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November 5, 2015

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

FROM: David C. Hespe
Commissioner

RE: Graduation Requirements for the Classes of 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 - Updated

Yesterday, the New Jersey State Board of Education approved the threshold score points ('cut points') to define the performance levels in the PARCC assessment program. Attached you will find the now updated list of assessments and their various score points that members of the classes of 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 can use to demonstrate that they have met the competency testing requirements needed for a regular high school diploma with the appropriate threshold scores for PARCC assessments included. (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 list has now been updated to include the threshold scores for the PARCC assessments. Please note that the threshold scores are different for different assessments. In ELA9 and ELA10, the threshold score corresponds to the "Meeting Expectations" performance level. In ELA11, the threshold score corresponds to the "Approaching Expectations" performance level. In Algebra I, the threshold score corresponds to the "Meeting Expectations" performance level. In Geometry and Algebra II, the threshold scores correspond to the "Approaching Expectations" performance level.

As noted in the chart below, students who do not meet the threshold scores for PARCC or any of the other substitute assessments may submit a portfolio appeal. Guidance for the portfolio appeal process was sent to districts via broadcast in early October.

The Study Commission on the Use of Statewide Assessments will be making recommendations shortly regarding graduation requirements for the class of 2020 and thereafter. The New Jersey Department of Education will then move those recommendations to a regulatory proposal for State Board adoption.

Please be advised that we expect to update this table at least twice more in the upcoming months to accommodate the College Board’s redesign of the PSAT10/PSAT-NMSQT and the SAT. We have been advised that we can expect a new ‘cut score’ for the new PSAT toward the end of December and for the new SAT toward the end of May.

English Language Arts	Mathematics
PARCC ELA Grade 9 \geq 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>	PARCC Algebra I \geq 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>
PARCC ELA Grade 10 \geq 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>	PARCC Geometry \geq 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>
PARCC ELA Grade 11 \geq 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>	PARCC Algebra II \geq 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>
SAT Reading* \geq 400 <i>or</i>	SAT Math* \geq 400 <i>or</i>
ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading \geq 16 <i>or</i>	ACT or ACT PLAN Math \geq 16 <i>or</i>
Accuplacer Write Placer \geq 6 <i>or</i>	Accuplacer Elementary Algebra \geq 76 <i>or</i>
PSAT10 Reading or PSAT-NMSQT Reading** \geq 40 <i>or</i>	PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math** \geq 40 <i>or</i>
ACT Aspire Reading \geq 422 <i>or</i>	ACT Aspire Math \geq 422 <i>or</i>
ASVAB-AFQT Composite \geq 31 <i>or</i>	ASVAB-AFQT Composite \geq 31 <i>or</i>
Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal	Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

Note: * SAT taken prior to March 2016; ** PSAT taken prior to October 2015. The College Board will establish new ‘cut scores’ in December 2015 for the new PSAT and in May 2016 for the new SAT.

DCH/BAE

- c: Members, State Board of Education
- Senior Staff
- Jeffrey Hauger
- Executive County Superintendents
- Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
- Garden State Coalition of Schools
- NJ LEE Group