



# Test Optional/Flexible

Colleges and Universities

# Test Optional Universities

- Colleges do not require you to send your scores
- Decision is left to the student and family
- Student and family decide whether the test scores are an accurate representation of their academic ability and potential
- Purposeful in crafting a portfolio as a student
- More choice and control
- Strengths

# Test Flexible Universities

- Requires student to send test scores, but may allow for different options in place of SAT or ACT
- Schools may waive the test requirement if you meet minimum GPA
- Schools may waive the test requirement if you apply to specific programs
- Schools may allow AP test scores or SAT Subject Test scores instead of SAT (Subject mastery)

# Bates College- 20 Year Study

- “The policy draws sharply increased application rates from all the subgroups who commonly worry about standardized testing: women, U.S. citizens of color, international citizens, low-income or blue collar students, rural students, students with learning disabilities and students with rated talents in athletics, the arts or debate.”
- “There are very modest differences in the majors that submitters and non-submitters choose at Bates, but some intriguing patterns: Non-submitters are more likely to major in fields that put a premium on creativity and originality.”
- “Testing is not necessary for predicting good performance; the academic ratings assigned by Bates admissions staff are highly accurate for both submitters and non-submitters in predicting GPA.”

# Test Optional Temple University

Policy: Temple University offers an admissions path for talented students whose potential for academic success is not accurately captured by standardized test scores.

Students can continue to submit SAT or ACT scores as they have in the past; or, they can choose the *Temple Option* and submit self-reflective short-answers to a few specially designed, open-ended questions. The Temple Option gives them the opportunity to present their strengths in a different way. Typically, students admitted through Temple Option have a 3.5 GPA or higher. Creating the Temple Option is part of our commitment to providing talented and motivated students of all backgrounds the opportunity for a high-quality college experience.

# Test Flexible NYU

Policy: Results from scholastic exams are an important criteria for evaluating our global pool of applicants. With that said, NYU has one of the most flexible testing policies of any college or university.

- You only have to submit results from one of the following:
  - SAT (essay test not required)
  - ACT (writing test not required)
  - Three SAT Subject Test scores
  - Three AP exam scores
  - International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma
  - Three IB higher-level exam scores if not an IB Diploma candidate



What Can A Parent  
Do to Help?



# Suggestions

## Conduct Research

- Work together in conducting research on standardized test policies at the universities your child is interested in
- Be mindful of the various departments and their policies on standardized testing
- Create a spreadsheet that organizes the various options
- Always conduct research with your child's goals in mind

## Encourage Multiple Test-Taking

- Encourage your child to take SAT and ACT
- Encourage your child to take SAT Subject tests in their areas of interest
- Encourage your child to take other forms such as AP Exams in their areas of interest

# Suggestions, cont.

## Think Rigor

- Encourage your child to take classes that offer a rigorous course of study
- Remember that academic rigor is about quality not quantity
- Encourage your child to face academic rigor with a felt need, not simply because it looks good on a transcript
- Combine rigor with testing options based on potential college/university choices

## Talk Post-Secondary Options

- Try to be patient with your child.
- Get familiar with the high school's process
- Take your kids to visit colleges during their sophomore or junior year
- (On the flip side) During your child's senior year, spend some time with them talking about things other than college applications



# Colleges and University

## In-State

Drew University

Montclair State University

Rowan University

Saint Peter's University

## Top Universities

NYU

Texas A&M

Washington State

**\*indicates schools FLHS  
students often apply to and  
are test optional**

**text flexible are underlined**



# PARCC

New Graduation Requirements Set  
Forth by the NJDOE

# Class of 2017, 2018 and 2019

Students graduating as members of the Classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019 can meet graduation assessment requirements through any of these three pathways:

- (1) Achieving **passing scores on high-level PARCC** assessments;
- (2) Achieving **certain scores on alternative assessments such as the PSAT, SAT, ACT, or ASVAB** or
- (3) The submission by the district of a student portfolio through the Department's **portfolio appeals process**. (Special Education students whose Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) specify an alternative way to demonstrate proficiencies will continue to follow the graduation requirements set forth in their IEPs.)

## ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2017

<u>Three Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<u>First Pathway</u> <i>Take and Pass a PARCC Test</i>	PARCC ELA Grade 9 $\geq$ 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 10 $\geq$ 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 11 $\geq$ 725 (Level 3)	PARCC Algebra I $\geq$ 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i> PARCC Geometry $\geq$ 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i> PARCC Algebra II $\geq$ 725 (Level 3)
<u>Second Pathway</u> <i>Take and Pass one of the Alternative Assessments</i>	SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16) $\geq$ 400 <i>or</i> SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) $\geq$ 450 <i>or</i> SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) $\geq$ 22 <i>or</i> ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading* $\geq$ 16 <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer $\geq$ 6 <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL $\geq$ 4 <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15) $\geq$ 40 <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) $\geq$ 22 <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Reading* $\geq$ 422 <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite $\geq$ 31	SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16) $\geq$ 400 <i>or</i> SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) $\geq$ 440 <i>or</i> SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) $\geq$ 22 <i>or</i> ACT or ACT PLAN* Math $\geq$ 16 <i>or</i> Accuplacer Elementary Algebra $\geq$ 76 <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15) $\geq$ 40 <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) $\geq$ 22 <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Math* $\geq$ 422 <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite $\geq$ 31
<u>Third Pathway</u> <i>Portfolio Appeals</i>	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math



## ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2018 and 2019

<u>Three Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<u>First Pathway</u> <i>Take and Pass a PARCC Test</i>	PARCC ELA Grade 9 <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 10 <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 11	PARCC Algebra I <i>or</i> PARCC Geometry <i>or</i> PARCC Algebra II
<u>Second Pathway</u> <i>Take and Pass one of the Alternative Assessments</i>	SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16) <i>or</i> SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) <i>or</i> SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) <i>or</i> ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading* <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15) <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Reading* <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite	SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16) <i>or</i> SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) <i>or</i> SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) <i>or</i> ACT or ACT PLAN* Math <i>or</i> Accuplacer Elementary Algebra <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15) <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Math* <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite
<u>Third Pathway</u> <i>Portfolio Appeals</i>	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math

*Note: \* Test is no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year.*



# Class of 2020- Current 9th Graders

Students in the Class of 2020 can demonstrate graduation assessment proficiency through the same three pathways as those in the Classes of 2017 through 2019, **provided that students in the Class of 2020 take all PARCC assessments associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible\*** and receive valid scores, as of the September 6, 2016 effective date of the amendments were adopted by the State Board of Education.

\*Note: \* “Eligible” is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receives a valid score. This includes all of these courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11.

\* Valid scores moving forward

## ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2020

<u>Three Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<p><b>First Pathway</b> Take and Pass a PARCC Test</p>	<p>PARCC ELA Grade 9 <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 10 <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 11</p>	<p>PARCC Algebra I*** <i>or</i> PARCC Geometry <i>or</i> PARCC Algebra II</p>
<p><b>Second Pathway</b> Take and Pass one of the Alternative Assessments</p> <p><i>This Pathway is only available if a student takes all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible and receive valid scores*</i></p>	<p>SAT Reading Test <i>or</i> ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading** <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Reading** <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite</p>	<p>SAT Math Test <i>or</i> ACT or ACT PLAN Math** <i>or</i> Accuplacer Elementary Algebra <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Math** <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite</p>
<p><b>Third Pathway</b> Portfolio Appeals</p> <p><i>This Pathway is only available if a student takes all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible and receive valid scores*</i></p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA</p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math</p>

Note: \* "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receives a valid score. This includes all of these courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11. \*\* Test is no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year. \*\*\* The [NJDOE is providing flexibility](#) to meet the math assessment requirement for students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to the September 6, 2016 effective date of the new high school assessment regulations.

# Class of 2021 & Beyond

Starting with the Class of 2021 (current 8th graders), students will only have two pathways to meet the high school graduation assessments requirements:

(1) Pass the ELA 10 and Algebra 1 assessments; or

(2) The submission by the district of a student portfolio through the Department's portfolio appeals process, assuming the student has taken all PARCC

## ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2021

<u>Two Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<u>First Pathway</u>	Take and Pass PARCC ELA Grade 10	Take and Pass PARCC Algebra I**
<u>Second Pathway</u>  <i>This Pathway is only available if a student takes all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible*</i>	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math

Note: \* "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receive a valid score. This includes all of these courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11.

\*\* The [NJDOE is providing flexibility](#) to meet the math assessment requirement for students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to the September 6, 2016 effective date of the new high school assessment regulations.



# Math Flexibility - Class of 2020 & 2021 ONLY

A number of students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 completed an Algebra I course before the regulations for the new high school graduation assessment requirements went into effect on **September 6, 2016**.

1. Students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to **September 6, 2016**, and took the PARCC **Algebra I assessment but did not pass**, and are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II);
2. Students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course **prior to September 6, 2016**, and **did not receive a valid test score**, but are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II); or
3. Students in the graduating cohorts of 2020 and 2021 who **completed an Algebra I course over the summer of 2015 or 2016**, and **did not have the opportunity to take the PARCC Algebra I assessment because the NJDOE did not offer a summer test administration**, but are now in an advanced mathematics course (e.g., Geometry or Algebra II).

**Are eligible to utilize the following pathways:**

- **Take or retake the PARCC Algebra I assessment and pass;**
- Utilize the **NJDOE portfolio appeals process**, provided they take the PARCC Geometry assessment and the PARCC Algebra II assessment (if enrolled in an Algebra II course) and receive valid scores;
- Take and **pass the Geometry or Algebra II assessment**. The students need to complete only one of the above three pathways in order to meet their high school graduation mathematics assessment requirement.



# Information Provided By NJDOE

<http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/parents/GradReq.pdf>

<https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2017/JAN/24/15884/Updated%20Clarification%20on%20the%20High%20School%20Graduation%20Mathematics%20Assessments%20Requirements.pdf>