

Franklin Township Public Schools

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

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Dear Parents/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you that the State has changed graduation requirements for students graduating in 2016, 2017 and 2018. This is a major change and will impact current juniors, sophomores and freshman in the high school.

Present juniors, sophomores and freshman must pass the PARCC (Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) in two areas, English Language Arts and Mathematics in order to graduate. These PARCC performance and end-of-course assessments will be given in English; grades 9-11 and Math; Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. PARCC is a consortium of states to which New Jersey belongs that assess the Core Curriculum Content Standards for high school students in the subjects of English and Math. The PARCC assessment will replace the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) as a state wide graduation requirement. Each state in the consortium reserves the right to determine “cut-off” scores for passing—these scores have not yet been determined by the state. Current juniors, sophomores and freshman must pass ONE of these PARCC assessments in BOTH English and Math, in addition to local graduation requirements, in order to receive a state-endorsed diploma.

The table below details how 2016, 2017 and 2018 graduating class students will be able to satisfy the state requirement of demonstrating proficiency in English and Math. There are two alternative means besides PARCC by which students can satisfy the state requirements.

English Language Arts	Mathematics
Achieve a passing score on a PARCC English Language Arts Assessment in grades 9 or 10 or 11 or	Achieve a passing score on PARCC Algebra I or Geometry or Algebra II or
Achieve a passing score on a Substitute Competency Test or	Achieve a passing score on a Substitute Competency Test or
Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal	Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

There is no retake of the PARCC assessment. However, there are substitute competency tests, which the NJ Department of Education will credit towards graduation requirements. These are detailed below.

Substitute Assessment	Passing Score
SAT - Critical Reading or Math	400
ACT – Reading or Math	16
ASVAB-AFQT Score	31
Accuplacer – Write Placer	8
Accuplacer Math –Elementary Algebra	76

Franklin High School may submit portfolios for students who do not demonstrate competencies through PARCC or the Substitute Competencies in English and Math. The NJ Department of Education has not set the requirements for the portfolio at this point.

We are recommending one of the following actions so that your child will meet graduation requirements in 2016, 2017 or 2018. If PSAT scores (below 40 in English and below 40 in Math) indicate that your child may not be able to meet the proficiency score on the SAT (all sophomores take the PSAT and it is a good predictor of SAT scores):

1. Enroll your child in a SAT or ACT prep course. These are offered during school and private companies offer these in the community or neighboring communities.
2. Have your child take the ASVAB-AFQT, a military placement test (with no obligation to enlist).
3. Have your child take Accuplacer for Writing and for Math.

There are costs associated with the option 1. Options 2 and 3 have no costs.

Please contact Dana Karas; Director of Guidance 732 -302- 4200 should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Jeffery Charney
Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

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