



**State of New Jersey**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

DAVID C. HESPE  
*Acting Commissioner*

December 2, 2014

TO: District Superintendents/Charter School Lead Persons  
High School Principals and Supervisors  
School Counselors

FROM: Bari Anhalt Erlichson, Ph.D.  
Assistant Commissioner/Chief Performance Officer

RE: UPDATED: Graduation Requirements for the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018

Earlier this year, Commissioner Hespe notified you that in New Jersey’s transition from the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) to the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) End-of-Course assessments that the students, including students with disabilities, in the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018 would be able to demonstrate the proficiencies in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics required by state statute by either meeting the ‘cut score’ on the PARCC assessments or meeting the ‘cut score’ on an substitute assessment or by meeting the criteria of the NJDOE portfolio appeal process. Additionally, a student with a disability, whose IEP team determines that the student is exempted from the requirements above would be required to achieve the alternate proficiency in his/her IEP.

Since that notification, we have been able to develop ‘concordant’ cut scores for additional substitute assessments that our schools currently utilize. Thus, the table below has been updated. For the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018, students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in both ELA and math by meeting ONE of the criteria in each column below:

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 $\geq$ 400 <i>or</i>	SAT $\geq$ 400 <i>or</i>
ACT $\geq$ 16 <i>or</i>	ACT $\geq$ 16 <i>or</i>
Accuplacer Write Placer $\geq$ 6 <i>or</i>	Accuplacer Elementary Algebra $\geq$ 76 <i>or</i>
PSAT $\geq$ 40 <i>or</i>	PSAT $\geq$ 40 <i>or</i>
ACT Aspire $\geq$ 422 <i>or</i>	ACT Aspire $\geq$ 422 <i>or</i>
ASVAB-AFQT $\geq$ 31 <i>or</i>	ASVAB-AFQT $\geq$ 31 <i>or</i>
Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal	Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

BAE/st

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Senior Staff  
Executive County Superintendents  
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers

Executive County Business Officials  
NJ LEE Group  
Garden State Coalition of Schools