

## **NJASA Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting Notes – November 19, 2009**

In attendance were: Dr. Kathleen F. Fuchs, Chairperson, Jefferson Township, Morris county; Judith Ann Rattner, NJASA Officer Liaison, Berkeley Heights, Union County; Dr. Richard G. Bozza, Executive Director, Linda A. Martensen, Director, Professional Development, NJASA Staff; Dr. Jerilyn M. Caprio, Allendale, Bergen county; Joseph Langowski, Maple Shade Township, Dr. Christopher M. Manno, Burlington Township, Burlington county; Brian J. Betze, Berlin Township, Geraldine R. Carroll, Lindenwold, Camden county; Dr. Thomasina Jones, Bridgeton, Cumberland county; Nancy Gartenberg, South Hunterdon, Hunterdon county; Everett C. Burns, Hampton Township, Sussex county; Dr. Marilyn E. Birnbaum, North Plainfield, Somerset county; Dr. Timothy Peters, Director, Office of Assessment, NJDOE; and Stan Karp, Director, Secondary Reform Project, Education Law Center.

1. Committee members were welcomed. Dr. Timothy Peters, NJDOE Office of Assessment and Mr. Stanley Karp, Education Law Center, Secondary Reform Project were introduced.
2. Dr. Peters highlighted information regarding Alternate High School Assessment (formerly known as the SRA) including:
  - a. Since NCLB the testing population as grown.
  - b. Assessment is more efficiently accomplished with a lower cost – even with the increase in population.
  - c. Formative assessments are a work in progress as well as activities related to performance assessment. Because of budgetary implications the formative assessments and the ASK in the native language (Spanish) are vulnerable.
  - d. To save “SRA” NJDOE worked to improve perceptions regarding validation and credibility.
  - e. HSPA will be phased out and replaced with end of year tests. This is now “open to evolution” depending upon the new administration. NJDOE is currently following policy and plans until directed to do otherwise.
  - f. 2011 – Algebra I
    - i. All districts will pilot this year.
  - g. AHSA (formerly SRA) will be impacted by the end of course model.
  - h. New process will begin in December
    - i. NJ Teachers will be trained to score in regional centers
    - ii. Two windows for PATS
    - iii. A summer window will be added (in July).

3. Mr. Stan Karp provided information about high school exit exams and the SRA
  - a. Of the 50 states 26 have exit exams, 24 do not. (NY, NJ & MA have exit exams).
  - b. Of the 26 states that have exit exams 19 have alternatives (e.g. substituting an SAT scores, grade point average, etc.) Two have an SRA like process (NJ and Maryland).
  - c. In NJ there are currently 100,000 individuals 18-24 year olds who are not working and have not graduated from high school.
  - d. Algebra I becomes a graduation requirement in 2014.
  - e. The "diploma penalty" will be linked to end of course exams.
  - f. Biology exam – in 3<sup>rd</sup> year of pilot testing; is a requirement for the Class of 2012.
  - g. ELC activities related to SRA.
    - i. ELC is looking for SRA data "anonymously" from NJ high schools. Anyone who may have information that is useful should contact Mr. Karp.
    - ii. A3692/S2574 are bills that would require examination of the "phase 1" impact (Algebra 1 and Biology) as tests are implemented.
  
4. Copies of the PowerPoint presented by Mr. Karp and one referenced by Dr. Peters are included as attachments.

The SRA, HS Exit Exams and  
New Jersey Secondary Reform

NJASA

November 19, 2009

Stan Karp, Education Law Center

skarp@edlawcenter.org

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NJ's Assessment System is  
Changing

- o Proficiency Levels Raised for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades
- o NCLB Benchmarks Increasing (2011)
- o End of Course Exams Coming
- o AHSA Replaces SRA
- o New federal & state initiatives

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HS Exit Exams (HSEE)

- o 26 states have HSEE
- o 24 states do not
- o Of the 26 w/HSEE, 19 have alternatives
- o Some substitute other test scores/GPAs
- o Some allow for graduation portfolios
- o A few involve alternative diplomas
- o Two (NJ/Md.) had locally scored alternatives

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### HSEE Issues

- Where to set cut score/proficiency levels?
- Impact on achievement levels?
- High stakes for diploma or % of course grades?
- Impact on post-school outcomes/grad rates/dropout rates?
- Research mixed, but cause for concern

