

Pledge to Parents Regarding State Tests

New Jersey students are among the most successful in the country. But there is an increasing awareness that too many children leave our schools unprepared for the demands of today's colleges and careers. In 2010, New Jersey adopted higher quality academic standards to align classroom expectations with the skills students need to succeed.

Now, our teachers and students are transitioning to new statewide assessments aligned to these high quality academic standards. These are designed to be the most effective statewide assessments New Jersey has ever had. Many New Jersey educators have partnered with hundreds of educators from around the country to design and build the questions that are in these new assessments.

Recognizing that new tests can be a source of apprehension and even misinformation, a broad coalition of organizations has formed to support parents and educators as they help our children during this important transition.

Today, the coalition known as *We Raise NJ* joins together with the New Jersey Department of Education to pledge the following:

1. We recognize that students are more than their test results and respect teachers' and families' responsibility to make academic decisions for students **based on all information** available to assist them.
2. We are committed to **fair and meaningful assessments** that are aligned to the academic skills all students will need to succeed in school, in college or in the workforce.
3. We are committed to assessments that provide parents with information about student progress that is **more meaningful and easier to understand** than in the past.
4. We will help teachers and school leaders understand how to use information from the new assessments to **improve classroom instruction** and to identify and address gaps in achievement.
5. We support the use of technology to administer these assessments whenever possible in order to **provide results quickly** and to expand opportunities to use technology in the classroom.
6. We are committed to the **secure management of student data** in compliance with all state and federal regulations that have been created to protect student privacy.
7. We are committed to **resolving any problems** that arise with the new assessments in a collaborative and constructive way to meet the needs of New Jersey students, parents and educators.

In cooperation,

New Jersey Department of Education

We Raise NJ Coalition

Garden State Coalition of Schools
 New Jersey Association of School Administrators
 New Jersey New Jersey Association for
 Supervision and Curriculum Development
 New Jersey Council of County Colleges
 New Jersey Chamber of Commerce
 New Jersey Principals and Supervisors
 Association
 New Jersey PTA
 New Jersey School Boards Association
 JerseyCan