



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Commissioner

June 16, 2015

TO: Chief School Administrator
Charter School Lead Person
District and School Test Coordinator

FROM: Bari Anhalt Erlichson, Ph.D.
Assistant Commissioner

RE: *REVISED* Testing Calendar for 2015-2016 School Year

This memo is to inform districts of changes to the 2015-2016 school year testing calendar for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC); New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) Science (Grade 4 & 8); New Biology Competency Test (NJBCT); Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA) Science; and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM).

Recently, PARCC's Governing Board voted to revise the testing blueprint by shortening the length of the assessment and reducing the number of testing windows from two to one. This decision was based on analysis of the data from the 2014 field tests and early information from the 2014-2015 administration of PARCC. Immediately after the field tests last year, as you recall, we were able to shorten the length of the English Language Arts tests for grades 3 – 5 from five test sessions to four. As we continued the analyses and incorporated data from 2014-2015, we have found that we can further reduce the number of test items in both English Language Arts and Math without reducing our commitment to constructed response questions or the quality of the data that we will provide.

Revised testing windows. Attached is the revised PARCC testing window for when districts must administer the PARCC assessments in 2016. The testing window is 30 business days in length. It is expected that schools will create their own testing schedule based on their technology capabilities and school calendars in order to administer the assessments. Schools can administer multiple units per day and can test in the morning and the afternoon. Although schools can schedule multiple units per day, individual students should not take more than 2 units per day. Also attached, please find updated information about the testing unit session times for 2016.

High Schools with a Fall Block Schedule. The new testing blueprint will not be available in time for the fall block schedule in 2015-2016. Please see the attached that describes the testing windows for high schools that will administer end-of-course assessments as part of the fall block.

English Language Arts Field Test. As you are aware, field testing items has long been a part of our assessment programs. It is standard practice in order to ensure the reliability and validity of the assessment. A benefit of being part of the PARCC consortium is that we in New Jersey can reduce the count of students participating in field testing of new test questions for future assessments. However, given our commitment to release test questions, including text passages sets, we cannot eliminate our

completely as we will need to continually refresh our item bank with questions. In the upcoming months, we will draw a representative sample of students to participate in field testing an entire ELA test session. For planning purposes, schools should anticipate participating in one additional ELA test session with one grade level. The Department will provide districts and schools more information in the next few months so that districts and schools will have adequate notification which grade level is selected.

The Department appreciates the feedback it receives regarding assessment scheduling. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Office of Assessments, at 609-984-6311 or email assessment@doe.state.nj.us.

Thank you.

BAE/JBH/2015-16testingcalendarmemo

Attachments

c: Members, State Board of Education
Commissioner David C. Hespe
Senior Staff
Jeffrey B. Hauger
Mary Jane Kurabinski
Meghan Snow
Peggy McDonald
Lori Ramella
Office of Assessments
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
Executive County Business Officials
County Test Coordinators
District Test Coordinators
Bilingual/ESL Coordinators
Directors of Approved Private Schools for the Disabled
Directors of College-Operated Programs
Directors of a State Facility
NJ LEE Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools

Testing Unit Times for Spring 2016 PARCC Administration

ELA*

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Total Time
Grade 3	90 minutes	75 minutes	90 minutes	4.25 hours
Grade 4-5	90 minutes	90 minutes	90 minutes	4.5 hours
Grade 6-11	90 minutes	110 minutes	110 minutes	5 hours and 10 minutes

* A sample of schools will be selected to administer one additional ELA/L "field test unit." Selected schools will be notified early in the fall.

Math

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Total Time
Grade 3-5	60 minutes	60 minutes	60 minutes	60 minutes	4 hours
Grade 6-8	80 minutes	80 minutes	80 minutes	N/A	4 hours
Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II	90 minutes	90 minutes	90 minutes	N/A	4.5 hours

PARCC – Regular Administration

Grades 3-8

Administration Dates
April 4, 2016 – May 13, 2016
(Paper-based administration: April 11, 2016 – April 22, 2016)

Notes:

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that students be tested in English Language Arts and Mathematics in high school.

Advanced middle school mathematics students may take the PARCC End-of-Course assessments, i.e., Algebra I, instead of their grade level PARCC mathematics test.

The paper-based administration is specific to those students who require a paper-based version of the test.

PARCC – Regular Administration High School

Administration Dates
April 11 – May 20, 2016
(Paper-based administration: April 11 – 22, 2016)

Notes:

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that students be tested in English Language Arts and Mathematics in high school.

The paper-based administration is specific to those students who require a paper-based version of the test.

PARCC Assessments – High School

Spring Block Schedule

Administration Dates
April 25 – June 3, 2016
(Paper-based Administration: April 25 – May 6, 2016)

Notes:

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that students be tested in English Language Arts and Mathematics in high school.

The administration dates reflect the length of time that the PARCC testing platform is available to New Jersey students. School districts may exercise discretion, based on local capacities and considerations, in scheduling students for the assessments during these windows.

Science

NJASK Science: Grades 4 and 8	
Regular Administration Date	Makeup Date
May 25, 2016	June 1, 2016

NJ Biology Competency Test (NJBCT)	
Regular Administration Dates	Makeup Dates
May 25-26, 2016	June 1-2, 2016

Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA) – Science	
Portfolio Collection Window #1: Sept. 1 – Nov. 13, 2015	
Portfolio Collection Window #2: November 14, 2015 – Feb. 12, 2016	

Note: The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that students be tested in science once in the elementary school, once in the middle school, and once in the high school. In New Jersey, these tests occur at grades 4, 8 and upon completion of Biology content.

Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Proficiency Assessment

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)
Regular Administration Dates
April 11 – May 13, 2016

Note: The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) is an adaptive computer-based assessment that will be administered to the one percent of students with the most significant cognitive impairments. The assessment is aligned to the Common Core State Standards and students will be administered the test in English Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and 11. Schools will create their own testing schedule based on their technology capabilities and school calendars. Students in grades 4, 8, and high school will also need to be administered the Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA) in science using the portfolio-based assessment.