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### NJ Background

- High HS graduation rates
- Relatively high NAEP scores
- Relatively high college participation & completion rates

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### SRA as a 'backdoor diploma'

- Less 'rigorous' than HSPA
- Too many chances to pass (3 HSPA, unlimited SRA)
- Too many administrative/procedural loopholes
  - Using same PATs for both instruction & test
  - Uncertain reliability of local scoring
  - Overuse beyond original intentions

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## SRA misconceptions/fallacies

- o SRA was a 'local' standard/test
- o No one failed SRA
- o Only students who passed HSPA should be counted in NJ graduation rates
- o HSPA was a more reliable indicator than SRA of future success & college preparation
- o SRA 'diplomas' were worthless

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## Recent SRA Background

August, 2005 State Bd. Resolution  
 March 2008 State Bd. Resolution  
 SRA Advisory Group Recommendations  
 (1/09)

- o Audit system rejected
- o Measurement, Inc. hired

NJDOE Rolls Out New AHSA Process  
 (8/09)

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## Who Graduates through SRA?

Statewide Totals for Students Graduating Through SRA

	Year	General Ed	ELL/LEP	Sp Ed	Total
	1999	6599	1219	147	7925
<b>HSPY</b>	2000	6818	1364	226	8408
	2001	7572	1460	194	9226
	2002	7613	1675	260	9548
<b>HSPA</b>	2003	12566	1617	463	14646
	2004	13397	1353	581	15331
	2005	13826	1208	627	15661
	2006	11581	1128	579	13288
	2007	10015	1109	623	11747
	2008	9752	1150	611	11513
					11653

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### SRA Data

- o About 12% of NJ graduates use SRA
- o 1 of 3 urban graduates use SRA
- o 105 Schools Have Over 10% SRA Grads
- o SRA is Statewide Issue (58% non-Abbott)
- o Most (68%) Use SRA for Math
- o Total SRA Students Dropped By 5000 from 2005-09

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### Suggested Revisions to Initial Guidelines

- o Add a summer administration window
- o Open second administration window to all students
- o Return January results earlier
- o Make provision for native language populations
- o Allow some district flexibility in dates for administrative windows

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### Suggested District Steps

- o Maintain SRA Instructional programs for students re-tested in October
- o Alert students/families about new limits on SRA option
- o Contact NJDOE/State Board re suggested revisions to guidelines.
- o Document impact of new AHSA  
(ex. change in # students using AHSA, impact on grad/dropout rates, outcomes for individual students & groups)

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### Larger SRA/AHSA Issues

- What explains 33% decline in SRA use?
- How do post-school outcomes compare for HSPA/SRA/Dropouts?
- What are impact/costs of restricting alternative pathways to graduation?
- Will there be disparate impact on some groups of students/communities?
- How will move to EOC exams affect availability of alternative pathways?

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### Pending NJ Assessment Plans

- Pilot tests in Spring 2010
  - Biology
  - Algebra I
  - Algebra II
- Require Biology & Algebra I for graduation w/class of 2012 (11/Jrs.)
- Set cut scores/proficiency levels
- Still framed as HSPA

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### NJ Algebra I Exam

- 28,500 Students took Spring 09 exam(27% of all Algebra I students)
- 19% met Achieve levels for proficient or advanced proficient
- 26% basic 55% below basic
- All current Algebra I students must take 2010 exam
- Cut score must be set
- Required for graduation beginning 2011 (juniors)

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## Biology Exam

- Third year of pilot testing Spring 2010
- Scale scores & proficiency levels to be set
- Performance Section Scoring Moved to MI
- Will be a graduation requirement for class of 2012 (Juniors take in 2011)
- No ASHA/alternative in place

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## Future of Alternatives?

- 'As the department phases in competency assessments to replace the various components of the HSPA, there will be an alternative way for students to demonstrate competency.'
- <http://www.state.nj.us/education/ser/faq/>

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## Future of Alternatives?

- 'Officials in New Jersey recommended that states proactively connect with and consult relevant stakeholders in the early stage of developing alternate pathways to graduation so their approach can be scrutinized through multiple perspectives, preventing unnecessary complications for implementation.'

