



SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education 14 Beekman Terrace Summit New Jersey 07901-1702 908-918-2100

Mrs. Jennifer McCann, Director of Education

March 21, 2019

Dear SHS Parents/Guardians:

The New Jersey Department of Education requires all school districts to administer the NJSLA (New Jersey State Learning Assessments), formerly known as PARCC, to all students in grades 3-10. Previously, the New Jersey Department of Education required all students in grades 3-11 to be tested, but this year the grade span was changed to grades 3-10. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in consultation with the State Board of Education, will not require districts to administer end-of-course statewide assessments in ELA and mathematics to students in grade 11. Summit High School will, however, offer 11th-grade students the opportunity to take the NJSLA in ELA or math if they still have to meet their graduations testing requirement in that area.

The NJSLA are aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) and were created to measure students' ability to apply their knowledge of concepts rather than memorizing facts. The NJSLA 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. The data provided from these tests will allow you to see how your child is growing in his or her knowledge, understanding, and mastery of the grade level or content skills expectations. The NJSLA are designed to give schools and teachers more information to support improvement efforts and personalize teaching to better guide your child's learning.

The NJSLA testing window begins on April 8, 2019 and closes on May 28, 2019. Please keep in mind that students are **not** testing the entire time. This window is provided to allow school districts the flexibility to schedule all students appropriately. Please reference the table below for your child's specific testing dates and the number of testing units. Enclosed please find the high school's schedule for the weeks of April 8, 2019 and April 22, 2019.

Grade	Testing Dates	Subject	# of Units
9-10	April 9, 2019-April 11, 2019	ELA	3
9-10	April 24, 2019-April 25, 2019	Math	2

The NJSLA-ELA are administered to all students in grades 9 and 10. The NJSLA-MATH are administered to all students in grades 9 and 10 who are enrolled in an Algebra 1, Geometry, or Algebra 2 course.

State law and regulations require all students to take state assessments. Therefore, no formal procedure for "refusing" of the state examinations exists. The expectation is that all students in Grades 3 - 10 who are eligible to participate in the NJSLA will take the exams. NJSLA data

provides an informative profile of where we are succeeding as individual schools, as a district, and how we must improve. Without full student participation, we will not have accurate district data or the necessary information for Summit to be compared and ranked against other districts.

However, as a district, we acknowledge and respect your right to make the decision to refuse to have your child participate in our programming, including these assessments. Please note, if you make the choice to refuse to have your child take the NJSLA exams you are accepting that:

- While your child is expected to report to school during testing, your child will not receive an alternative education program and will be required to attend study hall.
- Your child will not receive an NJSLA score or report.
- You could be putting your child's ability to meet the testing graduation requirement in jeopardy.

The State of New Jersey has established the following testing graduation requirements:

- For students in the Class of 2019 or the Class of 2020, students must either pass a PARCC/NJSLA in ELA and Math or receive a comparable score in an alternate assessment as determined by the NJ Department of Education.
- For students in the Class of 2021 or the Class of 2022, students must either pass a PARCC/NJSLA in ELA10 and Algebra 1 or submit a portfolio appeal. The opportunity to submit a portfolio appeal for the testing graduation requirement is only possible if the student has taken and received valid scores for all PARCC/NJSLA for which they are eligible.

If you decide to refuse to have your Summit High School student take the assessment, please submit a written letter to the principal, Stacy Grimaldi, by Tuesday, April 2, 2019. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stacy Grimaldi at 908.273.1494 ext. 5500 or Jennifer McCann, Director of Education, at 908.918.2100 ext. 3103.

Respectfully yours,

Jennifer McCann

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