

ASSEMBLY, No. 3546

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Provides list of various assessments to satisfy State high school graduation proficiency test requirement.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning public high school graduation requirements,
2 amending and supplementing P.L.1979, c.241, and repealing
3 section 5 of P.L.1988, c.168.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. (New section) a. As used in this section:

9 “PARCC assessment” means the set of assessments designed by
10 the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and
11 Careers used to determine student achievement of knowledge and
12 skills specified by the New Jersey student learning standards.

13 “Portfolio appeals process” means an alternative assessment of
14 proficiency for graduation established by the commissioner utilizing
15 techniques and instruments other than PARCC assessments or
16 substitute competency tests.

17 “Substitute competency test” means the following alternative
18 third-party assessments: the SAT, PSAT, ACT, ACT Aspire, Armed
19 Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, Armed Forces Qualification
20 Test, and Accuplacer.

21 b. Notwithstanding any provision of law or regulation to the
22 contrary, in the 2020-2021 school year and each school year
23 thereafter, the State standards for graduation from high school shall
24 require a student to demonstrate proficiency in English language
25 arts and mathematics in one of the following ways:

26 (1) Achieving a passing score, as determined by the
27 commissioner, on the high school end-of-course PARCC
28 assessment in English language arts for grade 9, 10 or 11 and
29 Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry; or

30 (2) Achieving a passing score, as determined by the
31 commissioner, on a corresponding substitute competency test in
32 English language arts or mathematics, or both, as applicable; or

33 (3) Meeting the criteria for the portfolio appeals process.

34 c. A student shall not be compelled to take any end-of-course
35 PARCC assessment in order to graduate from high school.

36
37 2. Section 6 of P.L.1979, c.241 (C.18A:7C-6) is amended to
38 read as follows:

39 6. In the school year which begins in **【September 1993】** July
40 2020, and annually thereafter, the State graduation proficiency test
41 shall **【be administered to all 11th grade pupils and to any 11th or**
42 **12th grade pupil who has previously failed to demonstrate mastery**
43 **of State graduation proficiency standards on said test】** include the
44 tests as set forth in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
45 the Legislature as this bill).

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 The mastery of proficiencies required to fulfill local graduation
2 standards shall be determined as appropriate under local board of
3 education assessment plans.

4 (cf: P.L.1988, c.168, s.3)

5
6 3. Section 5 of P.L.1988, c.168 (C.18A:7C-6.1) is repealed.

7
8 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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11 STATEMENT

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13 Current statutory law requires public high school students to
14 pass the State graduation proficiency test to demonstrate mastery of
15 the State graduation proficiency standards. This bill would provide
16 options for students to meet this requirement by demonstrating
17 proficiency in English language arts and mathematics in one of the
18 following ways:

19 (1) achieving a passing score, as determined by the
20 Commissioner of Education, on the high school end-of-course
21 PARCC assessment in English language arts for grade 9, 10 or 11
22 and Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry; or

23 (2) achieving a passing score, as determined by the
24 Commissioner of Education, on a corresponding substitute
25 competency test in English language arts or mathematics, or both,
26 as applicable; or

27 (3) meeting the criteria for the portfolio appeals process.

28 The bill defines a “substitute competency test” to mean the
29 following alternative third-party assessments: the SAT, PSAT,
30 ACT, ACT Aspire, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery,
31 Armed Forces Qualification Test, and Accuplacer.

32 The bill specifically provides that as a condition of high school
33 graduation a student cannot be compelled to take any end-of-course
34 PARCC assessment.

35 This bill would ensure that a flexible process for demonstrating
36 proficiency in English language arts and mathematics continues to
37 remain an option for New Jersey high school students. Students
38 will be permitted to choose from a variety of tests to meet the
39 assessment graduation requirement, and will not be penalized for
40 opting to take the assessments that are offered as alternatives to the
41 end-of-course PARCC assessments.