

WANAQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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September 9, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

New Jersey school districts are required by statute (*N.J.S.A. 18A: 7C-6.6*) to annually notify parents or guardians by October 1 of any statewide student assessment or commercially developed standardized assessment that will be administered over the course of the school year. Please note the chart on the next page, as it contains the following information in regards to assessments, dates, duration, and preparation.

Assessment allows both our educators and students to monitor progress towards achieving New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Through assessment, educators are better equipped to identify individual areas of need, and in-turn, design their instruction to improve learning. Therefore, in addition to the state assessments listed on the next page, our students have opportunities to take other local formative and summative assessments throughout the school year. Formative refers to tools that identify struggles and learning gaps along the way, as opposed to summative assessments, which are given to evaluate student learning, knowledge, proficiency, or success at the conclusion of an instructional period. Some examples of each include quizzes, tests, projects, i-Ready diagnostics, and other common benchmarks.

In keeping with state and federal requirements, all New Jersey public schools will administer Start Strong assessments from September 13, 2021 through October 22, 2021. Start Strong assessments are similar in design to the NJSLA with the exception that the assessments are much shorter and feature only multiple-choice questions. Tested subject areas are as follows: Grades 4-8: English Language Arts, Math, and for Grade 6, English Language Arts, Math, and Science. More information will follow in the upcoming days; however, **please know that the district will not use Start Strong Testing as a means of grouping or placing students; test data will only be used to inform instruction and identify curriculum areas in need of remediation as a result of the pandemic.**

Key:

- **Testing Mode** refers to how the student will be administered the assessment. The two modes are computer-based, and paper-and-pencil. Some computer-based assessments allow students to take the assessment using paper and pencil. Be sure to inquire about the options if your child has a medical issue that would not allow him/her to take the assessment on the computer.
- **Testing Time** is the maximum amount of time allotted to students to complete the assessment. Most students finish well in advance of the allotted time.
- **Testing Window** is the period in which districts administer the statewide student assessment. It is not the actual number of days it takes a student to complete the assessment. School districts can choose the specific days within the window to administer the test. Please inquire with your district about the exact testing dates of the assessment.
- **Results Available** refers to date districts receive individualized student results from the assessment vendor. These results should be distributed to students, educators and families as soon as possible.

Please see attached for assessment chart.

Thank you,

Samantha Nash
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

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Assessment Name	Subject Area	Grade Level Tested	Information about Available Accommodations	Testing Mode	Testing Time Allotted per Student	Testing Window	Results Available	Information for Parents
Start Strong Assessments <i>(Required by State & Federal due to the cancelation of the spring NJSLA 2021)</i>	ELA, MA, & SCI	Grade 4 – Grade 8 (ELA, MA) Grade 6 (ELA, MA, SCI)	Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual	Online only	60 minutes per subject assessment	9/13/21 to 10/22/21	TBD	Information to be released on Office of Assessments webpage
NJSLA <i>(Required by State & Federal once a year)</i>	ELA & MA	Grade 3 – Grade 8	NJSLA Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual	Computer-based with paper-based options for students with disabilities	ELA Grade 3: 150 Minutes Grade 4-8: 180 Minutes Math Grade 3-5: 180 Minutes Grade 6-8: 180 Minutes Unit Testing Times	4/25/22 to 6/3/22	September 2022	For more information please visit the Office of Assessments website
NJSLA <i>(Required by State & Federal once a year)</i>	SCI	Grade 5 – Grade 8	NJSLA Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual	Computer-based with paper-based options for students with disabilities	Grade 5: 180 Minutes Grade 8: 180 Minutes Unit Testing Times	4/25/22 to 6/3/22	September 2022	For more information please visit the Office of Assessments website

Assessment Name	Subject Area	Grade Level Tested	Information about Available Accommodations	Testing Mode	Testing Time Allotted per Student	Testing Window	Results Available	Information for Parents
ACCESS <i>(Required by State & Federal once a year)</i>	English Language Proficiency Test	Only ESL students in grades K-8	WIDA Accessibility	Paper – Grade K <i>(and by request)</i> Online Grades 1–12 <i>(Writing portion is paper Grades 1–3)</i>	No time limit	2/14/22 to 4/8/22	TBD	Parent Handbook Provided in different languages.
Dynamic Learning Maps <i>(Required by State & Federal once a year)</i>	ELA, MA, & SCI	Only specific Special Education students in grades 3-8	DLM Accessibility Manual	Paper-based	No time limit	4/1/22 to 5/27/22	TBD	DLM Parent Brochure
CogAT <i>(Local once a year)</i>	ELA & MA	Grades 2 & 6	Student IEPs will be followed for testing.	Paper-based	180 Minutes	11/15/21 to 11/24/21	TBD	Information for Parents