



Mountainside School District

Deerfield School

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Dear Parent,

I am writing to update you on some recent developments regarding NJSLA which the state has recently shared with our district.

This year Deerfield School has been randomly selected to participate in the **English Language Arts (ELA) Field Test** for the Spring 2020 New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-English Language Arts (NJSLA-ELA). Field testing is considered part of the statewide assessment program. Field test items **do not** count towards a student's score.

What is Field Testing?

The main purpose of field testing is to "test the test questions" to ensure that all questions that appear on operational assessments do a good job of measuring the content and skills they are intended to measure. The field testing also ensures the questions are clear and are fair to all students. Every question goes through multiple rounds of review by assessment professionals and committees that include New Jersey educators prior to being field tested. A final determination regarding the quality of each question is made only after it has been included in a test taken by students and the resulting field-test data has been analyzed.

How is Field Testing Implemented in New Jersey?

For **ELA**, New Jersey samples approximately one-third of schools across the state. Each tested student in a sampled school takes one ELA field test unit, or section. The field test unit may contain a Narrative Writing Task unit, Literary Analysis Task unit, or Research Simulation Task unit, and may appear as the first, second, or third unit on the test. This helps ensure that students do not know which questions "count" towards their score and which are field test questions, and therefore expend a similar amount of effort while answering all questions.

Schools are selected for ELA field testing so that the annual sample is representative of the state's overall testing population in terms of achievement and demographics. All students in tested grades in the district will participate in the field test. Students taking the ELA field test will be given a total of three units instead of two units. The district has taken this into account in planning the Spring 2020 testing schedule. Districts that were selected to participate in field testing this year will not be required to participate again for the next two years of assessment administration (i.e., 2021 and 2022).

Additionally, there is a new **Parent Portal** which has been introduced by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). This is an innovative method of providing parents with their Individual Student Reports (ISRs) which was developed in response to feedback from stakeholders during the two phases of outreach to the public conducted by the NJDOE.

In addition to traditional paper ISRs delivered by schools, video versions of the ISRs are currently available via the online [parent portal](https://nj-results.pearsonaccessnext.com/login) (https://nj-results.pearsonaccessnext.com/login). The video score report communicates information from the ISR through animations and a voiceover in New Jersey's top five languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic. The portal will also allow for parents/guardians to track their student's scores from year to year, beginning with spring 2019.

The printed ISRs that were mailed to parents/guardians on September 5, 2019 include the claim codes that parents/guardians can use to access their child's performance results in the [NJ Parent Portal](#). Parents or guardians must create an account on the parent portal and use the claim code provided on the student's ISR to add the results to their profile. Once parents/guardians create their accounts, they can add codes for additional students and/or administrations by adding new codes to their accounts.

We are excited about the opportunity to strengthen our efforts to effectively communicate your child's performance on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments with you.

Finally, please be sure to note the revisions to the **MSD testing schedule**, which reflects the change in ELA units due to field testing and test window dates for the NJSLA-Science for grades 5 and 8. The testing schedule can be found on the MSD website under the curriculum tab and assessments. If you should have any questions or concerns, you may contact Mrs. Goldbeck, the district test coordinator, at kgoldbeck@mountainsideschools.org.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Richards

Mrs. Kimberly Richards, Principal
Deerfield School

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