



**BELLEVILLE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Office of the
Superintendent**

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Dear Parent/Guardians, and Belleville Community Members:

In the spring of 2019, your student participated in the first year of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment for Science (NJSLA-Science). The NJSLA-Science is administered to all New Jersey public school students in grades 5, 8 and 11. It provides information to parents, educators, school districts and the New Jersey Department of Education information about how students are performing on the [New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science \(NJSLA-Science\)](#).

An Individual Student Report (ISR) for your student is included with this letter for your review. This report helps parents/guardians and educators understand their student's performance in science. The report also includes charts and graphics that show you how well your student is performing in specific skills and how your student's performance compares to other students in their school, district and state.

Reviewing the results from statewide testing can be a helpful tool in measuring your student's progress with the NJSLA-Science. It is just one of the many ways your student's teachers and administrators can measure student performance. The scores from this first year of the assessment set a new baseline from which science performance in New Jersey schools will be measured moving forward.

Frequently Asked Questions About NJSLA-Science

Why did we need a new test?

- A new test was needed to measure the state's new, more rigorous science standards (NJSLA-Science) that are informing classroom instruction.
- The NJSLA-Science standards were adopted by the state in 2014. The timeline for transition to the new standards for districts required full implementation in grades 6-12 by September 2016 and full implementation in grades K-5 by September 2017.
- These standards focus on the skills students need in the real world, such as critical thinking, analyzing, and problem solving.

Does a student have to pass the NJSLA-Science to graduate?

- The NJSLA-Science is not a state graduation assessment requirement.

Why do the scores look different from the scores from the previous state science tests?

- The NJSLA-Science reflects new expectations outlined in the new science standards, the NJSLA-Science, which focuses on the application of science knowledge and skills.
- The prior assessment, New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK), emphasized the memorization of content.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact (973) 450-3500

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RDT', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard D. Tomko, Ph.D., M.J.
Superintendent of Schools

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