



Roxbury High School

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Dear Parents:

The purpose of my correspondence is to advise you of an important change in the graduation requirements for your students. The Commissioner of Education for the State of New Jersey has advised high schools that a change in graduation requirements for the classes of 2016 through 2021 has been implemented. This change specifically relates to the statutory requirement that students graduating from high schools in New Jersey must demonstrate proficiency in English and mathematics by passing a competency test. Until recently, that test was the HSPA (High School Proficiency Assessment). With the implementation of new testing protocols, including a new graduation test known as PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career), there have been some important changes that must be communicated to you.

PARCC tests will be given in specific subject areas (English 9, English 10, English 11, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II). Students enrolled in those classes will take the test in that subject. PARCC will be given in March or April and will be taken online using Chromebooks in most cases. A minimum proficiency score has been established by the State for a student to demonstrate proficiency.

Please see the updated requirements noted in this recent correspondence from the State found at the end of this letter. It details the specific high school graduation requirements as relates to standardized testing. For your information, I have included a brief description of the various assessments that may fulfill graduation requirements for students in the classes of 2017-2021:

- SAT stands for Scholastic Aptitude Test – these are administered by the College Board at various times during the school year at various high schools, including RHS. They are recommended for students beginning in the spring of junior year.
- ACT stands for American College Testing – these are administered by ACT at various times during the school year at various schools, including RHS. They are also recommended for students beginning in the spring of junior year.
- Accuplacer – this is a suite of tests that determines a student's knowledge in math, reading, and writing as he/she prepares to enroll in college-level courses. It is managed by the College Board, and is most commonly administered as a placement test by county colleges. It is available at RHS.

- PSAT stands for Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test – this is administered by the College Board once each school year (in October) at various high schools. We offer the test to all sophomores and juniors (free of charge) and to 9th graders for a fee.
- ASVAB stands for Armed Services Vocational Assessment Battery. The ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude assessment that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. RHS offers this test each year in the fall and in the spring.

We are especially interested in ensuring that all parents of eleventh and twelfth graders are aware of the revised criteria since those pupils have the least amount of time to satisfy this requirement. The district is already taking steps to provide additional opportunities for students to prepare for these assessments and to make more of them available at RHS. Information about these various assessments is always available through the Roxbury High School guidance website or by contacting your student's guidance counselor.

Please be assured that we are taking pro-active steps to support our students. We are confident that our students in the transitional years will continue to demonstrate competency and will fulfill their graduation requirements. As our partners in preparing the students for their future, we ask that you continue to visit our website for further updates and information.

In Education,



Jeffrey W. Swanson
Principal

High School Graduation Assessment Requirements

Updated October 2016

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.

Students graduating as members of the classes of 2016 through 2019 can meet graduation assessment requirements through a variety of ways, including:

- (1) Achieving passing scores on certain 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 can demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency through the same alternative means as those in the Classes of 2016 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*, as of the effective date of when the amendments were adopted by the State Board of Education.

For the Class of 2021 and thereafter, students who have not demonstrated proficiency on the ELA 10 and Algebra 1 assessments, and have taken all PARCC assessments associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible*, can demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency by meeting the criteria of the portfolio appeals process.

It is important to note there has always been a system for students to demonstrate and meet graduation requirements through an alternative assessment or pathway to graduation throughout New Jersey's forty-year history with a statewide assessment program.

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 2016 through 2021.

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

Class of 2016 and 2017

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

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)

or

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

or

Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

MATHEMATICS

PARCC Algebra I \geq 750 (Level 4)

or

PARCC Geometry \geq 725 (Level 3)

or

PARCC Algebra II \geq 725 (Level 3)

or

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

or

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

Class of 2018 and 2019

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

PARCC ELA Grade 9

or

PARCC ELA Grade 10

or

PARCC ELA Grade 11

or

SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16)

or

SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section
(taken 3/1/16 or later)

or

SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later)

or

ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading*

or

Accuplacer WritePlacer

or

Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL

or

PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15)

or

PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later)

or

ACT Aspire Reading*

or

ASVAB-AFQT Composite

or

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MATHEMATICS

PARCC Algebra I

or

PARCC Geometry

or

PARCC Algebra II

or

SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16)

or

SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later)

or

SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later)

or

ACT or ACT PLAN* Math

or

Accuplacer Elementary Algebra

or

PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15)

or

PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later)

or

ACT Aspire Math*

or

ASVAB-AFQT Composite

or

Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

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

The Class of 2020 can demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency through the same alternative means as those in the Classes of 2016 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*.

Class of 2020

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

PARCC ELA Grade 9 *(must take if eligible*)*

and

PARCC ELA Grade 10 *(must take if eligible*)*

and

PARCC ELA Grade 11 *(must take if eligible*)*

***If passing score is not met on at least one of the three, then
the student can use the following***

SAT Reading

or

ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading**

or

Accuplacer WritePlacer

or

Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL

or

PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading

or

PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading

or

ACT Aspire Reading**

or

ASVAB-AFQT Composite

or

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MATHEMATICS

PARCC Algebra I *(must take if eligible*)*

and

PARCC Geometry *(must take if eligible*)*

and

PARCC Algebra II *(must take if eligible*)*

***If passing score is not met on at least one of the three, then
the student can use the following***

SAT Math

or

ACT or ACT PLAN Math**

or

Accuplacer Elementary Algebra

or

PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math

or

PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math

or

ACT Aspire Math**

or

ASVAB-AFQT Composite

or

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Note: * "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test. 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.

Starting with the Class of 2021, students will need to meet the high school graduation assessment requirements by passing PARCC ELA Grade 10 and PARCC Algebra I.

If students are unable to pass one or both of those assessments, they will be able to access the portfolio appeals process to meet the assessment requirements, but only if they take all PARCC assessments associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible* (see chart below).

Class of 2021 and Beyond

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

PARCC ELA Grade 10 (*must take and pass*)

*If passing score is not met on PARCC ELA Grade 10,
then the student must have taken*

PARCC ELA Grade 9

and

PARCC ELA Grade 10

and

PARCC ELA Grade 11

before they can

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MATHEMATICS

PARCC Algebra I (*must take and pass*)

*If passing score is not met on PARCC Algebra 1,
then the student must have taken*

PARCC Algebra I

and

PARCC Geometry

and

PARCC Algebra II (*if eligible**)

before they can

Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

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