

January 5, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

All public high school students are required by NJ statute 18A:7C to demonstrate proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics through a state-approved standardized assessment in order to fulfill the assessment requirements necessary for a high school diploma. Over the past few years, the New Jersey Department of Education has engaged a transitional timeline toward the use of PARCC for graduation testing in the state. The State Board of Education has 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. Below, you can find the most recent information regarding the graduation assessment requirement.

**Graduation Assessment Requirement for the Class of 2020**

The Class of 2020 can demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency through the same alternative means (PSAT, ACT, Accuplacer, ASVAB, etc.) 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*. “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 the following courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11.

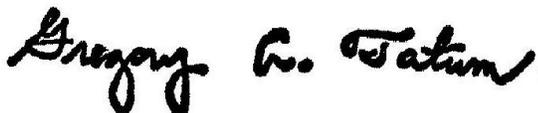
Students who do not meet the graduation assessment requirement via PARCC testing *AND* who fail to take *ALL* PARCC assessments for which they are eligible, for any reason, will result in the inability to utilize any of the alternative methods to meet the graduation assessment requirement. This updated information from the NJ Department of Education underscores the importance of taking the PARCC assessments for which students are eligible.

**Graduation Assessment Requirement for the Classes of 2021 and Beyond**

The Classes of 2021 and beyond must demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency by scoring a passing score on both the **ELA 10** and **Algebra I** PARCC assessments. If students are unable to pass one or both of those assessments, they will be able to utilize 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. “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 the following courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11.

For more information regarding the graduation assessment requirements and this update, please visit the Department of Education website at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parents/GradReq.pdf>.

Sincerely,



Mr. Gregory Tatum, Superintendent  
Township of Union Public Schools

CC: A. Moses, Assistant Superintendent; J. Cohen, Mathematics Supervisor; R. Moran, ELA Supervisor