

Statewide Assessment

Dear educators, parents, local board of education members, and concerned stakeholders:

Happy New Year! As you are very much aware, over the past two years, statewide standardized assessment in New Jersey has been in a constant state of flux. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and State Board of Education (SBOE) have renamed the PARCC assessment as the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA), however the test and its consequences for students, districts and educators are very much ever-present.

Parents, students, and educators across the state have continuously shared their voices, hopes, and perspectives on the future of assessment with legislators, SBOE members, and the NJDOE. Common concerns with the PARCC/NJSLA include the damaging impact high-stakes assessments have on student mental health, the immense amount of time PARCC/NJSLA testing and test-prep rob from true teaching and learning, and the extraordinary financial strain the assessments put on our state at a time when countless districts are dangerously underfunded.

The NJDOE currently has a proposal to reduce testing requirements at the high school level. However, members of the SBOE are looking to a legislative fix that allows for even more testing than the 63.5 hours of statewide standardized testing to which our students are subjected each year.

As the SBOE continually ignores parent, student, and educator cries for a solution, we look to you to serve as leaders in this fight for our students. We urge you to do the following by Jan. 31, 2020:

1. Consider the impact on your local community and implore your local board of education to pass a board resolution.
2. Contact the SBOE by emailing Chapter8@doe.nj.gov, calling for them to reduce unnecessary statewide testing by supporting the NJDOE's proposal.

Visit <https://www.njea.org/statewide-assessment-facts-actions/> for the following resources:

- A Model School Board Resolution that can be brought forth to your local board and customized to fit your local context
- Fact Check on Statewide Assessment – FAQs and Common Misconceptions
- PARCC/NJSLA Journey Maps depicting the lived experiences of students, parents, and educators before, during, and after testing timeframes in a given school year
- Additional supporting resources

We sincerely thank you for your voices, advocacy, and tireless commitment to the students, families, and educators of the state of New Jersey. Should you have any questions, please reach out to assessment@njea.org

In solidarity –