



## BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Karen M. Wood**  
*Superintendent*

**Lourdes LaGuardia**  
*Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

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March 30, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardians:

In April and May students in grades 3-11 in the Barnegat Township School District will be taking the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Reading for College and Careers) test. The PARCC assessments are aligned to state standards and were created to measure students' ability to apply their knowledge of concepts rather than memorizing facts. The PARCC assessments require students to solve problems using mathematical reasoning and to be able to model mathematical principles. In English Language Arts (ELA), students will be required to closely read multiple passages and to write essay responses in literary analysis, research tasks and narrative tasks (NJDOE, 2015).

The assessments will also provide teachers and parents with valuable information on student progress to inform instruction and provide targeted student support in school and at home (NJDOE, 2015). Two years ago, the PARCC assessments replaced the NJASK in grades 3-8 and HSPA in high school. The data that any assessment captures is invaluable in determining not only how your children are performing, but also serves to inform teachers how to monitor and adjust instruction to best assist students.

Over the last few years, the PARCC test has received public scrutiny and the Barnegat Township School District understands the feelings parents may have regarding "test refusal." All children and families in our district will continue to be treated with dignity and respect. This is an expectation on regular teaching days, as well as during any standardized assessment. **The PARCC is a requirement of the New Jersey Department of Education.** Participation rates in PARCC testing are reported to the NJ Department of Education and to the public. Although we had higher participation rates in some schools than others, the district is still **required to submit and prepare an action plan** to the Department of Education. This plan is currently being implemented for the 2016-2017 School Year.

You may request your child not participate in PARCC testing, known as "test refusal;" however, **the district feels the improvements in the PARCC test should reassure parents that the NJ Department of Education heard many parental concerns across the state and nation and implemented modifications.**

It is imperative that the testing environments in school be orderly and not disruptive. If you are refusing your child take the exam ("test refusal") please utilize the following procedure:

- Submit a letter to the Principal of your child's/children's school(s). State that you are refusing to have the PARCC test administered to your child/children. **You may not use the phrase "opt out." This is not recognized by the Department of Education and we cannot honor your request;**
- Refusal letters are due to Principals no later than Tuesday, April 4th;
- Expect a phone call from your Principal. The action plan the Barnegat Township School District has submitted to the state requires a conversation between parents and Barnegat administrators. **If a phone conference does not occur, your child may be required to take the PARCC test.** During the phone conference, the principal will provide additional information and answer questions you may have regarding the test;

- For any students not taking the PARCC test, the school Principal (or designee) will determine the placement of the child for the duration of testing for that particular day. The school principal's (or designee's) decision is final.

**The administration of the PARCC test is a federal initiative, supported by the State of New Jersey.** There have been no indications to the district what will occur should we not meet the participation rate for a third year in a row. I remain concerned about our participation rates and hope it does not have a negative impact on the funding received from the Department of Education in future years. I also believe, as Superintendent of Schools, that a test administered through technology (be it the PARCC or another assessment) is here to stay. The Barnegat Township School District will continue to keep you informed regarding standardized assessments or other important information as it pertains to the education of your children.

Sincerely,

*Karen M. Wood*

Superintendent

Attachment

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*Our collective mission is to nurture and educate our children in accordance with all curriculum standards to prepare them for responsible citizenship and success in life.*

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## High School Graduation Assessment Requirements

Updated January 2017

On August 3, 2016, the State Board of Education approved updated state regulations for the high school graduation assessments requirements in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for the Classes of 2016 through 2021, and beyond. These new state regulations ([N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1](#)) became effective on September 6, 2016.

**The Classes of 2017, 2018, and 2019** – Students graduating as members of the Classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019 can meet graduation assessment requirements through any of these **three pathways**:

- (1) Achieving passing scores on high-level PARCC assessments;
  - (2) Achieving certain scores on alternative assessments such as the SAT, ACT, or Accuplacer; or
  - (3) The submission by the district of a student portfolio through the Department's portfolio appeals process.
- (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.)

**The Class of 2020** – Students in the Class of 2020 can demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency through the same **three pathways** as those in the Classes of 2017 through 2019, provided that **students in the Class of 2020 take all PARCC assessments** associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible\* and receive valid scores, as of the September 6, 2016 effective date of the amendments were adopted by the State Board of Education.

**The Class of 2021 and Beyond** – Starting with the Class of 2021, students will only have **two pathways** to meet the high school graduation assessments requirements:

- (1) Pass the ELA 10 and Algebra 1 assessments; or
- (2) The submission by the district of a student portfolio through the Department's portfolio appeals process, **assuming the student has taken all PARCC assessments** associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible\* and receives valid scores.

