NJSLA Science Results: Spring 2022 Administrations

Quinton Township School
October 27, 2022

New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – Science (NJSLA-Science)

The NJSLA-Science:

- Is a federally required state assessment administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 11
- Provides a snapshot of student performance on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSLS-Science).
- Was developed in collaboration with NJ educators, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), and New Jersey's contracted science vendors
- Is significantly different from the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) because NJSLS-Science are more rigorous standards and NJSLA-Science focuses on the application of science knowledge and skills rather than memorization of content.

Comparison of Quinton Township School
Spring 2022 NJSLA Administrations
Science to New Jersey
Percentages for 2022

Grade	Level 1, District	Level 1, State	Level 2, District	Level 2, State	Level 3, District	Level 3, State	Level 4, District	Level 4, State	Percent of QTS students at level 3 and 4
5	36.0	41.6	36.0	32.9	28.0	18.2	0.0	7.4	28.0
8	51.5	40.9	39.4	43.5	9.1	12.0	0.0	3.6	9.1

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Quinton Township School
Number of Students Tested
in Spring 2022 NJSLA Administrations
Science

Grade	Students Tested 2022
5	25
8	33
Total	61

Note: "Students Tested" represents individual valid test scores for Science.

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Comparison of 2019 to 2022 Spring NJSLA School- & Grade-Level Outcomes

Science Grade 5 - Percentages

	Level 1 2019	Level 1 2022	Level 2 2019	Level 2 2022	Level 3 2019	Level 3 2022	Level 4 2019	Level 4 2022	Comparison % of students at Level 3 and 4
QTS	45.5	**51.5**	33.3	**39.4**	18.2	**9.1**	3.0	**0.0**	**-12.1%**

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Comparison of 2019 to 2022 Spring NJSLA School- & Grade-Level Outcomes

Science Grade 8- Percentages

	Level 1 2019	Level 1 2022	Level 2 2019	Level 2 2022	Level 3 2019	Level 3 2022	Level 4 2019	Level 4 2022	Comparison % of students at Level 3 and 4
QTS	27.8	**36.0**	63.9	**36.0**	8.3	**28.0**	0.0	**0.0**	**+19.7%**

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Notes:

- Science scores of students reflect their language arts scores, most are the same or very similar.
- The test itself is not content or standard based it is more interpreting and reading visual data.
- There is not a proficiency theme regarding the different areas of science, we are not particularly high or low in any specific unit of study. The only theme we see is that students who scored high in language arts were the ones who also scored higher on science.

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Intervention Strategies

- We will include more charts/graphs within our non-fiction texts in science and language arts.
- We will spend additional time on graphing and interpreting graphs in math/science.

Why did we need a new test?

- A new test was needed to measure the State's new, more rigorous science standards (NJSLS-Science) that are informing classroom instruction.
- The NJSLS-Science standards were adopted by the State in 2014. The timeline for transition to the new standards for districts required full implementation in grades 6-12 by September 2016 and full implementation in grades K-5 by September 2017.

When will the NJSLA-Science scores be utilized in NJQSAC?

- NJQSAC for school year 2022-2023 will be the second year in which results from the NJSLA-Science will be factored into NJQSAC, utilizing the results from the 2021-2022 administration of the assessment.

Does a student have to pass the NJSLA-Science to graduate?

- The NJSLA-Science is not a state graduation assessment requirement.

Why do NJSLA-Science scores look different from those of the previous state science tests?

- The NJSLA-Science assessment reflects new expectations outlined in the new science standards, the NJSLS-Science, which focuses on the application of science knowledge and skills.
- The prior assessment, New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK), emphasized the memorization of content.

How can schools and districts use data from the NJSLA-Science?

- The NJSLA-Science data should be used to evaluate the district's science curriculum and school and classroom instruction.
- This data, in combination with classroom level data collected through formative, summative, and benchmark assessments, can provide schools and districts feedback on students' strengths and weaknesses with particular skills.
- The reports can be used as a catalyst for conversation and exploration of questions such as, but not limited to;
  - What do the patterns in the data suggest about the effectiveness of our program for English Language Learners, students who receive special education services, gifted and talented, general education students, and/or students who qualify for free or reduced lunches?
  - What do the patterns in the data suggest about the allocation of time and resources to our science program?

What resources are available for further support?

- The NJDOE Office of Standards has a repository of various resources to help support educators and districts with the implementation of the NJSLS-Science:
  - https://www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/science/mc.htm
- NJSLA-Science practice tests are also available online at the following site:
  - https://measinc-nj-science.com/
- The NJDOE plans to continue to develop additional resources, such as K-12 instructional units based on the 2023 NJSLS-Science and connect educators with free resources and course materials.