\* ○ Center on Education Policy report on State HSEE, November, 2009 \*

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### 'NJ Secondary Education Redesign Review Act'

- o A3692/S2574
- o Provides 'opportunity to learn guarantee' to students re new graduation tests
- o Requires evaluation report on 'Phase I' impact (Algebra I/Bio) additional graduation requirements/tests are implemented

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### Opportunity to learn provision

- o 'No student [shall] be required to pass a competency assessment to receive a State-endorsed high school diploma until the Department of Education has demonstrated that all students have access to the qualified teaching personnel and academic support necessary to prepare the students for such assessments.'

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### Phase I Evaluation

- o Requires NJDOE report to legislature, including:
  - Changes in course enrollments (Bio/Alg I/Eng.)
  - Pass/fail rates
  - Staff/facilities impact (including prof. dev.)
  - Identification of successful interventions/supports/personalization strategies
  - Report on impact/costs/challenges
  - Projections of costs/concerns for Phase II & III
- o Phase II & III shall not be implemented unless Phase I report 'demonstrates that school districts have the capacity to implement the requirements.'

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## NJ Secondary Education Redesign Review Act

<p><b>Assembly Sponsors</b>                  Asw. Miia Jasey D-Dis#27  <a href="mailto:AswJasey@njleg.org">AswJasey@njleg.org</a>                  Asw. Joan Voss D-Dis#38  <a href="mailto:AswVoss@njleg.org">AswVoss@njleg.org</a>                  Asm Ruben Ramos Jr. D-Dis#33  <a href="mailto:AsmRamos@njleg.org">AsmRamos@njleg.org</a>                  Asw. E. Evans D-Dis#35  <a href="mailto:AswEvans@njleg.org">AswEvans@njleg.org</a>                  Asw. E. Evans D-Dis#35  <a href="mailto:AswEvans@njleg.org">AswEvans@njleg.org</a>                  Asw.V.Huttle D-Dis#37  <a href="mailto:AswHuttle@njleg.org">AswHuttle@njleg.org</a></p>	<p>Asw. C. Wagner D-Dis#38  <a href="mailto:AswWagner@njleg.org">AswWagner@njleg.org</a>                  Asm P.Diegnan D-Dis.#18  <a href="mailto:AsmDiegnan@njleg.org">AsmDiegnan@njleg.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Senate Sponsors</b></p> Sen. Ron Rice D-Dis.#28 <a href="mailto:SenRice@njleg.org">SenRice@njleg.org</a> Sen Teresa Ruiz D.-Dis.#29 <a href="mailto:SenRuiz@njleg.org">SenRuiz@njleg.org</a>
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## Possible Action Steps

- o Support HS Redesign Review Act A3692/S2574
- o Document impact of HS graduation/SRA reforms on dropout/grad rates at school, district & state levels.
- o Monitor development of new assessments including policies/stakes for new exams. Press for high quality performance alternatives
- o Advocate for the reforms & resources needed to improve outcomes for all students.

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## Follow up

- o Send district contact for SRA to [skarp@edlawcenter.org](mailto:skarp@edlawcenter.org) 973-684-1815 x 28
- o Share/pool data on impact through ELC
- o Join High Redesign List Serve: <http://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/highschoolredesigninfo> \*
- o Monitor related assessment issues

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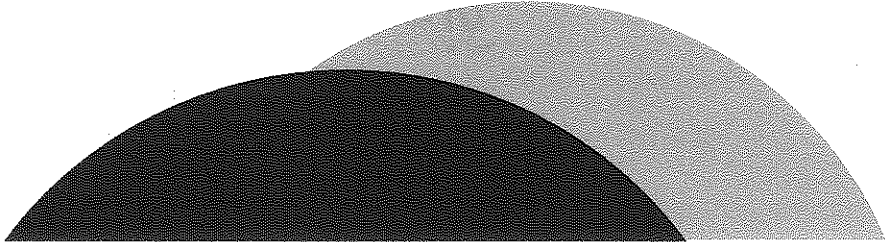
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**THE NEW SPECIAL REVIEW  
ASSESSMENT (SRA): AN  
INFORMATIONAL UPDATE FOR  
ADMINISTRATORS FOR 2009-2010**

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Timothy Peters, Director  
Office of State Assessments

