



Barbara Simitian Laudicina
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

On August 3, 2016, the New Jersey Board of Education approved updated state regulations for the high school graduation assessment requirements in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for the graduating cohorts of 2016 through 2021, and beyond. These new state regulations (*New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:8-5.1*) became effective on September 6, 2016, and describe the pathways that students can take to meet the ELA and mathematics high school graduation assessment requirements.

Additional details regarding the graduation assessment requirements for ELA and mathematics can be found on our [website](#) .

Under the new regulations, **students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021, currently 9th and 8th grade students, respectively, must take the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments in ELA and mathematics – including the PARCC Algebra I assessment – and receive a valid scale score** in order to access the different pathways to meet the ELA and mathematics high school graduation assessment requirements. Students who refuse testing or do not actively participate in the test will not receive a valid scale score.

Some students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021, completed an Algebra I course before the regulations went into effect on September 6, 2016, and fall into one of three specific groups:

1. Students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to September 6, 2016, and took the PARCC Algebra I assessment but did not pass, and are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II);
2. Students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to September 6, 2016, and did not receive a valid test score, and are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II); or
3. Students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course over the summer of 2015 or 2016, and did not have the opportunity to take the PARCC Algebra I assessment because the NJDOE

did not offer a summer test administration, and are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II).

Given the specific circumstances, and based on recommendations from school educators and administrators, **the New Jersey Department of Education is providing your eighth or ninth grade child additional flexibility to meet the mathematics graduation assessment requirements through the following three pathways:**

1. Take or retake the PARCC Algebra I assessment and pass.
2. Utilize the New Jersey Department of Education portfolio appeals process provided your child takes the PARCC Geometry assessment and the PARCC Algebra II assessment (if enrolled in an Algebra II course) and receives valid scores.
3. Take and pass the PARCC Algebra II or PARCC Geometry assessment.

Your child only needs to complete one of the three pathways in order to meet their high school graduation mathematics assessment requirement.

Should you have any questions, please contact Dr. Kathleen Treacy, Supervisor of Mathematics, or your child's principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Laudicina".

Barbara Laudicina
Assistant Superintendent