



John C. Anzul, Ed.D. Superintendent

Megan Bozios, Principal

Oradell Public School District

350 Prospect Avenue | Oradell, NJ 07649 | oradellschool.org | (201)261-1180

*Our children,
our hope,
our future*

May 9, 2018

Dear parents,

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (sometimes referred to as Next Generation Science Standards) went into effect for students in September 2016. As of September 2017, following the state mandate for all elementary schools, Oradell Public School aligned science instruction to NJSLS-S. In order to assess the revised standards, the state of New Jersey has also made revisions to the state tests in Science. The important aspects of this change are outlined in the table below.

The New Jersey Student Learning Assessment for Science (NJSLA-S) replaces the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) for Science test. This new assessment measures student proficiency in science according to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. These standards require schools to teach students to use science and engineering practices, to make sense of phenomena, and to design solutions to problems. The NJSLA-S uses the same familiar testing platform used during PARCC testing.

Former State Testing Procedures	New for Spring 2018	Additional Notes
Tests of Science achievement (NJ ASK) were administered to students in grades 4 and 8.	Tests of Science achievement (NJSLA-S) will be administered to students in grades 5, 8 and 11.	The science standards are set for bands of grades. Because one set of standards addresses grades 3-5, the state has determined that achievement should be measured at the end of the grade band rather than the middle, which is the reason for moving the test to grade 5.
The test was administered on paper.	The test will be computer-based, using the same platform as that used for PARCC testing.	This change will improve consistency in the testing experience for students.
The state set a specific date for testing and a specific date for make-up testing.	The state provides a testing window, allowing districts flexibility in determining the exact dates for science testing.	The testing window for NJ is May 7 to June 8, 2018. 5th grade Oradell students will test on May 30 and May 31, with make-up dates of June 5, 6 and 7.
All testing units were completed in one day.	Districts are only allowed to schedule two testing units per day, so testing will take place over two consecutive days.	Fifth grade students will be tested during their FOCUS period and resume a normal schedule after the completion of the day's testing, which consists of two units each day. Each unit is 30 minutes long.

For more information, please visit the NJDOE's NJSLA-S website at <http://measinc-nj-science.com/>.

Thank you,

The Oradell Administrative Team and 5th grade teachers