

NJAC 6A:8 – Standards & Assessment --- Timeline of Events, June 2018 to October 21st, 2019

A full timeline of events surrounding this issue may be found below:

- July 2018 – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) proposes new graduation regulations (NJAC 6A:8) to the State Board of Education (SBOE) that would reduce testing requirements from six tests to two tests (Algebra I and ELA 10) and would offer alternate assessment pathways to a greater number of students.
- August 2018 – SBOE holds First Discussion of proposed regulations and engages in significant debate. NJEA provides testimony in support of the NJDOE's proposed changes and calls for a transition away from PARCC and PARCC-like assessments.
- Sept. 12, 2018 – After receiving over 2,000 calls and emails from NJEA members and other advocacy groups in support of the proposed regulations and being addressed by State Sen. Teresa Ruiz in opposition to the proposed regulations, the SBOE tables its vote on the proposed regulations. Once again, NJEA officers and members provide testimony in support of the proposed changes.
- Sept. 17, 2018 – Led by Sen. Ruiz, the State Senate and Assembly Education committees hold a joint hearing on PARCC and Graduation Requirements with New Jersey Commissioner of Education Dr. Lamont Repollet. NJEA members support the NJDOE at the joint hearing.
- Oct. 3, 2018 – The SBOE pushes the proposed amendments to NJAC 6A:8 forward, with some additional amendments, resulting in a reduction of testing requirements from six tests to four tests and offering the alternate assessment pathways to a greater number of students.
- Oct. 29, 2018 – The Appellate Court for NJ hears oral arguments in the Education Law Center and ACLU-NJ's lawsuit against the graduation requirements imposed by the Christie administration on the grounds that the regulations do not follow the statutory requirements.
- Dec. 31, 2018 – The NJ Appellate Court rules that NJAC 6A:8 regulations are in violation of NJ Law, rendering the regulations invalid and providing the state with 30 days to decide whether to appeal to the NJ Supreme Court.
- January 2019 through Feb. 15, 2019 – The state files a Motion for Partial Reconsideration and the ELC/ACLU-NJ responds (Jan. 30). The court then directs the state to either agree to a consent order with the ELC/ACLU-NJ or to respond with justification for the state's opposition no later than Feb. 11. The state receives multiple extensions on this deadline.
- January 24, 2019 – Sen. Ruiz introduces S3381—a bill that would provide pathways to graduation for the Classes of 2019 and 2020, but would also allow the NJDOE to require students to pass an unlimited number of high school graduation assessments. This bill ultimately passes in the Senate. Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt's companion bill dies on the floor.
- Feb. 15, 2019 – The ELC/ACLU-NJ and Murphy administration reach an agreement that provides a clear pathway to graduation for the Classes of 2019 and 2020. Pathways have yet to be determined for current freshmen, sophomores, and beyond.

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- Feb. 22., 2019 – The NJDOE releases two broadcast to the field summarizing the testing blueprints for the NJSLA (PARCC with a new name) and releases guidance on graduation requirements.
- Mar 18, 2019 – The NJDOE releases a broadcast announcing no requirement for 11th grade NJSLA/PARCC testing for the Spring 2019 testing window.
- June 5, 2019 – The ELC/ACLU-NJ and Murphy Administration reach an agreement to extend the consent decree to the Classes of 2021 and 2022.
- July 3, 2019 – The State BOE is slated to vote for a new President and Vice President. The BOE nominating committee recommends Kathy Goldenberg (P) and Dr. Joseph Ricca (VP). In an unexpected and strategic coup, the Christie-appointed members of the board vote Andrew Mulvilhill into the VP position
- Oct 2, 2019 – At the State BOE meeting, the NJDOE presents a revised version of the NJAC 6A:8 Standards and Assessment regulations to the SBOE, with a notice of substantial change. The SBOE MUST vote on the proposed regulations prior to November 6th or the timeline for action will end. The SBOE, after deliberation, opts to table the vote and schedule a special meeting on NJAC 6A:8, likely to be held on October 16th.
- Oct. 21, 2019 – The State BOE holds a special meeting dedicated to discussion surrounding NJAC 6A:8 Standards and Assessment. At this meeting, the SBOE ultimately votes to move the NJDOE’s proposal through to the 60-day comment period, with Andrew Mulvilhill being the sole dissenting vote. Multiple SBOE members call for a “legislative fix.” The proposed regulations will be posted in the New Jersey Register, testimony will occur during the January SBOE meeting, and a final vote on the proposal is likely to occur in February 2020.