



Essex County Schools of Technology
Preparing Students for College and/or Careers since 1923



**2020-21
GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS**



Office of Curriculum & Instruction
www.essextech.org

The Board of Education will recognize the successful completion of the secondary school instructional program by the award of a State- endorsed diploma certifying the student has met all State and local requirements for high school graduation. The Board will annually certify to the Executive County Superintendent that each student who has been awarded a diploma has met the requirements for graduation.

A student will be considered eligible to receive a high school diploma after satisfying the following:

1. Earning a minimum of 120 credits in core courses that satisfactorily address the NJ Student Learning Standards,
2. Satisfying Career Technical Education requirements, and
3. Demonstrating competency in statewide approved assessments, in accordance with the minimum requirements of the New Jersey Board of Education (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 (a)) and the Board of Education of the Essex County Schools of Technology. The **minimum** course requirements for graduation are as follows:

**New Jersey State Minimum Graduation Requirements by
Content Area 120 credits ([N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1](#))**

Content Area	Credits and additional requirements
English Language Arts	20 credits
Mathematics	<p style="text-align: center;">15 credits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I or the content equivalent² • Geometry or the content equivalent² • Third year of math that builds on the concepts and skills of algebra and geometry and prepares students for college and 21st century careers

Science	<p style="text-align: center;">15 credits with at least 5 credits in each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratory biology/life science or the content equivalent • Laboratory/inquiry-based science course (i.e., chemistry, environmental science, or physics) • Laboratory/inquiry-based science course
Social Studies	<p style="text-align: center;">15 credits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 credits in world history • Integration of civics, economics, geography and global content in all course offerings • N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 and 18A:35-2
Financial, Economic Business, and Entrepreneurial Business Literacy	2.5 credits
Health, Safety, and Physical Education	<p style="text-align: center;">15 credits over four years including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 ¾ credits in health, safety, and physical education during each year of enrollment, distributed as 150 minutes per week each year • N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5, 18A:35-7 and 18A:35-8
Visual and Performing Arts	5 credits
World Languages	5 credits
Technology	Integrated throughout all courses
21st Century Life and Careers	30 credits over four years

¹ School districts may establish course and/or credit requirements which exceed the State minimums.

² “Content equivalent” means courses or activities locally offered that include the same or equivalent knowledge and skills as those found in traditionally titled courses which are required for high school graduation and which are aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Special Notes:

*It highly recommended that students also complete approximately 15 hours of Service Learning per year. In addition to applying learning to making our communities better, these experiences also serve as qualifiers for scholarship opportunities.

* Students that fail an academic course, must retake the course either in summer school or online, in order to progress to the next level in the course sequence.

* A failing grade in a career specific program, for which no summer school program exists, may result in the pupil's ineligibility to return to the program.

* Provisions for alternate credit acquisition will be provided through Option 2 (approved by the building principal) and/or as identified in the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) of the student.

* ACCESS for ELLs - English Language Learners (ELLs) in the ESL program must also meet the outlined graduation requirements. Additionally, ELLs will have to take the WIDA Placement Test as an admissions requirement for placement and the ACCESS for ELLs Assessment annually while in the ESL Program. Performance on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment will be used to determine linguistic strengths/needs as well as readiness for EXIT and PROMOTION.

A student can be eligible for exit if they score a 4.5 at any tier, but multiple measures must be considered before exiting. Multiple measures considered for exit include: ACCESS for ELLs proficiency level, previous academic performance, proficiency in other standardized assessments, teacher/counselor recommendations, reading levels, and writing samples.

As a Vocational-Technical School District, students are required to successfully complete the Career Technical Education (CTE) program coursework and/or participation in the Cooperative Industrial Education/Cooperative Office Education (CIE/COE) work-study program (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.2), as requisites for graduation. Additionally, students must demonstrate competency in a, state approved, industry-recognized assessment. Please refer to the chart below for more information:

PROSTART

Culinary Arts

NJ STATE COSMETOLOGIST LICENSE

Cosmetology

NJ NURSING AIDE CERTIFICATION

Allied Health Careers

CASE

AgScience

A*S*K BUSINESS CONCEPTS

Business

AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY

Welding

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Automotive Tech

NOCTI

<http://www.nocti.org>, All other Career & Technical Programs

New Jersey High School Graduation Assessment Requirements

On June 5, 2019, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) updated the high school graduation assessment requirements in both English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and mathematics for the Classes of 2019 through 2022, pursuant to an amended Consent Order from the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey.

