



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

KIMBERLEY HARRINGTON  
*Acting Commissioner*

January 24, 2017

**TO:** Chief School Administrators  
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads

**FROM:** Peter Shulman, Deputy Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Updated: Clarification on the High School Graduation Assessment Requirement for the Graduating Cohorts of 2020 and 2021

This memo provides clarification on the high school graduation mathematics assessment requirements for **students who completed an Algebra I course prior to the September 6, 2016 effective date** of the new high school assessment regulations. This is an update to the [memo](#) that was sent on January 17, 2017.

A number of students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 completed an Algebra I course before the regulations for the new high school graduation assessment requirements went into effect on September 6, 2016. Some of these students took the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Algebra I assessment and were deemed “meeting or exceeding expectations” and, therefore, have met the mathematics assessment graduation requirement. However, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is providing options to the other students who fall into three specific groups:

1. Students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to September 6, 2016, and took the PARCC Algebra I assessment but did not pass, and are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II);
2. Students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to September 6, 2016, and did not receive a valid test score, but are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II); or
3. Students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course over the summer of 2015 or 2016, and did not have the opportunity to take the PARCC Algebra I assessment because the NJDOE did not offer a summer test administration, but are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II).

Based on direct feedback from school educators and administrators, the NJDOE is providing flexibility for the small group of students in these three groups who have not met the assessment graduation requirement by offering them **three pathways** to meet their high school graduation mathematics assessment requirement. **Only students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 described in the three specific groups above are eligible to utilize the following pathways:**

- Take or retake the PARCC Algebra I assessment and pass;
- Utilize the NJDOE portfolio appeals process, provided they take the PARCC Geometry assessment and the PARCC Algebra II assessment (if enrolled in an Algebra II course) and receive valid scores;
- Take *and* pass the Geometry or Algebra II assessment.

The students **need to complete only one of the above three pathways** in order to meet their high school graduation mathematics assessment requirement.

Moving forward, the NJDOE will examine whether any other small groups of students in the graduating cohorts of 2022 and beyond may have taken an Algebra I course before the September 6, 2016 effective date of the regulations, and thus, may also be eligible for these three pathways.

The Department created a [sample letter](#) that districts can send home to parents of students that are included in one of the pathways described above.

The NJDOE continues to work with districts to identify areas in need of clarification. Any further guidance on specific areas will be in future NJDOE Broadcast memos.

PS/JBH

c: Members, State Board of Education  
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