

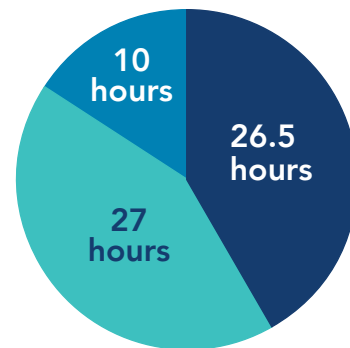
## The Facts About Statewide Assessment in New Jersey

### New Jersey requires more testing than federally required

- ◆ Federal Testing Requirements:
  - ELA – annually in grades 3-8, once in HS
  - Math – annually in grades 3-8, once in HS
  - Science – once per grade band 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12
- ◆ NJ Current Testing Requirements
  - ELA – annually in grades 3-11 (2 additional years)
  - Math – annually in grades 3-11 (2 additional years)
  - Science – once in grades 5, 8, 11
  - NJ State Statute requires students to pass a graduation exit exam in Math and ELA

### New Jersey spends more time on testing than any other state in the nation.

- ◆ Spring 2019 –



- **26.5 hours on ELA testing**, across grades 3-11
- **27 hours on Math testing**, across grades 3-11
- **10 hours on Science testing**, across grades 5, 8, 11
- Total: 63.5 hours which equates to 85 forty- five minute periods of lost learning time across a child's K-12 career

### New Jersey wastes valuable education dollars on statewide testing

- ◆ In 2018-19, New Jersey spent \$30,275,000 on statewide assessment and has the same amount budgeted for 2019-20.

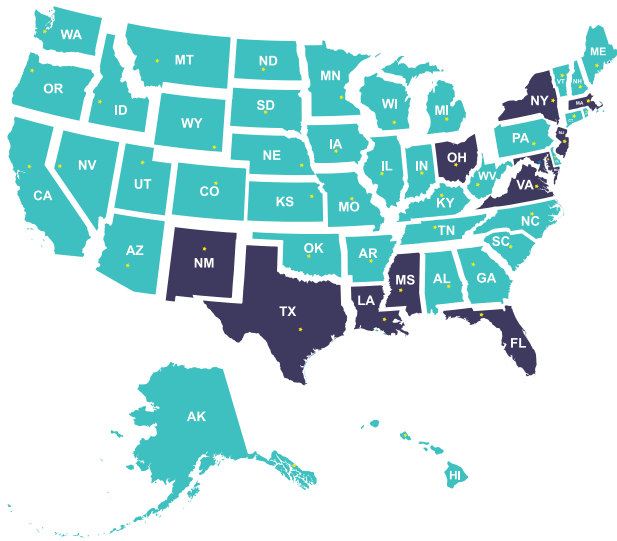
Educators know that the most important indicator of college and career readiness is the curriculum, **NOT** assessment. The state should invest in a rigorous sequence of courses instead of wasteful over-testing.

Want more info? Contact [assessment@njea.org](mailto:assessment@njea.org)

## The Facts About New Jersey's Exit Testing Requirement

**New Jersey statute requires students to pass 11th grade exit exams in Math and ELA to graduate.**

- ◆ Only 11 states require graduation exit exams, down from a high of 27 states.
  - States with exit exams - Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Texas, Virginia
- ◆ Studies show that exit exams cause more harm than good and do nothing to improve outcomes for high school graduates.
  - “High school graduation tests have done nothing to lift student achievement but have raised the dropout rate. These tests give students who have worked hard, played by the rules and stayed in school the status of high school dropouts, with the same barriers to opportunity and employment.”<sup>1</sup>
  - “Tougher graduation tests are associated with a 12% increase in incarceration rates.”<sup>2</sup>
  - “Students with disabilities, English language learners, African American, Latino, American Indian and low-income students are far more likely to be denied a diploma for not passing a test”<sup>3</sup>
  - “Latino and African-American students drop out at rates three to four times that of white students. Eleventh and 12th graders who have not passed the state tests are more than 13 times as likely to drop out of school as those who have passed” (MA DOE, 2013, 2015).<sup>4</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> · Hout, M. & Elliott, S., eds. 2011. Incentives and Test-based Accountability in Education. National Research Council. [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12521](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12521)

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· Raddcliffe, J. & Mellon, E. 2007. “TAKS tests cost 40,000 Texas seniors chance to graduate.” Houston Chronicle, May 12.

<sup>2</sup> · Baker, O., and Lang, K. 2013. “The Effect of High School Exit Exams on Graduation, Employment, Wages and Incarceration,” National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 19182, June.

<sup>3</sup> · Hyslop, A. 2014. The Case against Exit Exams. New America Education, Policy Brief. [https://www.newamerica.org/downloads/ExitExam\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.newamerica.org/downloads/ExitExam_FINAL.pdf)

· Papay, J.P., Murnane, R.J., and Willet, J.B. 2010. “The Consequences of High School Exit Examinations for Low-Performing Urban Students: Evidence from Massachusetts,” Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, March (32): 5-23.

<sup>4</sup> · Massachusetts Department of Education. 2013. Dropout Rates in Massachusetts Public Schools: 2012-13. <http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/reports/dropout/2012-2013/>

· Massachusetts Department of Education. 2015. MCAS Tests: Summary of State Results, p. 23. <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/2015/results/summary.pdf>