Each school year the NJDOE will determine the proficiency level needed on the assessments to meet the requirements.

It is important to note that our students have always been able to meet graduation requirements through an alternative assessment or pathway to graduation throughout New Jersey's forty-year history with a statewide assessment program, and will continue to be able to do so.

In this document, you will find charts containing the list of assessment requirements in both ELA and mathematics for the high school graduation Classes of 2017 through 2021.

*Note: \* "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receives a valid score. This includes all of these courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11.*

# ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2017

<u>Three Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<p><u>First Pathway</u> Take and Pass a PARCC Test</p>	<p>PARCC ELA Grade 9 &gt;= 750 (Level 4)                      or                      PARCC ELA Grade 10 &gt;=750 (Level 4)                      or                      PARCC ELA Grade 11 &gt;= 725 (Level 3)</p>	<p>PARCC Algebra I &gt;= 750 (Level 4)                      or                      PARCC Geometry &gt;= 725 (Level 3)                      or                      PARCC Algebra II &gt;= 725 (Level 3)</p>
<p><u>Second Pathway</u> Take and Pass one of the Alternative Assessments</p>	<p>SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16) &gt;= 400                      or                      SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) &gt;= 450                      or                      SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) &gt;= 22                      or                      ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading* &gt;= 16                      or                      Accuplacer WritePlacer &gt;= 6                      or                      Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL &gt;= 4                      or                      PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15) &gt;= 40                      or                      PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) &gt;= 22                      or                      ACT Aspire Reading* &gt;= 422                      or                      ASVAB-AFQT Composite &gt;= 31</p>	<p>SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16) &gt;= 400                      or                      SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) &gt;= 440                      or                      SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) &gt;= 22                      or                      ACT or ACT PLAN* Math &gt;= 16                      or                      Accuplacer Elementary Algebra &gt;= 76                      or                      PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15) &gt;= 40                      or                      PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) &gt;= 22                      or                      ACT Aspire Math* &gt;= 422                      or                      ASVAB-AFQT Composite &gt;= 31</p>
<p><u>Third Pathway</u> Portfolio Appeals</p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA</p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math</p>

Note: \* Test is no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year.

# ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2018 and 2019

<u>Three Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<p><u>First Pathway</u> Take and Pass a PARCC Test</p>	<p>PARCC ELA Grade 9 or PARCC ELA Grade 10 or PARCC ELA Grade 11</p>	<p>PARCC Algebra I or PARCC Geometry or PARCC Algebra II</p>
<p><u>Second Pathway</u> Take and Pass one of the Alternative Assessments</p>	<p>SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16) or SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) or SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) or ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading* or Accuplacer WritePlacer or Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL or PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15) or PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) or ACT Aspire Reading* or ASVAB-AFQT Composite</p>	<p>SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16) or SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) or SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) or ACT or ACT PLAN* Math or Accuplacer Elementary Algebra or PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15) or PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) or ACT Aspire Math* or ASVAB-AFQT Composite</p>
<p><u>Third Pathway</u> Portfolio Appeals</p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA</p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math</p>

Note: \* Test is no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year.

# ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2020

<u>Three Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<p><u>First Pathway</u> Take and Pass a PARCC Test</p>	<p>PARCC ELA Grade 9 <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 10 <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 11</p>	<p>PARCC Algebra I*** <i>or</i> PARCC Geometry <i>or</i> PARCC Algebra II</p>
<p><u>Second Pathway</u> Take and Pass one of the Alternative Assessments</p> <p><i>This Pathway is only available if a student takes all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible and receive valid scores*</i></p>	<p>SAT Reading Test <i>or</i> ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading** <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Reading** <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite</p>	<p>SAT Math Test <i>or</i> ACT or ACT PLAN Math** <i>or</i> Accuplacer Elementary Algebra <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Math** <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite</p>
<p><u>Third Pathway</u> Portfolio Appeals</p> <p><i>This Pathway is only available if a student takes all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible and receive valid scores*</i></p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA</p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math</p>

Note: \* "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receives a valid score. This includes all of these courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11. \*\* Test is no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year. \*\*\* The NJDOE is providing flexibility to meet the math assessment requirement for students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to the September 6, 2016 effective date of the new high school assessment regulations.

# ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2021

<u>Two Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<u>First Pathway</u>	Take and Pass PARCC ELA Grade 10	Take and Pass PARCC Algebra I**
<u>Second Pathway</u> <i>This Pathway is only available if a student takes all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible*</i>	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math

Note: \* "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receive a valid score. This includes all of these courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11.

\*\* The NJDOE is providing flexibility to meet the math assessment requirement for students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to the September 6, 2016 effective date of the new high school assessment regulations.