Faye Ball, SRA Program Coordinator  
Office of State Assessments

September 2009  
New Jersey Department of Education



# The SRA Context

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- In recent years, 11,000-15,700 students have achieved their diploma via the SRA, most of them general education students;
- 68% of SRA profiles completed are in mathematics, 32% in LAL.
- In some schools a majority of seniors graduate via the SRA;
- Most students who go through the SRA process “pass” the SRA;

## The SRA Context, cont.

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- The SRA has been long criticized as a “back door” to a high school diploma;
- 2005 - the State Board adopted a resolution calling for the elimination of the SRA;
- March 2008 - the State Board adopted the department’s proposal to improve the SRA by reforming the SRA administration process;
- This means tightening up of the administrative and scoring procedures;
- *Retaining the SRA in its current form is not an option.*

# Some Basic SRA Data

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Total Students Using SRA to Fulfill  
Graduation Testing Requirement For One  
or Both Content Areas

<u>Year</u>	<u>N-Count</u>
○ 2004	15,351
○ 2005	15,669
○ 2006	13,288
○ 2007	11,747
○ 2008	11,513
○ 2009	11,653

# SRA Data: 2009 Rates by County

<u>County</u>	<u>N-Count</u>	<u>Total = 11,653</u>
○ Essex	1714	
○ Hudson	1629	
○ Union	1049	
○ Passaic	982	
○ Middlesex	879	
○ Camden	809	
○ Ocean	668	
○ Monmouth	584	
○ Bergen	582	
○ Atlantic	513	
○ Mercer	493	
○ Burlington	491	
○ Cumberland	247	
○ Gloucester	225	
○ Somerset	222	
○ Morris	209	
○ Salem	91	
○ Warren	79	
○ Sussex	76	
○ Hunterdon	70	
○ Cape May	41	



# SRA Data - District SRA Survey 2008

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High schools with SRA usage rates of 10% or more in 2008 were required to submit detailed information about their SRA student population:

- 105 schools met or exceeded the 10% threshold;
- This requirement will be repeated this year (based on the class of 2009 cohort).



# SRA Data - District SRA 2008 Surveys

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**A majority of SRA students are taking college preparatory courses:**

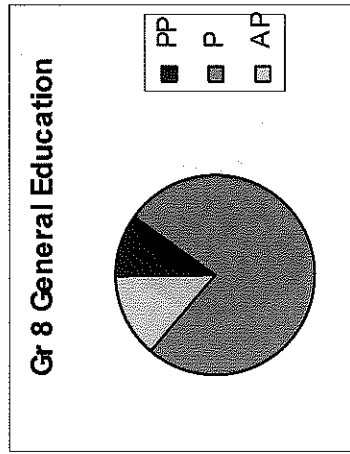
<u>Course</u>	<u>% of SRA Students Taking/Have Taken</u>
Algebra I	90%
Geometry	86%
Algebra II	71%
Biology	91%
Chemistry	57%
Physics	10%
College Prep English 12	63%
Honors/AP English	9%

## SRA Data - District SRA 2008 Surveys

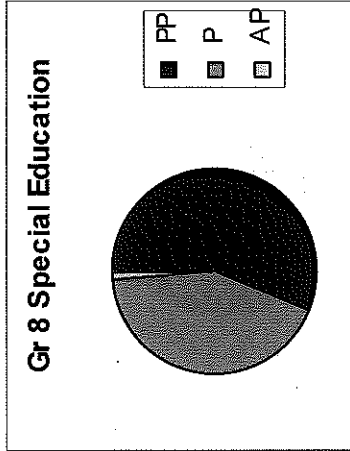
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- Almost 20% of schools reported that some classes were taught by teachers who were not certified in the subject area;
- Students who fail the NJ ASK8 are likely to fail the HSPA (see graphs on following slides);
- Most schools had programs in place to use NJ ASK8 scores to identify at-risk students; 12 schools had no such programs in place.

