

NJSLA Science Results:
Spring 2019
Administrations
Wallington School District
March 9, 2020

New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – Science (NJSLA-Science)

The NJSLA-Science:

- Is a federally required state assessment administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 11
- Provides a snapshot of student performance on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSLS-Science).
- Was developed in collaboration with NJ educators, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), and New Jersey’s contracted science vendors
- Is significantly different from the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) because NJSLS-Science are more rigorous standards and NJSLA-Science focuses on the application of science knowledge and skills rather than memorization of content.

Wallington School District's Number of Students Tested in Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations **Science**

Grade	Students Tested 2019
5	97
8	104
11	97
Total	298

Note: "Students Tested" represents individual valid test scores for Science.

Wallington School District's
2019 Spring NJSLA School- & Grade-Level Outcomes
Science Grade 5 - Percentages

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	% of students at Level 3 and 4
FW Gavlak	25.8%	39.2%	29.9%	5.2%	35.1%

Wallington School District's
2019 Spring NJSLA School- & Grade-Level Outcomes
Science Grade 8 - Percentages

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	% of students at Level 3 and 4
Wallington Jr/Sr High School	35.7%	44.5%	15.3%	4.5%	19.8%

Wallington School District's
2019 Spring NJSLA School- & Grade-Level Outcomes
Science Grade 11 - Percentages

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	% of students at Level 3 and 4
Wallington Jr/Sr High School	42.3%	28.9%	23.7%	5.2%	27.3%

Comparison of Wallington School District's Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations to New Jersey Percentages for 2019

Grade	Level 1, District	Level 1, State	Level 2, District	Level 2, State	Level 3, District	Level 3, State	Level 4, District	Level 4, State
5	25.8	34.8	39.2	36.0	29.9	22.7	5.2	6.6
8	38.5	35.7	43.3	44.5	16.3	15.3	1.9	4.5
11	42.3	49.1	28.9	23.6	23.7	19.5	5.2	7.8

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Wallington Public School District Content/Curriculum Alignment

- Wallington adopted Next Generation Science Standards/NJSLS-Science in last three years.
- Teacher Professional Development on Next Generation Science Standards are primarily accomplished through the SBJC partnership.
- Curriculum writing is done as a consortium with other South Bergen school districts annually.
- Content area maps are revised each month in grade level department meetings.
- Through the partnership with the South Bergen Jointure Commission, the Wallington Public School district has provided S.T.E.M. based trips to Jointure schools for implementation of Science Lab experiences.
- Grade-band analysis of the Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs) as well as Analysis of assessments (tests, quizzes, labs, activities etc.) by grade level.
- Leveled reading at primary grades has been implemented to aide in science content reading levels for students.
- A K-12 Instructional Supervisor position was created to assist teachers in implementing application based learning with Science students.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did we need a new test?

- A new test was needed to measure the State's new, more rigorous science standards (NJSL-Science) that are informing classroom instruction.
- The NJSL-Science standards were adopted by the State in 2014. The timeline for transition to the new standards for districts required full implementation in grades 6-12 by September 2016 and full implementation in grades K-5 by September 2017.

When will the NJSLA-Science scores be utilized in NJQSAC?

- NJQSAC for school year 2021-2022 will be the first year in which results from the NJSLA-Science will be factored into NJQSAC, utilizing the results from the 2020-2021 administration of the assessment.

Does a student have to pass the NJSLA-Science to graduate?

- The NJSLA-Science is not a state graduation assessment requirement.

Why do NJSLA-Science scores look different from those of the previous state science tests?

- The NJSLA-Science assessment reflects new expectations outlined in the new science standards, the NJSLS-Science, which focuses on the **application** of science knowledge and skills.
- The prior assessment, New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK), emphasized the **memorization** of content.

How can schools and districts use data from the NJSLA-Science?

- The NJSLA-Science data should be used to evaluate the district's science curriculum and school and classroom instruction.
- This data, in combination with classroom level data collected through formative, summative, and benchmark assessments, can provide schools and districts feedback on students' strengths and weaknesses with particular skills.
- The reports can be used as a catalyst for conversation and exploration of questions such as, but not limited to;
 - What do the patterns in the data suggest about the effectiveness of our program for English Language Learners, students who receive special education services, gifted and talented, general education students, and/or students who qualify for free or reduced lunches?
 - What do the patterns in the data suggest about the allocation of time and resources to our science program?

What resources are available for further support?

- The NJDOE Office of Standards has a repository of various resources to help support educators and districts with the implementation of the NJSLS-Science:
 - <https://www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/science/mc.htm>
- NJSLA-Science practice tests are also available online at the following site:
 - <https://measinc-nj-science.com/>
- The NJDOE plans to continue to develop additional resources, such as K-12 instructional units based on the 2020 NJSLS-Science and connect educators with free resources and course materials.