

NJSLA/NJGPA Adaptive Assessment Field Test FAQ

In August, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) informed school districts throughout the state that in partnership with Cambium Assessment, Inc. (CAI), they will be launching the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-Adaptive (NJSLA-Adaptive) and the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-Adaptive) during the 2025-2026 school year.

These assessments will be aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) for ELA and mathematics, and are designed to continue to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a meaningful way. The NJDOE believes these assessments will reflect an effort to improve the testing experience while maintaining a strong connection to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. In addition, the NJDOE is requiring all school districts to have students participate in NJSLA-Adaptive and NJGPA-Adaptive Field Tests this Fall.

Below is an FAQ designed to help members of the school community gain a better understanding of these assessments and the Fall 2025 Field Tests. The information provided in the FAQ is a compilation of data from the NJDOE that has been shared with school districts.

Who Must Participate in the Fall 2025 Field Test?

Students who meet the following criteria must participate in the fall field test:

NJSLA-Adaptive

English Language Arts (ELA)

Students currently enrolled in grades 4-6

Mathematics

Students currently enrolled in grades 4-6

Will schools receive test results from the administration of the NJSLA-Adaptive tests?

- No. The New Jersey Department of Education will not provide field test results to students, educators, or schools, as the primary purpose of a field test is to evaluate the quality and performance of test items—not to measure student achievement.
- A field test is administered to ensure that test items are valid, reliable, and fair for all students.
- The data collected helps the state and test developers analyze how questions function across diverse student populations, refine scoring models, and improve the overall quality of the assessment before it is officially used for reporting purposes.

- The field test will also provide New Jersey educators and students with an opportunity to become familiar with the assessments and their administration before operational testing in spring 2026.

When will the Fall 2025 Field Test occur?

- The Field testing window for the Fall NJSLA-Adaptive and NJGPA-Adaptive Tests is scheduled to occur from October 27 through October 29, with Make-ups on October 30.
- All school districts throughout the state are required to participate.

What will the students be tested on during this field test?

- Each student will receive questions aligned to the grade before their current enrollment.
- For example, a grade 4 student would receive items aligned to standards from grade 3.
- This method ensures that each student has had the opportunity to learn the material before the Fall 2025 Field Test.

Will students take an entire battery of tests during the fall field test?

- No, students will be taking a sampling of items, not a complete test, for any subject.
- Field tests are intended to sample various types of test items for future potential use and to provide New Jersey educators and students with an opportunity to become familiar with the assessments and their administration.

Table 1: Fall 2025 Field Test Unit Testing Dates & Times (Make-ups will be on 10/30 if needed)

MONDAY, 10/27	TUESDAY, 10/28	WEDNESDAY, 10/29
ELA- Reading 60 Minutes	ELA- Writing 120 Minutes	Math 60 Minutes

Units and Testing Times

- Students participating in the Fall 2025 Field Test will each be assigned no more than one mathematics unit, one reading unit, and one writing task based on the participation guidelines.
- Most students – including all students in grades 4-9 – will be assigned exactly one mathematics unit, one reading unit, and one writing task, totaling four hours.
- Districts may administer up to a maximum of two (2) units per day for a student.
- The testing platform offers additional flexibility, allowing students to take breaks during testing time.
- At the test administrator’s discretion, students may be provided one ten-minute break during the ELA-Writing unit.

What is an adaptive test, and what are the benefits to the students?

- A computer-adaptive test (CAT) is an assessment tool that determines future questions based on a student's responses to prior questions, creating a more personalized experience for each learner.
- This approach can help reduce testing anxiety by presenting students with questions that are closer to their current level, thereby encouraging confidence and focus.
- An adaptive assessment measures each student's knowledge with greater precision, as students receive more items closer to their current level.

Does the new assessment impact the spring NJSLA-Science?

There will be no changes to the science assessment in the 2025-2026 school year.

Does the New Jersey Department of Education have a new assessment platform for the Fall 2025 Field Tests and the Spring 2026 NJSLA and Spring NJGPA assessments?

- Yes, a new testing platform will be implemented for the state's adaptive assessments.
- Cambium Assessment, Inc. (CAI) will manage all aspects of assessment delivery, including test registration, administration, scoring, and reporting for the new adaptive assessments.
- The Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) will enable schools to manage student data, assign accommodations, select test formats, and access other features, all from a single interface. The platform is web-based and works with existing school technology. The Test Delivery System (TDS) supports the administration of the assessments. It consists of two key components: the Test Administrator (TA) Interface and the Student Interface. TDS is designed to provide a seamless testing experience for both the TAs and students.