



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 14, 2026

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Directors of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: District Test Coordinators, District Technology Coordinators, School Test Coordinators

From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Spring 2026 Key Dates and Information for New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive, New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-Adaptive, and New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-Science

This memorandum provides local education agencies (LEAs) and approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSDs) with key dates and information for the spring 2026 administration of proficiency assessment tests; the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A), New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-Adaptive (NJSLA-A), and New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-Science (NJSLA-S).

For consistency of the student testing experience, beginning with the spring 2026 administration, NJSLA-S will be transitioning to the same testing platform as the NJSLA-A, the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) and Test Delivery System (TDS). This change does not impact the blueprint, unit structure, or testing times for the NJSLA-S which will continue to be a fixed form assessment for spring 2026.

Key Dates

The complete key dates schedule for the spring 2026 NJGPA-A, NJSLA-A, and NJSLA-S is available on the [NJSLA-Adaptive/NJGPA-Adaptive](#) section of the [Assessment](#) webpage.

The complete schedule for the New Jersey statewide assessment program for the 2025-2026 school year was shared in the Department's August 13, 2025 [broadcast](#) *2025-2026 Statewide Assessment Schedule and Announcement of the New Statewide Assessments* and is available on the [Assessment](#) webpage under **Resources**.

Who Must Test

NJGPA-A

All students in grade 11, including students with disabilities whose IEP states that they are not eligible for the alternative assessment (DLM), must take the ELA and mathematics components of the NJGPA-A to meet the high school graduation assessment requirement.

Please note that the spring 2026 administration of the NJGPA-A is only available to grade 11 students. Students graduating in the class of 2026 may not sit for this assessment.

Please refer to the ELA and mathematics graduation pathway indicators in the NJSLEDS [Student Management Data Handbook](#) for specific information. For questions regarding graduation assessment requirements for students in the class of 2026 who were unable to sit for a previous NJGPA administration, please contact the Office of Assessments at (609) 376-3960 or assessment@doe.nj.gov.

Additional information about the NJGPA-A testing requirements, including considerations for students with disabilities and multilingual learners, will be included in the *Spring 2026 Test Coordination Manual (TCM)* and the *Spring 2026 District Test Coordinator and District Technology Coordinator Trainings*.

NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S

For English language arts (ELA), students in grades three through nine are expected to participate in the NJSLA-A based on current grade-level enrollment. Please note, students in grades 10, 11 or 12 may not be assigned the grade nine ELA assessment.

For mathematics, elementary school students in grades three through five are expected to participate in the NJSLA-A based on current grade-level. Middle school students in grades six through eight are expected to participate in the NJSLA-A based on current grade-level unless they are taking any of the high school mathematics courses (i.e., Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II). Please note the following:

- Grade six students who are enrolled in a one-year Algebra I course must take the Algebra I assessment and the grade six NJSLA-A mathematics assessment.
- All high school students must take the Algebra I end-of-course assessment when enrolled in the course for the first time, except for those with qualified exceptions such as students who took the Algebra I end-of-course assessment in middle school.
- Students in grades 10, 11, or 12 may be required to take the test for mathematics if they have not yet satisfied the federal high school assessment requirement.

For science, all students in grades five, eight and eleven are expected to participate in the science assessment. For high school students, grade level is determined by credit total and not homeroom assignment.

Additional information about the NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S testing requirements, including clarifications about end-of-course mathematics testing and considerations for students with disabilities and multilingual learners, will be included in the *Spring 2026 TCM* and the *Spring 2026 District Test Coordinator and District Technology Coordinator Trainings*.

Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) Data

User Accounts

Updating TIDE user accounts regularly is essential to ensure the protection of confidential student information. District Test Coordinators (DTCs) are required to disable the accounts of individuals who no longer work in the organization. LEAs and APSSDs are reminded to make updates in [NJDOE Homeroom](#) as staff changes occur. Please also contact the Office of Assessments when there are changes to the Chief School Administrator (CSA) and DTC roles so the necessary updates to the organization information can be made in TIDE.

State Assessment Registration (SAR) Submission Data

The NJDOE will upload the student file, testing attributes file, and roster file for TIDE-only rosters into TIDE based on the information submitted by LEAs during the fall 2025 SAR submission through the New Jersey Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (NJSLEDS). Data can be updated as necessary in TIDE beginning on **February 2, 2026** and throughout the assessment administration window until the data clean-up window closes on **April 8, 2026** for NJGPA-A and **June 5, 2026** for NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S.

Schools in sending/receiving relationships must verify and confirm that any out-of-district placement sites receiving their students are state-approved APSSDs. If the receiving school is not an approved testing site, the sending LEA must identify themselves as the testing site and create a plan to ensure the student is afforded the opportunity to participate in testing (i.e., send staff to the out-of-district placement site to test the student(s) or bring the student(s) back to their district for testing).

Charter schools, renaissance school projects, choice schools, and vocational-technical schools (for students whose NJSLEDS enrollment type is full-time) are the accountable LEAs and accountable schools for their students. Do not designate the accountable LEA or accountable school based on the student's residential address. After the initial upload of data by the NJDOE, sending LEAs will not be able to see their out-of-district placement students in TIDE. Sending LEAs must communicate with receiving LEAs and APSSDs to ensure that student records not captured in the initial NJSLEDS data upload are created in TIDE by the receiving schools. Receiving schools must review and update their students' information. LEAs and APSSDs can review student data in TIDE and make any necessary changes to student information starting **February 2, 2026**.

Paper-based Test (PBT) Materials

Please note that, due to the requirements related to production and delivery of paper-based materials for NJGPA-A and NJSLA-A, students who require these materials will not receive an adaptive assessment. These tests will be delivered as a fixed form.

NJGPA-A PBT Materials

For NJGPA-A, all paper-based test materials must be ordered through the additional order process, which will begin on **February 17, 2026** and end on **March 20, 2026**. After an additional order has been reviewed and approved, it will take approximately four to five business days for materials to be delivered. Tracking information can be found in TIDE once materials have been shipped. LEAs and APSSDs must specify the exact number of individual test kits required.

NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S PBT Materials

For NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S, student testing attributes entered in TIDE on or before **March 20, 2026** will be used to calculate quantities for an initial order for paper-based testing materials. For inclusion of paper-based test materials in the initial distribution, testing attributes for students in TIDE must be modified by the established deadline. LEAs and APSSDs will receive paper-based test materials for spring NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S (e.g., test booklets, mathematics reference sheets, periodic tables, large print and braille test booklets, etc.) no later than **April 14, 2026**.

Additional NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S paper-based test materials may be ordered for students enrolled after the initial upload of student data in TIDE or if a change in test attributes has occurred that now requires paper-based test materials. LEAs and APSSDs must specify the exact number of individual test kits required when requesting additional materials. LEAs and APSSDs must wait to receive the initial shipment of paper-based test materials before ordering additional materials through the additional order process. The window for ordering additional paper test materials for NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S begins on **April 15, 2026** and ends on **May 22, 2026**.

Additional PBT Information

As a reminder, answer documents are no longer used for paper-based testing. Instead, students are expected to write their answers in their test booklet. LEAs and APSSDs will transcribe these student responses directly into the Response Entry (RE) Interface by the established deadline and should refer to the *Directions for Entering Student Responses in the Response Entry (RE) Interface* available on the [New Jersey Assessments Portal](#). Additional guidance and instructions for the handling of physical test materials and the transcription of student responses to the RE Interface will be included in the *Spring 2026 TCM* and the *Spring 2026 District Test Coordinator and District Technology Coordinator Trainings*.

Training, Resources, and Practice Tests

District Test and Technology Coordinator Training

Each year, NJDOE requires all DTCs and Technology Coordinators (TCs) to participate in training on the administration of the statewide assessment program in ELA, mathematics, and science. The *Spring 2026 District Test and Technology Coordinator Trainings* will consist of asynchronous, on-demand training, as well as in-person and live virtual training opportunities.

The mandatory asynchronous on-demand training will be available beginning on **February 2, 2026** and must be completed by the primary DTC and TC for all LEAs and APSSDs by **February 13, 2026**. In-person training opportunities are scheduled for **February 24 through February 26, 2026**. Live virtual training opportunities are scheduled for **February 27 and March 2, 2026**. It is required that participants who register for in-person or live virtual opportunities will have completed the asynchronous on-demand training prior to attendance.

Additional information regarding mandatory training for the spring 2026 NJSLA-A, NJSLA-S, and NJGPA-A will be shared in a separate broadcast, including the criteria for who must attend the additional in-person training.

Training Materials, Manuals, User Guides, and Other Resources

The **Resources** section the [New Jersey Assessments Portal](#) is a centralized location where DTCs and TCs will be able to locate updated training materials, manuals, and other associated resources for the spring 2026 administration. Electronic versions of training materials and key manuals and user guides (e.g., *Spring 2026 TCM*, *TIDE User Guide*, etc.) will be posted no later than **February 2, 2026**. Additional resources, such as test administrator scripts, will be posted as they are available.

Tutorials and Practice Tests

LEAs and APSSDs are strongly encouraged to use the sample items, item type tutorials, and practice tests available on the [New Jersey Assessments Portal](#) to help educators, students, and parents familiarize themselves with the content and interface of the new assessments and test delivery platform. Sample items and item type tutorials familiarize students and educators with the item types, testing tools and features, accommodations, and test format and/or navigation of the test delivery platform (computer-based testing only) that will be used for the NJGPA-A, NJSLA-A, and NJSLA-S.

Practice tests provide an opportunity for students to become familiar with the types of items and to respond to test questions similar to the questions students will be asked to answer on each assessment.

Contact Information

For questions, please contact the Office of Assessments at (609) 376-3960 or assessment@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group