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September, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The New Jersey State Board of Education approved the threshold score points ('cut points') to define the performance levels in the PARCC assessment program. Attached you will find the now updated list of assessments and their various score points that members of the classes of 2017, 2018, and 2019 can use to demonstrate that they have met the competency testing requirements needed for a regular high school diploma with the appropriate threshold scores for PARCC assessments included. (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.) Assessments will be given in both English Language Arts and Mathematics and students will be assessed twice during the school year. The NJPARCC tests will be administered using computers. **The testing window will be from April 4, 2016 through May 13, 2016 for the End of Year Assessment (EOY) series.** More specific information will be sent as the time for these assessments draws near.

The list has now been updated to include the threshold scores for the PARCC assessments. Please note that the threshold scores are different for different assessments. In ELA9 and ELA10, the threshold score corresponds to the "Meeting Expectations" performance level. In ELA11, the threshold score corresponds to the "Approaching Expectations" performance level. In Algebra I, the threshold score corresponds to the "Meeting Expectations" performance level. In Geometry and Algebra II, the threshold scores correspond to the "Approaching Expectations" performance level.

The Study Commission on the Use of Statewide Assessments will be making recommendations shortly regarding graduation requirements for the class of 2020 and thereafter. The New Jersey Department of Education will then move those recommendations to a regulatory proposal for State Board adoption.

Please be advised that we expect to update this table at least twice more in the upcoming months to accommodate the College Board's redesign of the PSAT10/PSAT-NMSQT and the SAT. We have been advised that we can expect a new 'cut score' for the new PSAT toward the end of December and for the new SAT toward the end of May.

- Students must receive a combined passing score for the EOY assessment of the NJPARCC in both tested areas (Math and ELA). Students receiving a passing score will meet the graduation requirement. It is not clear if a student receives a passing score this year and is a freshman or sophomore, if he or she will have to have an additional passing score in subsequent years.
- The state has provided alternate passing scores on Substitute Competency Test. These tests include the PSAT, SAT, ACT, ACT Aspire, ASVAB-AFQT Score and the Accuplacer.

- One of the Substitute Competency Test that can be used to satisfy the graduation requirement is the PSAT. **All students are provided the opportunity to take the PSAT at David Brearley on Wednesday October 19, 2016.** It is extremely important for all students to do their best on the PSAT since it can meet the graduation requirement with a sufficient score. Students who receive a score of 40 on both the PSAT Math and English Language Arts sections will meet the graduation requirement.
- The SAT and ACT tests are standardized college entrance tests that many students already take. Students who receive a score of 400 on either the SAT Math and Critical Reading sections or a score of 16 on both the ACT Math and Reading sections will meet the graduation requirement. There is an expense associated with taking the SAT and/or ACT test that is the responsibility of the student to incur.
- The ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude battery of tests that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. We offer this test on a voluntary basis to our students free of charge in the spring. A student receiving a score of 31 on the ASVAB will meet the graduation requirements.
- The Accuplacer is a suite of tests that determines a student’s knowledge in math, reading and writing as he or she prepares to enroll in college-level courses. Many county colleges use the Accuplacer to place students. We are investigating the administration of the Accuplacer at David Brearley and/or a partnership with Union County College to administer the test. This will provide students with another alternative assessment for students who may not achieve a passing score on the NJPARCC. We are not certain if there is a cost associated with this test administration at this time.

**Graduation Requirements for
Classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019**

As presented by the NJDOE on Dec. 17, 2015, for the classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019, students will be able to satisfy the state requirements of demonstrating proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics in the following ways:

English Language Arts	Mathematics
PARCC ELA Grade 9 ≥ 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>	PARCC Algebra I ≥ 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>
PARCC ELA Grade 10 ≥ 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>	PARCC Geometry ≥ 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>
PARCC ELA Grade 11 ≥ 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>	PARCC Algebra II ≥ 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>

PARCC Scores: School districts expect to be notified of the “cut scores” for use in the New Jersey graduation determination in the Fall. Guidance about graduation requirements beyond the class of 2019 will also be forthcoming at that time.

Substitute Competency Tests: Students who do not achieve a passing score on a PARCC assessment, or who do not take a PARCC assessment because they have already completed the coursework, will be considered to have demonstrated proficiency if they meet or exceed one of the scores below.

Substitute Assessments	
English Language Arts	Mathematics
Accuplacer Write Placer ≥ 6 <i>or</i>	Accuplacer Elementary Algebra ≥ 76 <i>or</i>
ACT Aspire Reading ≥ 422 <i>or</i>	ACT Aspire Math ≥ 422 <i>or</i>
ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading ≥ 16 <i>or</i>	ACT or ACT PLAN Math ≥ 16 <i>or</i>
ASVAB-AFQT Composite ≥ 31 <i>or</i>	ASVAB-AFQT Composite ≥ 31 <i>or</i>
PSAT10 Reading or PSAT-NMSQT Reading** ≥ 40 <i>or</i>	PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math** ≥ 40 <i>or</i>
PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading*** ≥ 22 <i>or</i>	PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math*** ≥ 22 <i>or</i>

Prior to 3/1/2016 SAT Reading* ≥ 400 <i>or</i>	Prior to 3/1/2016 SAT Math* ≥ 400 <i>or</i>
SAT Evidence Based Reading and Writing Section >450 or SAT Reading Test ≥ 22 <i>or</i>	SAT Math Section ≥ 440 or SAT Math Test ≥ 22 <i>or</i>
Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal	Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

Note: * SAT taken prior to March 2016; ** PSAT taken prior to October 2015; ***PSAT taken after October 2015.

NJDOE Portfolio Appeal: Thehe NJDOE Portfolio Appeal Review process will continue during this transition. Districts can submit portfolios for students who do not demonstrate competencies either through PARCC or a Substitute Competency Test in English Language Arts or Mathematics.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the guidance office or myself and we will be glad to assist you. As more information becomes available about the NJPARCC and the Substitute Competency Tests, we will share this information with you.

Sincerely,

Brian T. Luciani
Principal