New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-Mathematics (NJSLA-M)
Spring 2019 Companion Guide

The NJSLA-M measures student proficiency with grade or course level skills, knowledge, practices and concepts that are critical to college and career readiness. On each assessment, students will face a mixture of objective items assessing content and practice and constructed-response items requiring the application of grade or course appropriate reasoning and modeling.

NJSLA-M Spring 2019 Assessments

The NJSLA-M blueprints define the total number of tasks and/or items for any given grade or course assessment, the types of items on the assessment and the point values for each item.

The assessment has reduced item counts and a corresponding reduction in testing time compared to state assessment in prior years, but will still support an overall scale score and four subclaim scores consistent with the scale score and the four subclaim scores provided these past four years. Test items on the NJSLA-M will be drawn from the same item bank as last year's state assessment.

On the NJSLA-M, subclaim categories will remain Major Content, Additional and Supporting Content, Reasoning and Modeling. All scores will continue to accurately reflect student achievement of the corresponding standards**.** Further, the overall scale score will continue to be categorized into one of the five existing performance levels (i.e., Approaching Expectations, Meeting Expectations, etc.). In short, there will be a reduction in testing time and item counts without a reduction in student reporting.

Test Item and Time Reduction

On the NJSLA-M Blueprints, you will see a reduction in item counts ranging from six less items on the grade 8 form to a reduction of fourteen items on the Algebra I form. Item reduction was done to keep the Type I items (Major, Additional, and Supporting Content), Type II items (Reasoning) and Type III items (Modeling) in approximately the same proportion (both item count and point value) as was used these past four years. All forms will continue to contain a small number of field test items, not included in the operational counts the blueprint provides, to replenish the item bank.

Grades 3 through 5 assessments will be reduced from four 60-minute units to three 60-minute units, which is a total of 25% reduction in total testing time and one less unit. The grades 3 through 5 NJSLA-M are non-calculator. Each unit will have a mix of Type I, II and III items. See Table 1 for unit times for grades 3 through 5.

Table 1. Grades 3 through 5

Year	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
2018	60 minutes	60 minutes	60 minutes	60 minutes
2019	60 minutes	60 minutes	60 minutes	N/A

Grades 6 through 8 will experience a reduction from three 80-minute units to three 60-minute units which is a 25% reduction in total testing time. The grades 6 through 8 NJSLA-M have a mix of non-calculator and calculator active items. Non-calculator items will appear in a Section at the beginning of Unit 1. All

Type II and III items will appear in calculator active sections/units. See Table 2 for unit times for grades 6 through 8.

Table 2. Grades 6 through 8

Year	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
2018	80 minutes	80 minutes	80 minutes
2019	60 minutes	60 minutes	60 minutes

High school end-of-course assessments will be reduced from three 90-minute units to two 90-minute units which is a 33% reduction is total testing time and one less unit. The high school end-of-course assessments have a mix of non-calculator and calculator active items. Non-calculator items will appear in a section at the beginning of Unit 1. All Type II and Type III items will appear in calculator active sections/units. See Table 3 for unit times for high school end-of-course assessments (Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II).

Table 3. High School

Year	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
2018	90 minutes	90 minutes	90 minutes
2019	90 minutes	90 minutes	N/A

All reduced testing times, when combined with reduced item counts, provide all students with the same amount of time per task as the last four years.

For More Information

See the 2019 NJSLA-M Blueprints and support documents for the NJSLA-M.