NJSLA Science Results: Spring 2019 Administration

Lakehurst Elementary School District
April 28, 2020

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.

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.

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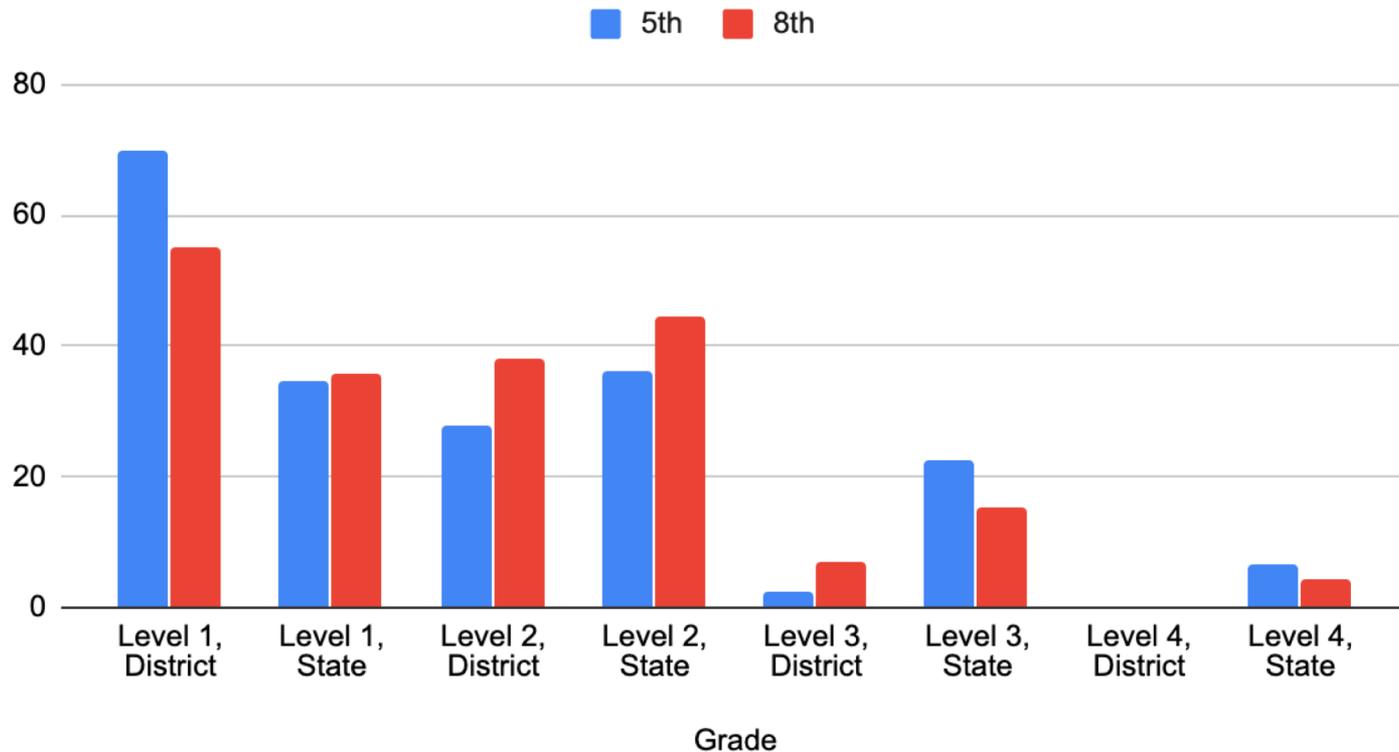
How can schools and districts use data from the NJSLA-Science?

- 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?

5

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Baseline Data 2018-2019

Lakehurst Elementary School
Number of Students Tested
in Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations
Science

Grade	Students Tested 2019
5	44 (1 record excluded)
8	29
11	n/a
Total	73

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

Comparison of Lakehurst Elementary School
Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations
Science to New Jersey
Percentages for 2019

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
5	69.8	**34.8**	27.9	**36.0**	2.3	**22.7**	0	**6.6**
8	55.2	**35.7**	37.9	**44.5**	6.9	**15.3**	0	**4.5**
11	n/a	**49.0**	n/a	**23.6**	n/a	**19.5**	n/a	**7.8**

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Baseline data

- Less than 25% of NJ students passed this assessment

  - Less than 30% of 5th grade students
  - Less than 20% of 8th grade students
  - Approximately 7% of Lakehurst students scored at Level 3 or 4.
  - Overwhelming majority of NJ and Lakehurst students recorded scores at Level 1 and Level 2.

- 2018-19 Student Data will be the only data districts have until 2021

  - No testing was conducted in 2019-20 due to COVID-19 emergency
  - New NJSLA-Science Data will not be reported until Spring of 2022!

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Notable Achievements

- All students tested----no parent/guardian refusals.

- 8th Grade Science School Scaled Score Average (150) is comparable to State Scaled Score Average (165)

- Economically disadvantaged students outperformed School Average

- Students with disabilities in 8th grade outperformed typically developing students

Lakehurst Elementary School
Intervention Strategies

- Offer greater opportunities for lab time

- Camp Invention

- Cross-curricular planning and integration of content

- Targeted assistance offered through Title I programming

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ

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

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

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

- NJQSAC for school year 2021-2022 will be the first year in which results from the NJSLA-Science will be factored into NJQSAC, utilizing the results from the 2020-2021 administration of the assessment.

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 2020 NJSLS-Science and connect educators with free resources and course materials.