

Kenilworth Public Schools Program of Assessment 2015-2016

Benchmarks

State Mandated: Yes

Grade: PreK-12

Time of Year: November, January-February, April, and June

Purpose: Benchmarks are common assessments given throughout the school year at specified times. A benchmark communicates a strong message to students, teachers, and parents about what knowledge and skills are important to learn, what knowledge is valued, and how learning will be measured. It is important to assess students using more than traditional multiple-choice formats, which usually focus on facts. Constructed response items, such as essays, extended multi-part questions, portfolios, or even experiments, can provide important windows into students' thinking and understanding. A benchmark can serve instructional planning purposes by providing information needed to adjust instruction to meet students' learning needs. A benchmark would not include items or concepts not previously taught.

Partnership for Assessment and Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

State Mandated: Yes

Grade: 3-8, in high school in the year students take English 9, English 10, English 11, Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry (note: students who take Algebra I or Geometry in middle school and will not take it again in high school will take the HS content area PARCC in place of the MS grade level math assessment)

Time of Year: February to April (Performance Based Assessment) and April to May (End of Year Assessment)

Purpose: The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a group of states working together to develop a set of assessments that measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and their careers. These high quality, computer-based K-12 assessments in Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy give teachers, schools, students, and parents better information whether students are on track in their learning and for success after high school, and tools to help teachers customize learning to meet student needs.

High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA)

State Mandated: Yes, a requirement for students graduating in 2014 and before
Grade: 11th; also retaken in the 12th grade if a student has not passed the assessment

Time of Year: March; re-takes in October and March

Purpose: The High School Proficiency Assessment is used to determine student achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics as specified in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT)

State Mandated: Yes

Grade: In the year of high school in which the student is instructed in any Biology related content (typically the year the student takes their Biology course)

Time of Year: May

Purpose: The New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT) is a state test given to students to measure whether they have gained the knowledge and skills identified in the Biology section of the Science Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS).

New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge Grade 8 Science (NJASK 8 Science)

State Mandated: Yes

Grade: 8

Time of Year: May

Purpose: The New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge 8 (NJ ASK 8) is the state test for students in grades 8 to measure student achievement in the area of Science aligned to New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS).

New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge Grade 4 Science (NJASK 4 Science)

State Mandated: Yes

Grade: 4

Time of Year: May

Purpose: The New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge 4 (NJ ASK 4) is the state test for students in grades 4 to measure student achievement in the area of Science aligned to New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS).

Alternate High School Assessment (AHSA)

State Mandated: Yes

Grade: 12

Time of Year: 3 administrations in January, March or June

Purpose: The Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA) is a student's alternative means of meeting the state graduation assessment requirement through one or more of the following:

- demonstrating proficiency on the AHSA Performance Assessment Tasks
- matching or exceeding the Just Proficient Mean or Cluster Points, and/or
- having an AHSA appeal approved.

Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELL)

State Mandated: Yes

Grade: K-12

Time of Year: March to April

Purpose: ACCESS for ELLs (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners) is a secure large-scale English language proficiency assessment given to Kindergarten through 12th graders who have been identified as English language learners (ELLs). It is given annually in WIDA Consortium member states to monitor students' progress in acquiring academic English.

Advanced Placement Exams (AP Exams)

State Mandated: No, but required by most colleges for students who have taken AP courses

Grade: HS

Time of Year: May

Purpose: The AP Exam is the final step after a year in an AP class. These standardized exams are designed to measure how well a student has mastered the content and skills of the course — a successful score could even earn a student credit and advanced placement in college.

SAT's

State Mandated: No, but required by most colleges

Grade: typically 11 and 12

Time of Year: multiple administrations during the year; offered in Kenilworth in Oct. and June

Purpose: The SAT and SAT Subject Tests are designed to assess a student's academic readiness for college. These exams provide a path to opportunities, financial support, and scholarships, in a way that's fair to all students. The SAT and SAT Subject Tests keep pace with what colleges are looking for today, measuring the skills required for success in the 21st century.

ACT's

State Mandated: No, but are accepted by most colleges in place of or in addition to the SAT's

Grade: typically 11 and 12

Time of Year: multiple administrations during the year; offered in Kenilworth in Oct. and June

Purpose: The ACT is a multiple choice test that measures (1) English Usage, Mechanics, and Rhetoric, (2) Mathematical Knowledge in pre/elementary/intermediate algebra, plane/coordinate geometry, and trigonometry, (3) Reading in the areas of social sciences/studies and arts & literature, and (4) Science Reasoning including data representation, research summaries, and conflicting viewpoints. Eligibility for Admission is usually based upon your ACT Composite Score and high school Grade Point Average (GPA).

PSAT/NMSQT

State Mandated: No

Grade: In Kenilworth grades 9-11

Time of Year: October

Purpose: The PSAT/NMSQT assesses the critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills students need for college and beyond. The PSAT/NMSQT helps students become college ready. It provides detailed feedback on skills, access to scholarships and personalized online tools, and excellent practice for the SAT.

PSAT 7-8 (Previously ReadStep)

State Mandated: No

Grade: In Kenilworth grades 7 and 8

Time of Year: October

Purpose: ReadStep measures skills students need to be on track for success as they transition to high school. It provides insight into students' academic progress and also equips educators with tools they can use to make informed decisions in the classroom.

Alternate Proficiency Assessment Science (APA Science)

State Mandated: Yes

Grade: 4 and in the high school year the student is exposed to Biology content

Time of Year: Collection periods from Sept. to Nov. and Dec. to Feb.

Purpose: The Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA) is a portfolio assessment designed to measure progress toward achieving New Jersey's state educational standards for those students with severe disabilities who are unable to participate in the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) or the New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT).

Dynamic Learning Map (DLM)

State Mandated: Yes

Grade: 3-8 and 11

Time of Year: Testing window is open during April and May

Purpose: The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) is an adaptive computer-based assessment that will be administered to the one percent of students with the most significant cognitive impairments. The assessment examines student progress towards achieving the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics.