



# Public Schools of Plainfield

## New Jersey

### Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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March 24, 2020

Dear Staff, Students, and Parents:

I pray that you are all safe and well “inside” with your family members and practicing “social distancing.” It is extremely urgent that we follow the directives of New Jersey’s Governor as this is a very serious time. As we move into week two of the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to sincerely thank you for your support of Plainfield Public Schools. I would like to especially thank our food vendor Maschio’s, for continuing to serve our students breakfast and lunch around Plainfield. I would also like to thank our additional partners who have joined us in providing meals to our families during this crisis.

At this time, we are waiting on an announcement from Governor Murphy regarding an extended closure; we will share additional information as soon as we receive it. Be sure to visit our District’s website daily for updates at [www.painfieldnj12.org](http://www.painfieldnj12.org).

We received a few questions regarding state mandated testing. On Friday, March 20, the United States Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, announced, “**standardized testing for elementary and secondary schools will not be required this school year.**”

The District will continue to make the best of the circumstances during this unprecedented pandemic and concentrate on getting through this as a unified community. If you have any questions regarding your child’s virtual learning experience, please contact your child’s principal.

Take care of yourself, your mental health, your children and your families.

Sincerely,

Diana Mitchell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



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24 de marzo de 2020

Estimados personal, estudiantes y padres:

Ruego que todos estén seguros y bien "dentro de sus casas" con los miembros de su familia y que estén practicando el "distanciamiento social". Es extremadamente urgente que sigamos las directivas del Gobernador de Nueva Jersey, ya que este es un momento muy serio. Al pasar a la segunda semana de la pandemia COVID-19, quiero agradecerle sinceramente su apoyo a las Escuelas Públicas de Plainfield. Me gustaría agradecer especialmente a nuestro vendedor de alimentos Maschio's, por continuar sirviendo a nuestros estudiantes el desayuno y el almuerzo alrededor de Plainfield. También me gustaría dar las gracias a otros de nuestros socios que se han unido para proporcionar comidas a nuestras familias durante esta crisis.

En este momento, estamos esperando un anuncio del gobernador Murphy con respecto a un cierre extendido de nuestras escuelas; compartiremos información adicional tan pronto como la recibamos. Asegúrese de visitar el sitio web de nuestro Distrito diariamente para obtener actualizaciones al [www.plainfieldnj.k12.org](http://www.plainfieldnj.k12.org).

Recibimos algunas preguntas con respecto a las pruebas de asesoramiento académico impuestas por el estado. El viernes 20 de marzo, la Secretaria de Educación de los Estados Unidos, Betsy DeVos, anunció que **"las pruebas estandarizadas para las escuelas primarias y secundarias no serán necesarias este año escolar"**.

El Distrito seguirá tratando de hacer lo mejor bajo estas circunstancias durante esta pandemia sin precedentes y se concentrará en superar esto como una comunidad unificada. Si tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a la experiencia virtual de aprendizaje de su hijo, comuníquese con el director de la escuela de su hijo.

Cuídate, tu salud mental, tus hijos y tus familias

Sinceramente  
Diana Mitchell, Ed.D.  
Superintendente de Escuelas



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 24, 2020  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
Route To: Principals, District Test Coordinators, Staff Involved with Statewide Student Assessments  
From: Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Education

## **New Jersey Cancels Statewide Student Assessments**

Given the continued threat of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) to our school communities and the resulting school closures, Governor Phil Murphy today announced that the State of New Jersey is cancelling all statewide student assessments for the spring 2020 testing window. This includes the springtime administration of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA), ACCESS for ELLs, and the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment.

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has notified states that it will grant a waiver to any state that is unable to assess its students due to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing relief from federally mandated testing, accountability, and reporting requirements for this school year. With students unable to attend school due to the COVID-19-related closures, it is not feasible to move forward with statewide testing. As such, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has applied for the waiver and the USDE has granted approval of the waiver. Therefore, New Jersey will not be required to administer a statewide assessment for federal accountability purposes.

We acknowledge that cancelling statewide assessments will impact various aspects of education, including educator evaluations and certification, and school and district accountability. We recognize educators, students, and families will have questions. We are working to mitigate any unintended consequences, and we will work through multiple channels to keep stakeholders fully informed of updated guidance and other changes.

### **Graduation Options**

Cancellation of statewide assessments will not prevent students from meeting their graduation assessment requirements.

The NJDOE continues to process portfolio appeals for the small percentage of current seniors who have not yet met their graduation assessment requirement.

The NJDOE will make the NJSLA available in the summer or fall for current high school freshman, sophomores, and juniors (and middle school students taking high-school level courses) who may want to use the NJSLA high school assessments to meet their graduation assessment requirements.

Current juniors and sophomores also have access to the menu of alternate assessments (the SAT, etc.) and the portfolio appeal process as pathways to complete their [graduation assessment requirement](#). These students are not required to take the NJSLA to access the menu of alternate assessments or the portfolio appeal process.

Refer to the NJDOE's [COVID-19 webpage](#) for more information on these and other issues as it becomes available.

**Contact information**

We look forward to working with school districts through this unprecedented period. For questions or comments, please contact the NJDOE at [assessment@doe.nj.gov](mailto:assessment@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group