



RAMAPO RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents & Students,

New information has been released from the New Jersey Department of Education clarifying graduation requirements and PARCC assessments, which will directly affect the students starting with the Class of 2021.

Beginning with the Class of 2021 students must pass the PARCC ELA Grade 10 exam, as well as the PARCC Algebra I exam, in order to demonstrate proficiency for high school graduation in the areas of English language arts and mathematics. Keep in mind there are students from Ramapo Ridge Middle School who take Algebra I in grade 7 and 8. If a student does not meet a passing score on the PARCC ELA Grade 10 exam and the PARCC Algebra I exam respectively, he/she will be allowed to participate in the NJDOE Portfolio Appeals to meet graduation requirements under certain conditions.

In order to qualify for the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for language arts, the student must have taken the Grade 9 PARCC ELA, Grade 10 PARCC ELA, and Grade 11 PARCC ELA exams. In order to qualify for the Portfolio Appeal for mathematics, a student must have taken the PARCC Algebra I, PARCC Geometry, and PARCC Algebra II exams. If a student does not sit for all of the aforementioned exams, he or she will not be eligible for the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal.

I have attached the information provided from the NJDOE for your review. Please see pages 1 and 5. These changes are not those of the Mahwah Township Public Schools, but those of the New Jersey Department of Education. Be aware that if an seventh or eighth-grade student does not participate in the Algebra I PARCC exam, he/she runs the risk of not fulfilling the state mandated assessment requirements necessary for high school graduation.

State regulations (*New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:8-5.1* effective on September 6, 2016) require all students to participate in PARCC assessments for both English language arts and mathematics in April of 2017.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at dvandermolen@mahwah.k12.nj.us or call me at (201) 762- 2382.

You may also visit the New Jersey Department of Education for additional information <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parents/GradReq.pdf>.

Regards,
Daniel H. Vander Molen
Principal

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.*

ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2017

<u>Three Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<u>First Pathway</u> Take and Pass a PARCC Test	PARCC ELA Grade 9 \geq 750 (Level 4) or PARCC ELA Grade 10 \geq 750 (Level 4) or PARCC ELA Grade 11 \geq 725 (Level 3)	PARCC Algebra I \geq 750 (Level 4) or PARCC Geometry \geq 725 (Level 3) or PARCC Algebra II \geq 725 (Level 3)
<u>Second Pathway</u> Take and Pass one of the Alternative Assessments	SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16) \geq 400 or SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 450 or SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 22 or ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading* \geq 16 or Accuplacer WritePlacer \geq 6 or Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL \geq 4 or PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15) \geq 40 or PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) \geq 22 or ACT Aspire Reading* \geq 422 or ASVAB-AFQT Composite \geq 31	SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16) \geq 400 or SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 440 or SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 22 or ACT or ACT PLAN* Math \geq 16 or Accuplacer Elementary Algebra \geq 76 or PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15) \geq 40 or PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) \geq 22 or ACT Aspire Math* \geq 422 or ASVAB-AFQT Composite \geq 31
<u>Third Pathway</u> Portfolio Appeals	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math

Note: * Test is no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year.

ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2018 and 2019

<u>Three Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<p>First Pathway Take and Pass a PARCC Test</p>	<p>PARCC ELA Grade 9 <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 10 <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 11</p>	<p>PARCC Algebra I <i>or</i> PARCC Geometry <i>or</i> PARCC Algebra II</p>
<p>Second Pathway Take and Pass one of the Alternative Assessments</p>	<p>SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16) <i>or</i> SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) <i>or</i> SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) <i>or</i> ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading* <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15) <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Reading* <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite</p>	<p>SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16) <i>or</i> SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) <i>or</i> SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) <i>or</i> ACT or ACT PLAN* Math <i>or</i> Accuplacer Elementary Algebra <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15) <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Math* <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite</p>
<p>Third Pathway Portfolio Appeals</p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA</p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math</p>

Note: * Test is no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year.

ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2020

<u>Three Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<p><u>First Pathway</u> Take and Pass a PARCC Test</p>	<p>PARCC ELA Grade 9 <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 10 <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 11</p>	<p>PARCC Algebra I*** <i>or</i> PARCC Geometry <i>or</i> PARCC Algebra II</p>
<p><u>Second Pathway</u> Take and Pass one of the Alternative Assessments</p> <p><i>This Pathway is only available if a student takes all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible and receive valid scores*</i></p>	<p>SAT Reading Test <i>or</i> ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading** <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Reading** <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite</p>	<p>SAT Math Test <i>or</i> ACT or ACT PLAN Math** <i>or</i> Accuplacer Elementary Algebra <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Math** <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite</p>
<p><u>Third Pathway</u> Portfolio Appeals</p> <p><i>This Pathway is only available if a student takes all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible and receive valid scores*</i></p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA</p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math</p>

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. ** Test is no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year. *** The NJDOE is providing flexibility to meet the math assessment requirement for students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to the September 6, 2016 effective date of the new high school assessment regulations.

ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2021

<u>Two Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<u>First Pathway</u>	Take and Pass PARCC ELA Grade 10	Take and Pass PARCC Algebra I**
<u>Second Pathway</u> <i>This Pathway is only available if a student takes all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible*</i>	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math

Note: * "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receive a valid score. This includes all of these courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11.

** The NJDOE is providing flexibility to meet the math assessment requirement for students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to the September 6, 2016 effective date of the new high school assessment regulations.