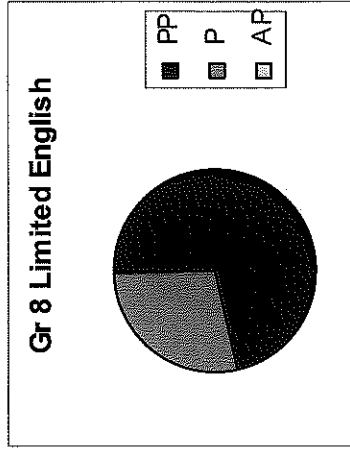
# 2008 Grades 8 & 11\* LAL Results by Program Group



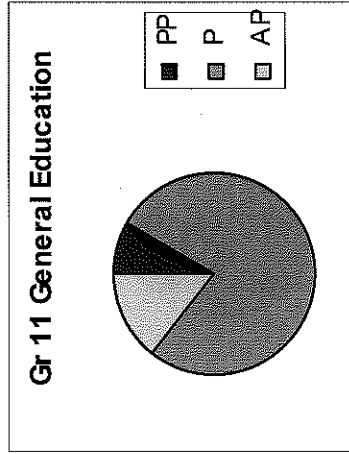
PP 10% P 76% AP 14%



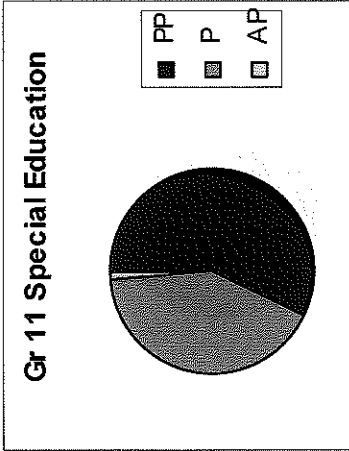
PP 56% P 43% AP 1%



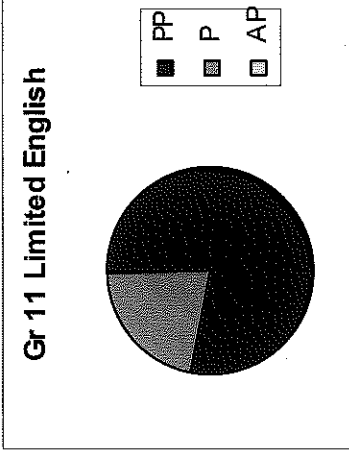
PP 72% P 28% AP 0%



PP 8% P 77% AP 15%



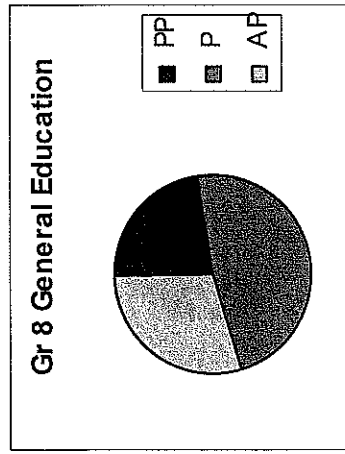
PP 57% P 42% AP 1%



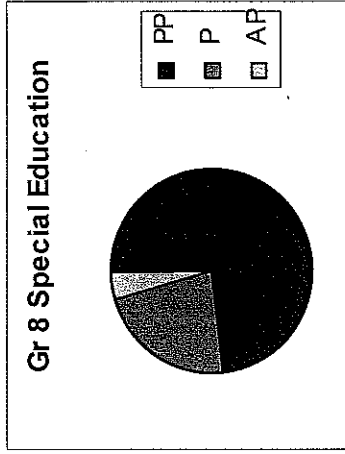
PP 78% P 22% AP 0%

\*First time test-takers

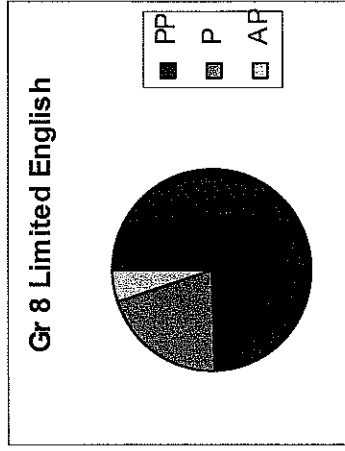
# 2008 Grades 8 & 11\* Math Results by Program Group



