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A Walk in the PARCC aims to provide all those with an interest in the Madison Public Schools with the latest information about the Common Core State Standards and PARCC assessments.

Graduation Requirements for Class of 2019

Earlier this month, New Jersey Commissioner of Education, David C. Hespe, announced that the Class of 2019 (current 9th grade students) will be expected to meet the same graduation requirements in terms of standardized assessments as previously announced for the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018. Please note that some 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.

English Language Arts	Mathematics
Passing score on a PARCC ELA Grade 9 <i>or</i>	Passing score on PARCC Algebra I <i>or</i>
Passing score on a PARCC ELA Grade 10 <i>or</i>	Passing score on PARCC Geometry <i>or</i>
Passing score on a PARCC ELA Grade 11 <i>or</i>	Passing score on PARCC Algebra II <i>or</i>
SAT Reading ≥ 400 <i>or</i>	SAT ≥ 400 <i>or</i>
ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading ≥ 16 <i>or</i>	ACT or ACT PLAN ≥ 16 <i>or</i>
Accuplacer Write Placer ≥ 6 <i>or</i>	Accuplacer Elementary Algebra ≥ 76 <i>or</i>
PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading ≥ 40 <i>or</i>	PSAT10 or PSAT/NMSQT ≥ 40 <i>or</i>
ACT Aspire Reading ≥ 422 <i>or</i>	ACT Aspire ≥ 422 <i>or</i>
ASVAB-AFQT Composite ≥ 31 <i>or</i>	ASVAB-AFQT Composite ≥ 31 <i>or</i>
Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal	Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

A Study Commission on the Use of Statewide Assessments will be making recommendations later this year regarding graduation requirements for the class of 2020 and beyond.

Exemption from PARCC ELA 11 for AP Students

The high school level PARCC assessments are designed to provide students, parents, teachers, and post-secondary institutions with useful information about how well students are progressing toward being able to successfully complete college-level work. In Madison, and New Jersey more widely, many high school students take college-level classes through the Advanced Placement (AP) program.

This month, the New Jersey Department of Education announced that districts can choose to exempt 11th grade students who are enrolled in AP English Language and Composition or AP English Literature and Composition from taking the PARCC English Language Arts 11 assessment.

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Student Participation in the Statewide Assessment Program

New Jersey Commissioner of Education David C. Hespe issued a memorandum to school districts in early September to clarify school district's responsibility with regard to the participation of students in statewide assessment programs.

The main points are excerpted here:

- The federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001, requires schools with students in grades three through eleven to demonstrate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). In order to meet AYP, a school must ensure that assessments have been taken by at least ninety-five percent (95%) of enrolled students in each subgroup, i.e., special education, English language learners, low income, race/ethnicity.
- In order to comply with this federal law and New Jersey law, the Commissioner of Education, through the Department of Education, have established a statewide assessment program. District boards of education are required to implement this statewide assessment system: PARCC for English language arts in grades 3-11; mathematics in grades 3-8 and in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II; NJASK Science in grades 4 and 8; and Biology Competency Test whenever a student takes Biology.
- In the event that students choose not to participate in the assessment program required under state and federal law, districts should develop policies and procedures for the appropriate supervision and engagement of these students during the assessment administration.

During the first year of PARCC implementation in 2015, we provided an alternate, supervised setting for students whose parents refused to have them participate in the statewide assessment program. These procedures align with the guidance provided this month by the Commissioner. As we distribute PARCC results later this fall and prepare for PARCC 2016 in the spring, we will provide additional information about the importance of participating in the state assessment system.

The full text of the Commissioner's memorandum can be accessed [here](#).

New PARCC Resources Posted

The New Jersey Department of Education posted many updated resources for educators and parents regarding the 2016 PARCC assessments including an overview of the assessments and grade-level specific test information. These resources can all be accessed at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parcc/>.

What Do You Think?

"A Walk in the PARCC" is designed to keep the entire Madison learning community informed as we transition to new educational standards and assessments. Please take a moment to complete a brief survey to guide the development of future newsletters.

The survey can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/AWalkInTheParcc>.

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