The Classes of 2021 and 2022

The high school assessment graduation requirements that are in place for the Classes of 2021 and 2022 are:

In English Language Arts/Literacy, students must demonstrate proficiency:

1. On NJSLA/PARCC ELA 10; or
2. By meeting the designated cut score on an alternative assessment such as other high school-level NJSLA/PARCC assessments, the SAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER as defined in the chart below; or
3. By submitting, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the New Jersey Department of Education.

In mathematics, students must demonstrate proficiency:

1. On NJSLA/PARCC Algebra I; or
2. By meeting the designated cut score on an alternative assessment such as other high school-level NJSLA/PARCC assessments, the SAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER as defined in the chart below; or
3. By submitting, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Proficiency levels/cut scores for the Classes of 2021 and 2022 are specified in the next section.

Note: Special Education students, whose Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) specify an alternative way to demonstrate proficiencies, will continue to follow the graduation assessment requirements set forth in their IEPs.

ELA and Mathematics Assessment Graduation Requirements for the Classes of 2021 and 2022

This document reflects the high school graduation assessment requirements put in place for the Classes of 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, pursuant to an amended Consent Order received by the NJDOE from the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey on June 5, 2019.

The requirements for the Class of 2019, including the cut scores, remain unchanged from the requirements that were applied to the Classes of 2017 and 2018. These requirements now apply to the Classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022.

As of March 18, 2020, Executive Order 117 waives the graduation assessment requirement for any twelfth-grade student who is expected to graduate in the class of 2020 but, had not yet met the graduation assessment requirement. Students in the class of 2020 who have not yet met the assessment requirement must still meet all the other State and local graduation requirements, including but not limited to credit, curriculum, and attendance requirements.

Pathways Available

First Pathway

Demonstrate proficiency in the high school end-of-course NJSLA/PARCC assessments in ELA-10 and/or Algebra I.

English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA)	Mathematics
NJSLA/PARCC ELA Grade 10 \geq 750 (Level 4)	NJSLA/PARCC Algebra I \geq 750 (Level 4)

Second Pathway

Demonstrate proficiency in English language arts and/or mathematics by meeting the designated cut score on one of the alternative assessments.

English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA)	Mathematics
<p>One of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJSLA/PARCC ELA Grade 9 ≥ 750 (Level 4), <i>or</i> • NJSLA/PARCC ELA Grade 11 ≥ 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i> • SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16) ≥ 400, <i>or</i> • SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) ≥ 450, <i>or</i> • SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) ≥ 22, <i>or</i> • ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading¹ ≥ 16, <i>or</i> • ACCUPLACER WritePlacer ≥ 6, <i>or</i> • ACCUPLACER WritePlacer ESL ≥ 4, <i>or</i> • PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15) ≥ 40, <i>or</i> • PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later) ≥ 22, <i>or</i> • ACT Aspire Reading¹ ≥ 422, <i>or</i> • ASVAB-AFQT Composite ≥ 31 	<p>One of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJSLA/PARCC Geometry ≥ 725 (Level 3), <i>or</i> NJSLA/PARCC Algebra II ≥ 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i> SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16) ≥ 400, <i>or</i> • SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later) ≥ 440, <i>or</i> SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later) ≥ 22, <i>or</i> ACT or ACT PLAN Math¹ ≥ 16, <i>or</i> • ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra ≥ 76, <i>or</i> • Next-Generation ACCUPLACER Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics (QAS) (beginning January 2019)² ≥ 255, <i>or</i> • PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15) ≥ 40, <i>or</i> • PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later) ≥ 22, <i>or</i> • ACT Aspire Math¹ ≥ 422, <i>or</i> • ASVAB-AFQT Composite ≥ 31

Third Pathway

Demonstrate proficiency in English language arts and/or mathematics through Portfolio Appeals.

Important Update for Class of 2020: Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 117 on April 7, 2020 to address the continued threat of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) to our school communities and the resulting school closures. The Executive Order waives the graduation assessment requirement for any twelfth-grade student who is expected to graduate in the class of 2020 but, as of March 18, 2020, had not yet met the graduation assessment requirement. Students in the class of 2020 who have not yet met the assessment requirement must still meet all the other State and local graduation requirements, including but not limited to credit, curriculum, and attendance requirements.

English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA)	Mathematics
Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math

The Class of 2023 and Beyond

The NJDOE is committed to providing fair notice to students and educators and will continue to collaborate with stakeholders to transition to the next generation of statewide assessments.

For questions or concerns, please reach out to assessment@doe.nj.gov.