



**State of New Jersey**  
 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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*Commissioner*

September 10, 2012

TO: Chief School Administrators  
 Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Penny MacCormack, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Academic Officer  
 Division of Academics

SUBJECT: High School Assessment Transition to the Common Core State Standards

Instruction aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in Mathematics and English Language Arts will be implemented statewide at the high school level beginning this fall. One challenge is transitioning assessment systems. We have decided to extend the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) for the next two years to assure that students who began high school under the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards will take the HSPA as their graduation exam. The incoming tenth and eleventh graders will have the same number of opportunities to meet their assessment graduation requirement; i.e., the same number of re-take opportunities on HSPA and the same number of Alternative High School (AHSA) administrations.

Incoming ninth-grade students' instruction will be aligned to the CCSS and, therefore, will be the first cohort to be administered the Partnership for Assessments of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments in 2014-2015 when they will be juniors in high school. The table below illustrates the transition.

Class	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Senior	HSPA (Re-take) & AHSA		
Junior	HSPA	HSPA (Re-take) & AHSA	
Sophomore		HSPA	HSPA (Re-take) & AHSA
Freshman			PARCC

The New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT) will continue to assess student knowledge and skills of New Jersey's Biology standards since the CCSS only include mathematics and English Language Arts and The End of Course Algebra I & II assessments will not be administered in 2013 or 2014.

The Department of Education will provide more details regarding this transition over the next several months. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dr. Jeffrey B. Hauger, director, Office of Assessments, at 609.984.6311 or email [assessment@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:assessment@doe.state.nj.us).

Thank you.

PM/JBH/ccsstransitionmemojuly2012

c: Members, State Board of Education  
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