



**State of New Jersey**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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*Governor*

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DAVID C. HESPE  
*Commissioner*

September 9, 2015

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons  
High School Principals and Supervisors  
School Counselors

**FROM:** David C. Hespe  
Commissioner

**RE:** Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2019

At the beginning of last school year, I notified you that, during New Jersey's transition from the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) to the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) End-of-Course assessments, the students in the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018 would be able to demonstrate the proficiencies in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics by either passing the PARCC assessments, meeting the 'cut score' on a substitute assessment, or by meeting the criteria of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) portfolio appeal process. In addition, Special Education students, whose Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) specify an alternative way to demonstrate proficiencies, will continue to follow the graduation requirements set forth in their IEPs.

Please be advised that, to ensure adequate time for transition to the new assessments, the NJDOE is extending the transition period for the graduation requirements that were identified in the [September 30, 2014](#), memorandum to now include students in the class of 2019. We anticipate that we will announce final 'cut scores' for the PARCC assessments in October. Below is an updated list of options for demonstrating graduation proficiency for the classes of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, incorporating updated 'cut scores' for the substitute competency assessments to account for some of the changes anticipated in the PSAT/SAT and ACT programs. The Study Commission on the Use of Statewide Assessments will be making recommendations shortly regarding graduation requirements for the class of 2020 and thereafter.

English Language Arts	Mathematics
Passing score on a PARCC ELA Grade 9 <i>or</i>	Passing score on PARCC Algebra I <i>or</i>
Passing score on a PARCC ELA Grade 10 <i>or</i>	Passing score on PARCC Geometry <i>or</i>
Passing score on a PARCC ELA Grade 11 <i>or</i>	Passing score on PARCC Algebra II <i>or</i>
SAT Reading $\geq 400$ <i>or</i>	SAT $\geq 400$ <i>or</i>
ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading $\geq 16$ <i>or</i>	ACT or ACT PLAN $\geq 16$ <i>or</i>
Accuplacer Write Placer $\geq 6$ <i>or</i>	Accuplacer Elementary Algebra $\geq 76$ <i>or</i>
PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading $\geq 40$ <i>or</i>	PSAT10 or PSAT/NMSQT $\geq 40$ <i>or</i>
ACT Aspire Reading $\geq 422$ <i>or</i>	ACT Aspire $\geq 422$ <i>or</i>
ASVAB-AFQT Composite $\geq 31$ <i>or</i>	ASVAB-AFQT Composite $\geq 31$ <i>or</i>
Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal	Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

DCH/BAE

- c: Members, State Board of Education  
 Senior Staff  
 Jeffrey Hauger  
 Executive County Superintendents  
 Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers  
 Garden State Coalition of Schools  
 NJ LEE Group