

**TEMPORARY & EXECUTED, Note to 18A:7C-3 & 18A:7C-6
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

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LAWS OF: 2022 **CHAPTER:** 60

NJSA: TEMPORARY & EXECUTED, Note to 18A:7C-3 & 18A:7C-6
(Requires State Board of Education to administer New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment as field test for class of 2023.)

BILL NO: A3196 (Substituted for S2349)

SPONSOR(S) Ralph R. Caputo and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 3/7/2022

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Education

SENATE: Education

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: 3/24/2022

SENATE: 6/29/2022

DATE OF APPROVAL: 7/5/2022

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL
(Assembly Committee Substitute enacted) Yes

A3196

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S2349

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: No

SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

Brent Johnson - For South Jersey Times, 'The test is off: N.J. waives grad exam for Class of 2023 A top state lawmaker has proposed that education officials develop an alternative to the current 11th grade exam, starting with the class of 2026.', South Jersey Times (online), 7 Jul2022 001

end

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 60, *approved July 5, 2022*
Assembly Committee Substitute for
Assembly, No. 3196

1 **AN ACT** concerning administration of graduation assessments for
2 high school students.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of P.L.1979, c.241
8 (C.18A:7C-1 et seq.) or of any other law, rule or regulation to the
9 contrary, the State Board of Education, in coordination with the
10 Commissioner of Education, shall administer the New Jersey
11 Graduation Proficiency Assessment required pursuant to section 6
12 of P.L.1979, c.241 (C.18A:7C-6) as a field test for 11th grade
13 students expected to graduate as part of the class of 2023. Under no
14 circumstances shall the results of the field test, a substitute
15 competency test, or any other demonstration of proficiency through
16 techniques and instruments other than a standardized test pursuant
17 to section 3 of P.L.1979, c.241 (C.18A:7C-3) be used as a
18 prerequisite for graduation for students expected to graduate as part
19 of the class of 2023.

20 b. In conducting field testing of the New Jersey Graduation
21 Proficiency Assessment pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the
22 State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education shall
23 use the results of the test to assist in the development of State
24 graduation proficiency tests for future graduating classes.

25 c. Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or amend
26 local graduation requirements adopted by a board of education.

27

28 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on
29 July 1, 2023.

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34 _____
35 Requires State Board of Education to administer New Jersey
Graduation Proficiency Assessment as field test for class of 2023.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3196

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman SADAF F. JAFFER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Board of Education to institute passing score of 725 for New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment until 2025.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning required graduation assessments for high
2 school students.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. The State Board of Education, in coordination with the
8 Commissioner of Education, shall require that the passing score on
9 the English language arts and mathematics components of the New
10 Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment created and administered
11 pursuant to P.L.1979, c.241 (C.18A:7C-1 et seq.) be set at 725 for
12 11th grade students expected to graduate as part of the 2023, 2024,
13 and 2025 classes.

14

15 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on
16 July 1, 2025.

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STATEMENT

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21 This bill instructs the State Board of Education, in coordination
22 with the Commissioner of Education, to require that the passing
23 score on the English language arts and mathematics components of
24 the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment be set at 725 for
25 11th grade students expected to graduate as part of the 2023, 2024,
26 and 2025 classes.

27 The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted students
28 throughout the State and led to a number of unique and pressing
29 challenges. With many school districts returning to in-person
30 learning, school officials are finding a significant drop in the
31 number of students who are performing on grade level in key
32 subject areas. For minority and economically disadvantaged
33 students, those losses are even greater given the challenges they
34 faced in acquiring learning devices, internet access, and in-person
35 assistance from teaching staff. It is estimated that as many as
36 400,000 students in New Jersey are not proficient in English
37 language arts and math. As a result, districts will need to provide
38 remedial instruction in many core academic subjects, aside from
39 those subjects tested on Statewide assessments, to ensure that
40 students are making sufficient progress towards graduation.

41 Further compounding student learning losses has been a
42 worsening of the student mental health crisis. Since the start of the
43 pandemic, hospitals have reported an increase in the number of
44 young people admitted to the emergency room with mental health
45 emergencies while more parents are finding that their child has
46 shown signs of a new or worsening mental health conditions such as
47 anxiety or depression. Experts believe this increase is attributable
48 to a number of factors including the implementation of social

1 distancing measures, the pivot to virtual learning, interruption of
2 mental health services, pandemic-related job losses, and the death
3 of a close relative from COVID-19.

