

**Hamilton Township School District**  
**Grades 3-8**  
**New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK)**

The NJASK assessment is administered annually in April and May to all New Jersey Public School students in grades 3-8. Hamilton Township School District will administer the NJASK as reflected on the current district school year calendar.

**Description of the NJASK**

The New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) is the state test for students in grades 3 through 8. It is designed to give your school information about how well your children are achieving in the areas required by New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards. The standards were adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education after a public process that enlisted the help and advice of many educators, business representatives, and interested citizens.

The NJ ASK should be a rewarding experience for children. It will provide useful information about your child's knowledge and skills. Total scores as well as sub-scores for major knowledge areas and skills will be reported in each content area. For example, in Mathematics, in addition to a total test score, each student will receive a sub-score for the clusters of questions that require numerical operations, geometry and measurement, data analysis, and the ability to work with patterns and algebra. We believe the experience gained from taking this test will help your children when they take the state's tests at other grade levels, including the state's high school graduation test and end of course tests.

**Who will be tested?**

The NJ ASK is designed to measure how well your children are achieving the Core Curriculum Content Standards. This includes most children with educational disabilities and most children whose English language skills are limited. Students with disabilities will be working toward achieving the standards at whatever level is appropriate for them and with whatever supports they need, such as large-print type. These supports would be defined in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or plans required under Section 504. It is important for as many children with disabilities as possible to participate in the NJ ASK. These students can use accommodations and modifications approved by the NJDOE to help them demonstrate what they know and are able to do. Accommodations and modifications used during NJ ASK testing should be the same as those used by these students in other classroom testing. Every student with disabilities must take each subject area of the NJ ASK. Decisions about the state assessment and accommodations and modifications are made by an IEP or 504 team.

**How can my child prepare for the NJ ASK?**

Parents can always help by making sure their children eat well and get plenty of sleep. This is especially true at testing time. Parents should support their children in all academic work. Children should be provided with time and a quiet place to do homework. Parents and children should make opportunities to read to each other. Children should be encouraged to talk about school and homework and to communicate and express ideas to their parents.

**How can I receive more information about the NJ ASK?**

The New Jersey Department of Education has developed materials to help parents and teachers prepare students for the NJ ASK. The Department of Education offers four sources of information about the NJ ASK.

1. Website: <http://www.state.nj.us/education>
2. Office of Publications
3. Office of Assessments (609-341-3456)
4. Mailing address: New Jersey Department of Education  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500