NJSLA Science Results: Spring 2019 Administrations

Cherry Hill Public Schools
May 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.

NJDOE Frequently Asked Questions (*and NJDOE answers*)

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.

Other NJDOE FAQs

- Question: When will the NJSLA-Science scores be utilized in NJQSAC?
  - Answer: 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.
- Question: Does a student have to pass the NJSLA-Science to graduate?
  - Answer: The NJSLA-Science is not a state graduation assessment requirement.

The NJSLA-Science Individual Student Report

Introductory Information

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FIRSTNAME M. LASTNAME
Spring 2019 Grade: 5
SID: **0123456789** DOB: **01/01/9999**
Local Student Identification: **0123456789**
SAMPLE DISTRICT NAME
SAMPLE SCHOOL NAME

New Jersey Student Learning Assessment - Science (NJSLA-S)
Individual Student Report

This report shows how FIRSTNAME performed on the [elementary/middle/high] school science assessment. **This assessment is just one measure of how well your child is performing academically.**

To learn more about the test and to view sample questions and practice tests, visit the Score Interpretation Guide (SIG) at www.measinc.com/nj/science.

How Can You Use This Report?

Ask your child's teachers:

- What do you see as my child's academic strengths and areas for improvement?
- How will you use these test results to help my child make progress this school year?

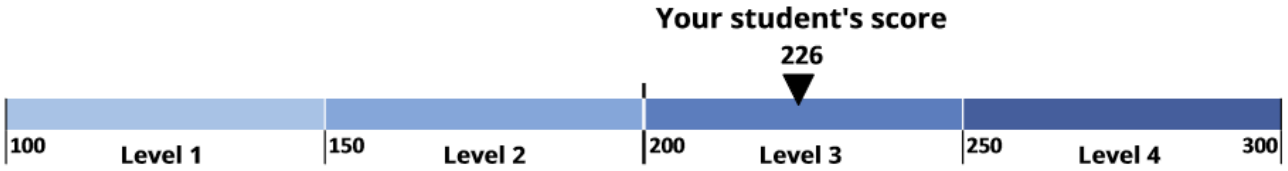
Overall Score Information

How did **FIRSTNAME** perform on the NJSLA-S?

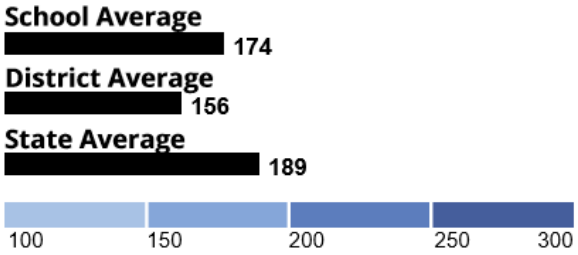
Your student's score: **226**

Performance: **Level 3**

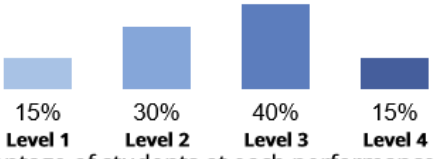
Level 1 (100 – 149)
Level 2 (150 – 199)
Level 3 (200 – 249)
Level 4 (250 – 300)



FIRSTNAME's score on the NJSLA-S indicates that your student is at Level 3.
Students who are at Level 3 demonstrated appropriate grade-level understanding of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards-Science (NJSLS-S) by comprehending information from a variety of sources (e.g., text, charts, graphs, tables) and applying the knowledge gained from scientific investigations to develop accurate explanations and models of observed phenomena. The students often chose and used the appropriate tools to make observations and to gather, classify, and present data. The students used both essential and non-essential information to recognize patterns and relationships between data and designed systems. The students were able to use information to make real-world connections and predictions.



How Students Statewide Performed



Percentage of students at each performance level

Performance Using Domains and Practices

How did your student perform using the domains and practices?

The domains are the content components related to specific disciplines of science.

Earth & Space Science

Your student's performance is **Below Expectations**.

A student designated as Near/Met Expectations demonstrates knowledge of the processes that operate on and within the Earth and also its place in the solar system and galaxy.

Life Science

Your student's performance is **Above Expectations**.

A student designated as Near/Met Expectations demonstrates knowledge of patterns, processes, and relationships of living organisms.

The practices are methods by which scientists investigate and build models and theories about the world.

Investigating Practices

Your student's performance is **Above Expectations**.

A student designated as Near/Met Expectations asks questions, plans and carries out investigations based on observations of phenomena, and organizes the data effectively.

Sensemaking Practices

Your student's performance is **Below Expectations**.

A student designated as Near/Met Expectations recognizes patterns and relationships in data to develop explanations or models of the phenomena.

Performance Using Domains and Practices

Physical Science

Your student's performance is **Above Expectations**.

A student designated as Near/Met Expectations demonstrates knowledge of the mechanisms of cause and effect in all systems and processes that can be understood through a common set of physical and chemical processes.

Critiquing Practices

Your student's performance is **Near/Met Expectations.**

A student designated as Near/Met Expectations evaluates and creates arguments regarding different explanations and claims to convey a deeper understanding of the natural world.

How will my student's school use the test results?
Results from the test give your student's teacher information about his/her academic performance. The results also give your school and school district important information to make improvements to the education program and to teaching.

Learn more about the New Jersey Learning Standards
Explore your school website, or ask your principal, for information on your school's annual assessment schedule; the curriculum chosen by your district to give students more hands-on learning experiences that meet state standards; and to learn more about how test results contribute to school improvements. You can also learn more about New Jersey's K-12 standards at https://www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/science/.

Districts may assign Not Tested or Void codes for students that did not receive a scale score. For more information see the Score Interpretation Guide at www.measinc.com/nj/science.

Spring 2019 NJSLA-Science Cherry Hill Letter to Parents

Cherry Hill
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace, P.O. Box 5015
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-0391
(856) 429-5600 Fax (856) 354-1864

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In the spring of 2019, your child participated in the first year of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment for Science (NJSLA-Science). The NJSLA-Science is administered to all New Jersey public school students in grades 5, 8 and 11. It provides information to parents, educators, school districts and the New Jersey Department of Education about how students are performing on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSLS-Science).

This new test was needed to measure the state's new, more rigorous science standards (NJSLS-Science) that are informing classroom instruction. These standards focus on the skills students need in the real world, such as critical thinking, analyzing, and problem solving.

If your child took the NJSLA-Science test in the Cherry Hill School District during the spring of 2019, an Individual Student Report (ISR) is uploaded into the **Genesis Parent Portal** under the **Documents Tab** for your review. This report helps parents/guardians and educators understand their child's performance in Science. The report also includes charts and graphics that show you how well your child is performing in specific skills and how your child's performance compares to other students in their school, district and state.

Reviewing the results from statewide testing can be a helpful tool in measuring your child's progress with the NJSLS-Science. It is just one of the many ways your child's teachers and administrators can measure student performance. The scores from this first year of the assessment set a new baseline from which science performance in New Jersey schools will be measured moving forward.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact your building principal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Farrah Mahan
Director of Curriculum

Spring 2019 NJSLA-Science Cherry Hill Results

NJSLA Science Performance Levels

- **Level 1** – Demonstrate a minimal understanding of NJ Student Learning Standards
- **Level 2** – Demonstrate a limited grade-level understanding of NJ Student Learning Standards
- **Level 3** – Demonstrate appropriate grade-level understanding of NJ Student Learning Standards
- **Level 4** – Demonstrate advanced understanding of NJ Student Learning Standards
- Students performing at Level 3 and Level 4 are considered proficient and above

Comparison of Cherry Hill's
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	Level 3 or 4, District	Level 3 or 4, State
5	24.5	**34.8**	37.2	**36.0**	28.7	**22.7**	9.5	**6.6**	38.3	**29.3**
8	27.6	**35.7**	44.4	**44.5**	19.8	**15.3**	8.2	**4.5**	28.0	**19.8**
11	44.2	**49.0**	24.9	**23.6**	23.2	**19.5**	7.7	**7.8**	31.0	**27.3**

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Cherry Hill's
Number of Students Tested
in Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations
Science

Grade	Students Tested 2019
5	807
8	858
11	736
Total	2,401

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

Cherry Hill's
2019 Spring NJSLA School- & Grade-Level Outcomes
Science Grade 5 - Percentages

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	% of Students at Level 3 and 4
Barton	25.3	37.9	27.6	9.2	36.8
Cooper	27.5	37.5	25.0	10.0	35.0
Harte	13.5	33.8	37.8	14.9	52.7
Johnson	35.8	39.5	18.5	6.2	24.7
Kilmer	28.9	39.2	22.7	9.3	32.0
Kingston	32.9	37.1	27.1	2.9	30.0
District	24.5	37.2	28.7	9.5	38.3
State	34.8	36.0	22.7	6.6	29.3

Data reported on an attending school basis.

Cherry Hill's
2019 Spring NJSLA School- & Grade-Level Outcomes
Science Grade 5 - Percentages

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	% of Students at Level 3 and 4
Knight	16.4	32.7	34.5	16.4	50.9
Mann	29.5	39.3	27.9	3.3	31.1
Paine	30.0	33.3	31.7	5.0	36.7
Sharp	10.1	40.6	31.9	17.4	49.3
Stockton	20.4	40.8	34.7	4.1	38.8
Woodcrest	16.7	35.0	31.7	16.7	48.3
District	24.5	37.2	28.7	9.5	38.3
State	34.8	36.0	22.7	6.6	29.3

Data reported on an attending school basis.

Cherry Hill's
2019 Spring NJSLA School- & Grade-Level Outcomes
Science Grade 8 - Percentages

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	% of Students at Level 3 and 4
Beck	23.4	41.7	23.4	11.5	34.9
Carusi	42.7	46.7	8.9	1.7	10.6
Rosa	12.2	45.9	29.7	12.2	41.9
District	27.6	44.4	19.8	8.2	28.0
State	35.7	44.5	15.3	4.5	19.8

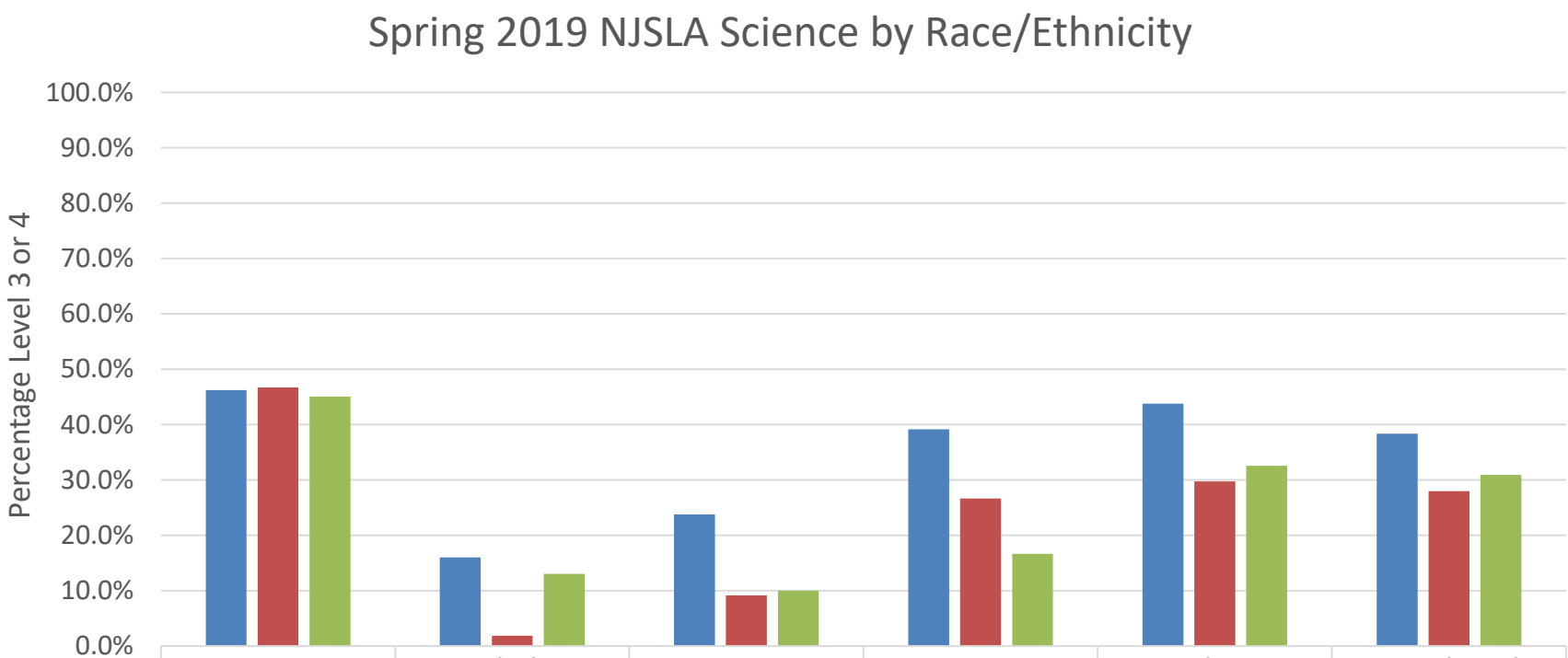
Data reported on an attending school basis.

Cherry Hill's
2019 Spring NJSLA School- & Grade-Level Outcomes
Science Grade 11 - Percentages

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	% of Students at Level 3 and 4
East	36.1	25.7	27.6	10.6	38.2
West	55.8	24.8	16.8	2.7	19.5
AHS	86.7	13.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
District	44.2	24.9	23.2	7.7	31.0
State	49.0	23.6	19.5	7.8	27.3

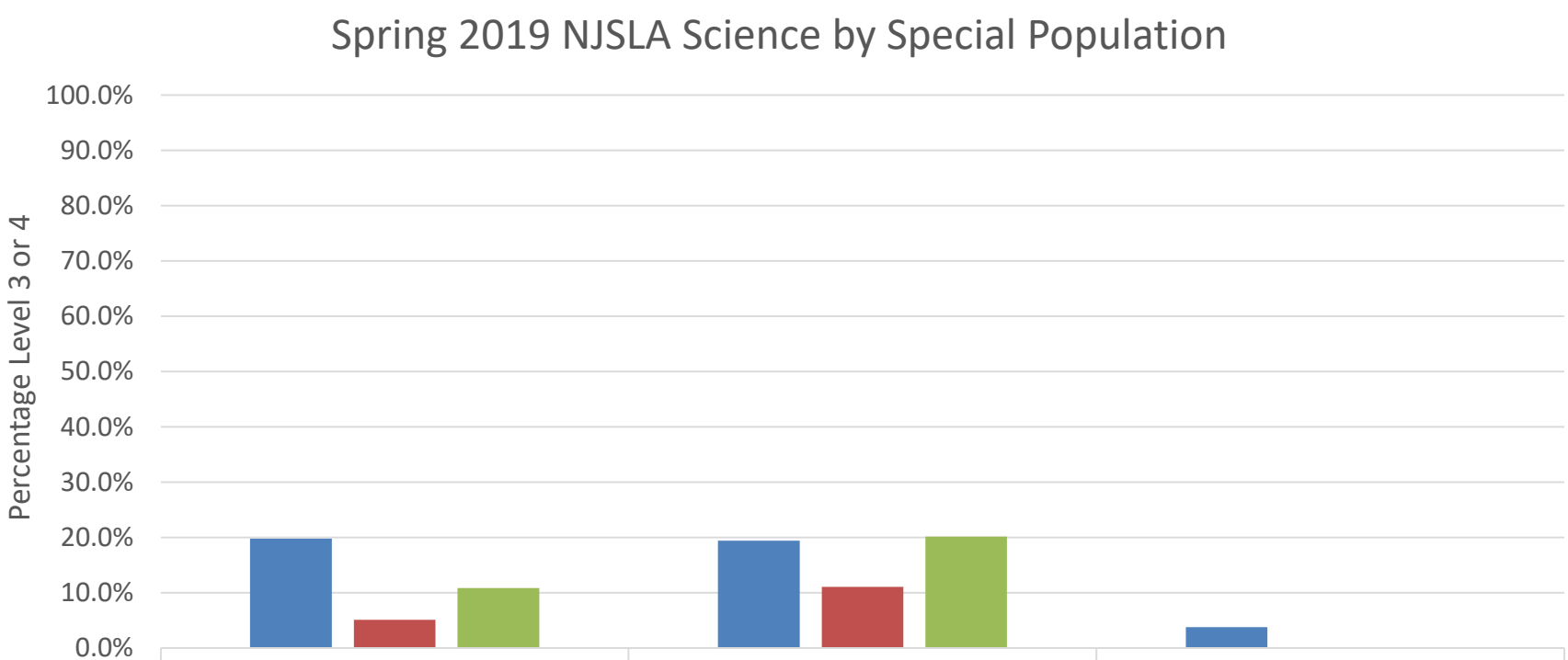
Data reported on an attending school basis.

Cherry Hill's Subgroup Charts



	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Two or More	White	Grand Total
Grade 5	46.2%	16.0%	23.8%	39.1%	43.8%	38.3%
Grade 8	46.7%	1.9%	9.2%	26.7%	29.7%	28.0%
Grade 11	45.1%	13.0%	10.0%	16.7%	32.6%	30.9%

Cherry Hill's Subgroup Charts



	IEP	Econ Dis	ELL
Grade 5	19.8%	19.4%	3.8%
Grade 8	5.1%	11.0%	0.0%
Grade 11	10.9%	20.2%	0.0%

Cherry Hill's Results
In Summary

- NJSLA – Science is significantly different from the NJASK because the current state science standards are more rigorous standards and NJSLA-Science focuses on the application of science knowledge and skills rather than memorization of content.
- Because of the increased rigor of the standards and the assessment, scores of the 2019 NJSLA-Science were lower than the scores of the previous state science assessments.
- District Averages for every grade level were well above the State average.

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

QUESTIONS?