4 Increasing the score of the New Jersey Graduation Assessment at
5 a time when many school districts are coping with widespread
6 learning loss and a student mental health crisis, complicates the task
7 of addressing some of the most severe impacts of the pandemic on
8 our students by leaving school districts less time to address the
9 urgent needs of their student populations. Some estimates suggest
10 that administering the assessment with the current passing score of
11 750 may result in failure rates of 50 percent or more. A failure rate
12 of this magnitude will not only cause further harm to our students,
13 but exacerbate current staffing shortages by requiring additional
14 staff to assist students with the portfolio appeals process as a result
15 of a failed test.

16 By requiring students to achieve a passing score of 725, the State
17 can ensure that its measurement of graduation readiness is realistic
18 and achievable while allowing school districts the time to focus on
19 their most pressing challenges.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ASSEMBLY, No. 3196

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 10, 2022

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Committee Substitute for Bill No. 3196.

As amended, this committee substitute requires the State Board of Education, in coordination with the Commissioner of Education, to administer the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment as a field test for 11th grade students expected to graduate as part of the class of 2023. Under no circumstances would results of the field test, a substitute competency test, or any other demonstration of proficiency through techniques and instruments other than a standardized test be used as a prerequisite for graduation for students expected to graduate as part of the class of 2023. The bill also requires the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education to use the results of the test to assist in the development of State assessments for future graduating classes. Nothing in the bill would be construed to alter or amend local graduation requirements adopted by a board of education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted students throughout the State and led to a number of unique and pressing challenges. With many school districts returning to in-person learning, school officials are finding a significant drop in the number of students who are performing at grade level in key subject areas. For minority and economically disadvantaged students, those losses are even greater given the challenges they faced in acquiring learning devices, internet access, and in-person assistance from teaching staff. It is estimated that as many as 400,000 students in New Jersey are not proficient in English language arts and math.

Further compounding student learning losses has been a worsening of the student mental health crisis. Since the start of the pandemic, hospitals have reported an increase in the number of young people admitted to the emergency room with mental health emergencies while more parents are finding that their child has shown signs of a new or worsening mental health conditions such as anxiety or depression. Experts believe this increase is attributable to a number of factors including the implementation of social distancing measures, the pivot to virtual learning, the interruption of

mental health services, pandemic-related job losses, and the death of a close relative from COVID-19.

By administering the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment as a field test for the class of 2023, the State will be able to better understand the extent and severity of learning loss among its students and develop graduation assessments that are not only realistic and achievable, but appropriately rigorous.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ASSEMBLY, No. 3196

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 20, 2022

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 3196.

This bill requires the State Board of Education, in coordination with the Commissioner of Education, to administer the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment as a field test for 11th grade students expected to graduate as part of the class of 2023. Under no circumstances would results of the field test, a substitute competency test, or any other demonstration of proficiency through techniques and instruments other than a standardized test be used as a prerequisite for graduation for students expected to graduate as part of the class of 2023. The bill also requires the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education to use the results of the test to assist in the development of State assessments for future graduating classes. Nothing in the bill would be construed to alter or amend local graduation requirements adopted by a board of education.

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SENATE, No. 2349

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 21, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Gill, Connors and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Board of Education to administer New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment as field test for class of 2023.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/29/2022)

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2 high school students.

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25 c. Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or amend
26 local graduation requirements adopted by a board of education.

27

28 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on
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30

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32

STATEMENT

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2 throughout the State and led to a number of unique and pressing
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STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2349

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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to better understand the extent and severity of learning loss among its students and develop graduation assessments that are not only realistic and achievable, but appropriately rigorous.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

07/5/2022

TRENTON – Today, Governor Phil Murphy signed the following bills into law:

A-1455wGR/S-1596 (Lopez, Dancer, DeAngelo/Beach) - Permits county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages to issue identification card to Gold Star Family member

ACS for A-3196/S-2349 (Caputo, Lampitt, Jasey, Jaffer/Turner, Diegnan) - Requires State Board of Education to administer New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment as field test for class of 2023

A-4091/S-2729 (Swain, Conaway/Lagana, Singleton) - Makes County Option Hospital Fee Pilot Program permanent and expands definition of “participating county” under program

A-4214/S-2770 (Jaffer, Moen, Wimberly, Benson/Zwicker, Singleton) - Authorizes NJ Infrastructure Bank to expend certain sums to make loans for transportation infrastructure projects for FY2023; makes appropriation

A-4222/S-2796 (Freiman, Egan, Calabrese/Gopal, Lagana) - Expands working hours for minors; updates process for obtaining working papers for minors

A-4255/S-2870 (McKeon, Haider, Kennedy/Smith, Codey) - Revises law requiring registration with DEP of certain entities engaged in soil and fill recycling services