

# NJSLA Science Results: Spring 2019 Administrations

Robbinsville Public Schools  
April 27, 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).
- 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.

Comparison of **Robbinsville's**  
Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations  
Science 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
<b>5</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>7.8</b>

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

**Robbinsville's**  
Number of Students Tested  
in Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations  
**Science**

Grade	Students Tested 2019
5	271
8	258
11	230
Total	759

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

**Robbinsville'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
<b>PRMS-5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>47.8</b> (compared to the state avg. of 29.2)

# **Robbinsville'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
<b>PRMS-8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>39.1</b> (compared to the state avg. of 18.8)

# **Robbinsville'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
<b>RHS- 11<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>48.4</b> (compared to state avg. of 27.3)

# Robbinsville's

## Sub-Group Populations

- In grades 5 and 11, approximately 10% more males met/exceeded expectations than females. In grade 8, 3% more males met/exceeded expectations than females.
- English Language Learners were less likely to meet/exceed expectations than their peers (because of their small population, data is suppressed).
- IEP and 504 Students\* (Some students are exempt from testing)
  - 22% of 5<sup>th</sup> grade IEP students (n=41) and 0% of 504 students (n=3) met/exceeded expectations
  - 3.6 % of 8<sup>th</sup> grade IEP students (n=28) and 54.5% of 504 students (n=11) met/exceeded expectations
  - 0% of 11<sup>th</sup> grade IEP students (n=15) and 33.3% of 504 students (n=24) met/exceeded expectations
- Economically Disadvantaged Populations
  - 9.1% of 5<sup>th</sup> grade economically disadvantaged students (n=12) met or exceeded expectations
  - 0% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade economically disadvantaged students (n=7) met/exceeded expectations.
  - 20% of 11<sup>th</sup> grade economically disadvantaged students (n=5) met/exceeded expectations.



# Robbinsville's Notable Achievements

- We have recently adjusted K-8 curriculum so that science content areas spiral each year and build upon previous year's content and skills
- We will continue to delve into professional development in these areas and work on building consistency across grade levels and buildings.
- Compared to the state averages, we are strong in the areas of
  - Life Science
  - Earth and Space Science
  - Conducting investigations
  - Sense-making/problem solving

# Robbinsville's Intervention Strategies

- Purchase of fully NGSS-aligned materials for grades 6-8 in 2019-2020 for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students; 8<sup>th</sup> grade will occur in 2020-2021
- Monthly Science Professional Learning Community that explores NGSS-aligned assessments, instructional practices, and materials
- Focus on skill-based instruction (the NGSS Science and Engineering Practices) such as Engaging in Arguments Using Evidence and Analyzing and Interpreting Data
- Designing common assessments to promote consistency in expectations
- Equity and Cultural Awareness professional development for all staff to increase access and opportunity
- Differentiating Instruction professional development to support struggling learners

# 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 (NJSLS-Science) that are informing classroom instruction.
- The NJSLS-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.

# 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.