

Changes to State Science Testing

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (sometimes referred to as Next Generation Science Standards) went into effect for middle school students in September, 2016. As of September, 2017, it was mandatory for districts to align instruction to the new standards in elementary grades as well.

In order to assess the revised standards, the state of New Jersey has also made revisions to the state tests in Science. The important aspects of this change are listed below.

Former State Testing Procedures	New for Spring 2018	Additional Notes
Tests of Science achievement (NJ ASK) were administered to students in grades 4 and 8.	Tests of Science achievement (NJSLA-S) will be administered to students in grades 5 and 8.	The science standards are set for bands of grades. Because one set of standards addresses grades 3-5, the state has determined that achievement should be measured at the end of the grade band rather than the middle, which is the reason for moving the test to grade 5.
The test was administered on paper .	The test will be computer-based , using the same platform as that used for PARCC testing.	This change will improve consistency in the testing experience for students.
The state set a specific date for testing and a specific date for make-up testing.	The state provides a testing window , allowing districts flexibility in determining the exact dates for science testing.	The testing dates in Lumberton are currently set as May 22 and 24 , following the completion of PARCC.
Accommodations allowed for classified students or those with 504 plans were different from those permitted by PARCC. There were no accessibility features available to non-classified students.	The same accommodations and accessibility features that are permitted in PARCC are now also permitted on the science test.	This again creates more consistency in the students' test experience.

What Parents Need to Know

Science testing is currently scheduled for May 22 and 24 for students in grades 5 and 8. The test will be computer-based and very similar to the PARCC tests students have already been taking. If it is determined that there is a need to change any student's IEP or 504 plan for the new test, parents will be contacted by the Child Study Team. Stay informed of new developments by visiting the "PARCC Place" tab under "Curriculum" on the Lumberton website. Questions can be directed to Maria Matlack, the Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction.