



State of New Jersey

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April 4, 2011

TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Christopher D. Cerf   
Acting Commissioner

SUBJECT: Statewide Assessment Schedule for 2011-2012 School Year

The attached Statewide Assessment Schedule lists New Jersey testing dates for the 2011-2012 school year for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and high school. Please review this information carefully. Be sure to check the department website regularly for additional information and updates: <http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/>.

**New Jersey Statewide Assessment Schedule  
2011-2012 School Year**

**Grade 3 Testing**

*New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK3): for all third-grade students.*

May 7, 8, 9, 10, 2012 Regular Testing (Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2, Mathematics Days 1 and 2)

May 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 2012 Make-up Testing (Flexible; but no more than one content area per student per day)

**Grade 4 Testing**

*New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK4): for all fourth-grade students.*

May 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 2012 Regular Testing (Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2, Mathematics Day 1 and 2, Science Day 1)

May 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 2012 Make-up Testing (Flexible; but no more than one content area per student per day)

### **Grade 5 Testing**

*New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK5): for all fifth-grade students.*

April 30, 2012; May 1, 2, 3, 2012

Regular Testing (Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2, Mathematics Days 1 and 2)

May 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 2012

Make-up Testing (Flexible; but no more than one content area per student per day)

### **Grade 6 Testing**

*New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK6): for all sixth-grade students.*

April 30, 2012; May 1, 2, 3, 2012

Regular Testing (Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2, Mathematics Days 1 and 2)

May 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 2012

Make-up Testing (Flexible; but no more than one content area per student per day)

### **Grade 7 Testing**

*New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK7): for all seventh-grade students.*

April 23, 24, 25, 26, 2012

Regular Testing (Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2, Mathematics Days 1 and 2)

April 30, 2012; May 1, 2, 3, 4, 2012

Make-up Testing (Flexible; but no more than one content area per student per day)

### **Grade 8 Testing**

*New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK8): for all eighth-grade students.*

April 23, 24, 25, 26, 2012

Regular Testing (Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2, Mathematics, Science)

April 30, 2012; May 1, 2, 3, 4, 2012

Make-up Testing (Flexible; but no more than one content area per student per day)

## High School Testing

### October 2011 Administration

*High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA):* for retained-eleventh graders, twelfth graders, retained-twelfth graders, returning students and adult high school students.

October 4, 5, 6, 2011                      Regular Testing (Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2)

October 11, 12, 13, 2011                      Make-up Testing (Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2)

### March 2012 Administration

*High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA):* for all first-time eleventh graders, retained-eleventh graders, twelfth graders, retained-twelfth graders, returning students, and adult high school students.

March 6, 7, 8, 2012                      Regular Testing (Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2)

March 13, 14, 15, 2012                      Make-up Testing (Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2)

**New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT)**                      May 15, 16, 2012 (Regular Testing)  
May 17, 18, 2012 (Make-up Testing)

*Who Must Take the NJBCT?*

- All New Jersey public high school students, regardless of grade level, who are enrolled in a first year biology course any time during the 2011-2012 school year must take the New Jersey Biology Competency Test. The following course titles are included as examples:
  - Resource Center Biology
  - ESL Biology
  - General Biology
  - Life Science
  - Foundations in Biology
  - College Prep Biology
  - Honors Biology
  - Accelerated Biology
  - Advanced Placement Biology
  - Integrated Science
  - Other (i.e., Cosmetology, Agricultural Science)

### **Additional criteria for participation in the Biology Competency Test:**

- Students taking *AP Biology*, without having completed a biology prerequisite, must take the May 2012 Biology test.
- Students taking *AP Biology*, after having completed a biology prerequisite, must not take the May 2012 Biology test.
- Students taking *Integrated Science* as an alternative to the biology offerings listed above must take the May 2012 Biology test.
- Students taking *Integrated Science* as a prerequisite course for a biology course must not take the May 2012 Biology test. These students will take the Biology test during the school year that they are enrolled in the biology course.
- Students repeating the first-year biology course due to a failing course grade in 2010-2011 must take the May 2012 Biology test.
- Students taking a biology course over multiple school years will take the Biology test at the completion of the sequence.

### **Additional Guidance**

#### **High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA)**

All first-time eleventh graders will take the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) in mathematics and language arts literacy in March 2012: March 6-8 (regular); March 13-15 (make-up). Districts are urged to avoid scheduling in-service or other special events during the period March 5-16, 2012, in the event that weather emergencies require the rescheduling of HSPA testing. All retained-eleventh graders, twelfth graders, retained-twelfth graders, returning and adult high school students who have not yet passed both sections of the HSPA must participate in the October 2011 administration and, if necessary, the March 2012 administration.

#### **Biology Competency Test**

The New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT) will be a two-day regular administration, along with two make-up testing days. The NJBCT will consist of multiple-choice items and one 45-minute performance task. Districts are advised to align their Biology course offerings with the New Jersey High School Biology/Life Science Syllabus. The syllabus and related information can be downloaded from the department's website at: <http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/science/>.

#### **High School Assessments and Graduation Requirements**

The High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) will be administered to all first time eleventh graders in March 2011 and March 2012, and will serve as the graduation proficiency test for those students.

### **Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA)**

The Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA) will continue to serve those students who have repeatedly failed the HSPA in one or both content areas. There will be three AHSA administration windows in the 2011-2012 school year. Full details of the AHSA 2011-2012 administration schedule will be released in coming weeks.

### **Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA)**

The portfolio-based Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA), for students with severe cognitive disabilities, collects instructional evidence over a designated period. The first evidence collection period runs from September 1, 2011 through November 11, 2011; the second collection period is December 12, 2011 to February 17, 2012.

### **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**

The next round of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) testing will take place at four intervals throughout the 2011-2012 school year. The administrative windows for the 2012 NAEP long-term in reading and mathematics are October 10, 2011 through December 16, 2011 for students aged 13, January 9, 2012 through March 16, 2012 for students aged 9, and March 19, 2012 through May 26, 2012 for students aged 17. Furthermore, the administrative window for the NAEP 2012 twelfth-grade Economics and the fourth-grade computer-based writing assessments is January 23, 2012 through May 2, 2012.

The department appreciates the feedback it receives regarding assessment scheduling. If you have questions or comments regarding the 2011-2012 Statewide Assessment Schedule, please feel to contact Jeffrey B. Hauger, director, Office of Student Learning Assessments, at 609.984.6311 or by email at [jeffrey.hauger@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:jeffrey.hauger@doe.state.nj.us).

CDC/JBH/2011-2012testingschedule

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