

# Wayne

Township Public Schools

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March 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please be advised, on August 3, 2016, the State Board of Education adopted new regulations that modified New Jersey's high school graduation requirements for the Class of 2016 through the Class of 2021 and beyond. This new regulation, N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1, became effective on September 6, 2016.

Pursuant to the new regulation, starting with the Class of 2020, this year's current ninth grade, students will need to meet the high school graduation assessment requirement by passing PARCC ELA Grade 9, 10, or 11 and PARCC Geometry, Algebra I or Algebra II. If a student is unable to pass at least one ELA and one mathematical assessment, they will be permitted to meet the State requirement by achieving a passing score on a substitute assessment test or by accessing the portfolio appeals process. However, this option ***will only be available to students who take all PARCC assessments associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible.***

Similarly, for the Class of 2021, this year's current eighth grade, students will need to meet the high school graduation assessment requirements by passing PARCC ELA Grade 10 and PARCC Algebra I. If a student is unable to pass one or both of those assessments, they too will be able to access the portfolio appeals process to meet the assessment requirements. However, they will no longer be able to rely upon a substitute assessment test. Again, this option ***will only be available to students who take all PARCC assessments associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible and achieve a "valid" score. Accordingly, opting out of PARCC may result in your student being denied the opportunity to graduate.***

Additional information regarding this graduation change is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parents/GradReq.pdf>. If you have any additional questions regarding the new requirements, you may contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,



Mark Toback, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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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.*