate thorough understanding of the knowledge and skills delineated by the standards adopted by the State of New Jersey at grade levels three through twelve. After consultation with the Commissioner, the State Board of Education shall establish by resolution uniform Statewide criteria defining adequate school district progress toward meeting the standards adopted by the State of New Jersey.

State assessments provide parents with important information about their child's progress; detailed diagnostic information about each individual pupil's performance that educators, parents, and pupils can utilize to enhance foundational knowledge and pupil achievement; and include item analysis which will clarify a pupil's level of knowledge and understanding of a particular subject or area of a subject. The data derived from State assessments will be utilized by teachers and administrators to pinpoint areas of difficulty and customize instruction accordingly. Such data can be accessed and utilized as a pupil progresses to successive school levels.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(b) and (c), all pupils at grade levels three through twelve, and at any other grade(s) designated by the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(a), shall take all appropriate Statewide assessments as scheduled. There is no provision for a pupil to opt-out of Statewide assessments. If a pupil is absent on a testing date, the pupil will be expected to take the missed test on another school day. Parents and pupils will be informed of all scheduled testing dates, including make-up testing dates for pupils who missed the initial testing date.

### Statewide Assessment System

The Superintendent shall develop and annually present to the Board annually for its approval an assessment program that complies with the rules of the State Board of Education.

The Board of Education shall, according to a schedule prescribed by the Commissioner, administer the applicable Statewide assessments, including the following major components: the elementary assessment component for grades three through five; the middle school assessment component for grades six through eight; the high school assessments; and the alternative assessment for pupils with disabilities; and provide notification to each pupil entering grades three through twelve of the Statewide assessment schedule.

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The Department of Education shall implement the elementary component of the Statewide assessment of the Standards adopted by the State of New Jersey consisting of continued administration of mathematics and English language arts in grades three, four, and five, and of science in grade four.

The Department of Education shall implement the middle school component of the Statewide assessment of the Standards adopted by the State of New Jersey consisting of the following: continued administration of mathematics and English language arts in grades six, seven, and eight; and of science in grade eight.

The Department of Education shall implement a high school assessment program component of the Standards adopted by the State of New Jersey that assesses, at a minimum, English language arts, mathematics, and science.

The Board shall provide appropriate accommodations or modifications to the Statewide assessment system as specified by the Department of Education for English Language Learners (ELLs) and pupils with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 or eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as determined by the IEP or 504 Team in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d)1. The Board may administer the Statewide assessments in mathematics to ELLs in their native language, when available, and/or English. The Board of Education shall have the option for a first-year ELL of substituting a Department of Education-approved language proficiency test only for the English language arts section of the elementary or middle school component of the Statewide assessment, when the pupil has entered the United States after July 1 of the calendar year prior to the test administration.

The Board of Education shall ensure pupils with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 participate in Statewide assessments in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10.

At specific times prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education shall administer the alternative assessment for pupils with disabilities to pupils with severe disabilities who cannot participate in other assessments due to the severity of their disabilities. The Department of Education shall implement the alternative assessment for pupils with disabilities according to the schedules in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(c)1, 2, and 3. The alternative assessment for pupils with disabilities measures the progress of pupils who have been determined eligible for the alternative assessment for pupils with disabilities by the IEP team in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10.

The Boards of Education shall implement alternative ways for pupils to demonstrate graduation proficiency in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f).

#### Test Administration Procedures and Security Measures

The Board of Education shall be responsible for ensuring the security of all components of the Statewide assessment system that are administered within the school district. All Statewide assessments shall be administered in accordance with the Department of Education's required test administration procedures and security measures. Any breach of such procedures or measures shall be immediately reported to the Superintendent or designee.

#### Documentation of Pupil Achievement

The Department of Education shall provide the Superintendent with documentation of pupil performance after each test administration in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2(a). The Board shall maintain an accurate record of each pupil's performance on statewide assessments in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2. Information regarding individual pupil test scores shall only be released in accordance with Federal and State law.

The Board of Education shall transmit within ten business days any official records, including transcripts, of pupils who transfer to other school districts or institutions.

The Board of Education shall maintain an accurate record of each pupil's performance on Statewide assessments.

The Board of Education shall maintain for every pupil a ninth grade through graduation transcript that contains the following, as available:

1. Results of all applicable State assessments, including assessments that satisfy graduation requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6;
2. Results of any English language proficiency assessments according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(h);
3. Evidence of instructional experience and performance in the Standards adopted by the State of New Jersey;
4. Evidence of technological literacy;
5. Evidence of career education instructional experiences and career development activities;
6. Evidence of State-issued occupational licenses and credentials, industry-recognized occupational credentials, and/or technical skill assessments for pupils enrolled in Department of Education-approved career and technical education programs pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:19-3.2; and
7. Any other information deemed appropriate by the Board of Education.

### Accountability

The Superintendent shall report preliminary and final results of annual assessments to the Board of Education as required by the New Jersey Department of Education. The Board of Education will provide parents, pupils, and citizens with results of annual assessments according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2. The Board shall provide appropriate instruction to improve skills and knowledge for pupils performing below the established levels of pupil proficiency in any content area either on Statewide or local assessments. All pupils shall be expected to demonstrate the knowledge and skills of the Standards adopted by the State of New Jersey as measured by the Statewide assessment system.

### Annual Review and Evaluation of School Districts

The Department of Education shall review the performance of schools and school districts in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.4.

### Public Reporting

In accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.5, the Department of Education shall report annually to the State Board of Education and the public on the progress of all pupils and pupil subgroups in meeting the standards adopted by the State of New Jersey as measured by the statewide assessment system by publishing and distributing the Department of Education's annual New Jersey School Performance Report in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7E-2 through 5. After each test administration, the Department of Education shall report to the Board on the performance of all pupils and of pupil subgroups. The Department of Education shall report performance on the alternate assessments with the same frequency and in the same detail as it reports on other Statewide assessments, including school and school district means, and the number and percentage of participating pupils. In public reporting of school and district performance data, the Department of Education shall not compromise the confidentiality of individual pupils.

### Parental Notification

Parents shall be informed of the district assessment program and of any special tests that are to be administered to their children.

N.J.S.A. 18A: 7C-1  
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 et seq.; 6A:8-5.1;  
6A:14-1.1 et seq.; 6A:14-3.7; 6A:14-4.10;

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