



Roxbury High School

One Bryant Drive
Succasunna, New Jersey 07876-1697
Telephone: 973-584-1200 Fax: 973-584-7584
<http://www.roxbury.org>

Jon P. Deeb
Assistant Principal

Jeffrey W. Swanson
Principal

Stuart Mason
Director Athletics/Student Activities

Susan Simonet
Assistant Principal

Emilie Bacchetta
Director of Guidance

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Dear Parents:

The purpose of my correspondence is to provide an update from the New Jersey Department of Education respective to the graduation requirements for high school students. The Commissioner of Education for the State of New Jersey has advised high schools that a change in graduation requirements for the class of 2020 and 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. With the implementation of new testing protocols, including the 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. Minimum proficiency scores for the classes of 2018 and 2019 have been established by the State for a student to demonstrate proficiency. (See attached.) We are awaiting notification of cut off scores for the classes of 2020 and 2021.

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 2018 – 2020.

- 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 9th and 10th graders are aware of the revised criteria since required participation in PARCC testing is now a component of the graduation requirement. 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 August 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 2018 and 2019 – Students graduating as members of the Classes of 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 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 2018 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 2018

<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) <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 10 \geq 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 11 \geq 725 (Level 3)	PARCC Algebra I \geq 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i> PARCC Geometry \geq 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i> 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 <i>or</i> SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 450 <i>or</i> SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 22 <i>or</i> ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading* \geq 16 <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer \geq 6 <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL \geq 4 <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15) \geq 40 <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) \geq 22 <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Reading* \geq 422 <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite \geq 31	SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16) \geq 400 <i>or</i> SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 440 <i>or</i> SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) \geq 22 <i>or</i> ACT or ACT PLAN* Math \geq 16 <i>or</i> Accuplacer Elementary Algebra \geq 76 <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15) \geq 40 <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) \geq 22 <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Math* \geq 422 <i>or</i> 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 2019

<u>Three Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>First Pathway</u> Take and Pass a PARCC Test</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PARCC ELA Grade 9 \geq 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 10 \geq 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 11 \geq 725 (Level 3)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PARCC Algebra I \geq 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i> PARCC Geometry \geq 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i> PARCC Algebra II \geq 725 (Level 3)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Second Pathway</u> Take and Pass one of the Alternative Assessments</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;"><u>Third Pathway</u> Portfolio Appeals</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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.