



PROGRAM - POLICY  
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Student Assessments  
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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 120, 135, 147, 153, 168, 170, 197 and 205]

## 2622 STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

The Commissioner of Education shall implement a system and related schedule of Statewide assessments to evaluate student achievement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 et seq. The Board of Education is required to administer the applicable Statewide assessments according to the schedule prescribed by the Commissioner.

State assessments provide parents with important information about their child's progress; detailed diagnostic information about each individual student's performance that educators, parents, and students can utilize to enhance foundational knowledge and student achievement; and include item analysis which will clarify a student'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 student progresses to successive school levels.

The New Jersey Department of Education, pursuant to State law and regulations, requires all students to take State assessments as scheduled. There is no provision for a student to opt-out of Statewide assessments. If a student is absent on a testing date, the student will be expected to take the missed test on another school day. Parents and students will be informed of all scheduled testing dates, including make-up testing dates for students who missed the initial testing date.

### Statewide Assessment System

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



## Test Administration Procedures and Security Measures

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 Student Achievement

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

## 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 will provide parents, students, 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 students performing below established levels of student proficiency in any content area either on Statewide or local assessments. All students are expected to demonstrate the knowledge and skills of the Core Curriculum Content Standards as measured by the Statewide assessment system.

## 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 students and student subgroups in meeting the Core Curriculum Content Standards as measured by the Statewide assessment system. In public reporting of school and district performance data, the Department of Education shall not compromise the confidentiality of individual students.

## Parental Notification

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



## Student Accommodations/Modifications

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 students 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 Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 Team in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d)1.

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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[See POLICY ALERT No. 205]

## **2622 STUDENT ASSESSMENTS**

The New Jersey Department of Education, pursuant to State law and regulations, requires all students to take State assessments as scheduled. There is no provision for a student to opt-out of Statewide assessments. Therefore, the Board requires all students to take Statewide assessments and the Board cannot grant permission to a parent for their child to opt-out of required Statewide assessments. The procedures outlined below shall be followed in the event a parent refuses to have their child participate in a Statewide assessment.

### **A. Written Notice from Parent**

1. A parent who refuses to have their child participate in a Statewide assessment shall submit a letter to the school Principal stating their child will not participate in a Statewide assessment.
2. The parent shall indicate in the letter the testing date(s) and the specific Statewide assessment(s) their child will not be taking.
3. The letter shall be submitted to the Principal at least five school days before the scheduled testing date.
4. The letter shall be maintained with the student's academic records.

### **B. Testing Date**

1. A student whose parent has provided prior written notice informing the Principal their child will not be participating in a Statewide assessment will be required to report to the testing location on the date of the assessment.
2. The student will be removed from the testing location to an area in the building such as a study hall, media center, or other location in the school where the student can be supervised by a school district staff member.
3. A student not participating in a Statewide assessment will be provided an alternative educational activity during the testing time.



### C. Attendance Recording

1. A student, whose parent has provided prior written notice informing the Principal their child will not participate in a Statewide assessment, who reports to school on the testing date shall be recorded as present in school.
2. A student, whose parent has provided prior written notice informing the Principal their child will not participate in a Statewide assessment, who does not report to school on the testing date shall be recorded as absent. This absence shall be recorded as an unexcused absence.

### D. School District Response

1. There shall be no disciplinary consequence imposed upon a student who does not participate in a Statewide assessment in accordance with the provisions outlined in this procedure.
2. A student who does not participate in a Statewide assessment(s) will not receive any credit for the Statewide assessment(s).

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