



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500


CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Acting Commissioner

April 11, 2011

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Christopher D. Cerf 
Acting Commissioner

SUBJECT: End of Course Algebra I and II Transition to the Common Core State Standards

New Jersey has been an active participant in the American Diploma Project (ADP) for many years. Through ADP, the development of Algebra I and Algebra II assessments were successfully developed by a consortium of states dedicated to preparing students to be college ready. The contract for the Algebra assessments is due to expire in June 2011. The consortium of states that developed and administered the assessment recently decided to let the contract expire so states can focus their resources on the transition to the Common Core State Standards. **Therefore, the final administration of the End of Course Algebra I and the End of Course Algebra II assessments will be Spring 2011. The ramifications for students who score Basic or Below Basic on the Spring 2011 Algebra I assessment will not be enforced.**

Please do not interpret this change to mean that the state of New Jersey does not value the results of the upcoming Algebra assessments. The Algebra I assessment is aligned to the Common Core standards and the rigor expected for students to be college and career ready. The results of the upcoming assessment should be used to guide curriculum and instruction to prepare students to be college and career ready on the new assessment system in 2014-2015. In addition, this change does not mean that New Jersey is moving away from end of course assessments. The department is committed to the development and administration of end of course assessments that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards and provide evidence that students are college and career ready.

The department is currently preparing plans for the upcoming transition to the Common Core State Standards and is interested in receiving input from districts regarding an assessment transitional strategy at the high school level. The current High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) contract is set to expire in 2012. The contract includes all high school assessments: High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA), Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA) and New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT).

When providing comments, please use the following guidelines:

- Under current Federal regulations, high school students need to be assessed in Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics, and Science one time in high school.
- The state of New Jersey has an assessment graduation requirement.

Please send your suggestions to assessment@doe.state.nj.us by May 15, 2011 and insert your district name in the subject line of the email. We will not accept comments via phone calls or any other email address than the one listed above.

CDC/JBH/ccssalgebratransition

c: Members, State Board of Education
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