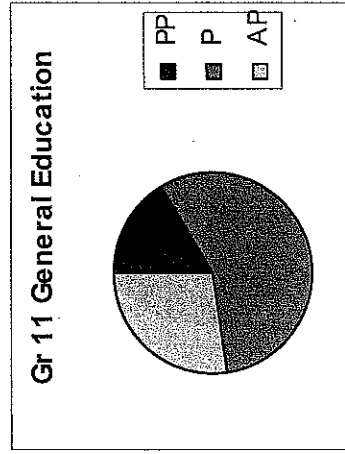
PP 23% P 47% AP 29%



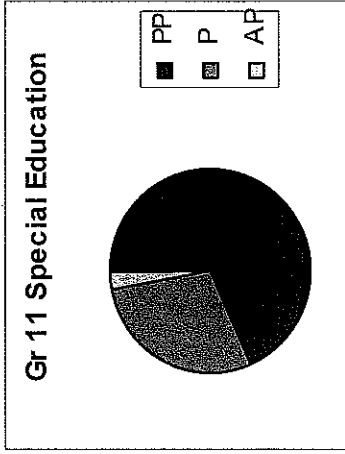
PP 73% P 23% AP 4%



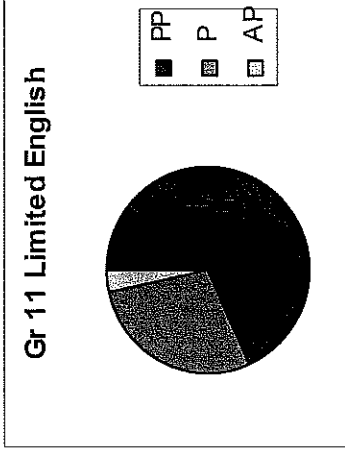
PP 74% P 20% AP 5%



PP 16% P 56% AP 28%



PP 68% P 29% AP 3%



PP 68% P 28% AP 4%

\* First time test takers



## The New SRA

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- We are here today to talk about what the SRA will look like in 2009-2010 and beyond;
- We can identify the fundamental principles that will apply;
- We will provide some of the details about how this process will work;
- Other details will be provided in the coming weeks.



## The New SRA: Core Principles

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- The new SRA is not about “getting students through” - it’s about assuring that all students are prepared for success in their post-secondary lives;
- The SRA “problem” is not a testing issue but a learning and teaching issue, and math learning issue especially.



## The New SRA: Administrative Principles

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- The SRA will continue to be administered locally - however;
- Students will not take SRA PATs until after the October HSPA scores are in (i.e., early January);
- Students will not have unlimited opportunities to complete PATs;
- There will be two PAT administration windows, one in January, the other in April.



## The New SRA: Administrative Principles

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- The scoring will be conducted at regional centers organized by the NJ testing vendor, staffed with NJ teachers recruited and trained by the vendor;
- The SRA vendor will report results following each administration window, in time to inform graduation decisions.



# The New SRA Process – Key

## Details (tentative dates – to be confirmed)

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- First PAT administration window: January 6-28, 2010;
- Second window: April 12-30, 2010;
- At the start of each administrative window, districts will download a set of PATS from the state vendor's web site: 6 LAL PATs (3 reading, 3 writing) and 8 Math PATs (2 per cluster);
- From among these PATs, during first administration window district will select and administer 4 LAL PATs and/or 5 Math PATs to each SRA student;
- Students must successfully complete 3 LAL PATs (including one writing PAT) and 4 math PATs (1 per cluster) to meet SRA requirements.

# The New SRA Process – Key Details

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- Vendor will supply scannable student PAT answer documents and pre-ID labels in advance;
- Districts will ship student responses to state vendor, using prepaid labels provided;
- Vendor will distribute student responses to scoring centers and develop online score reports;
- During second window, districts will administer additional PATs, as needed, from a second selection of PATs – only students who did not “pass” the January SRA administration will participate in the second window;
- District staff will certify security of administration process and proper return of secure SRA materials.

# The New SRA Process – Key Details

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## SCORING

- Vendor will recruit, hire, and train scorers from among New Jersey teachers;
- DOE will expect districts to release teachers for this purpose and encourage their participation;
- Substitute stipends (\$120 per day) will be paid districts; teachers working weekends will receive stipends directly, if local policy allows;
- Teachers will not be scoring their own students.

# SRA Timeline 2009-2010

(Draft a/o 8/26/09))

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- September 2009: SRA Instructional Program
  - October 6-15, 2009: HSPA retest administration
  - December 18, 2009: Districts receive October 2009 HSPA scores
  - December 18-January 4, 2009: Districts receive SRA answer documents and pre-ID labels from state vendor;
  - January 4-6, 2010: Districts download SRA PATs;
  - January 6-28, 2010: First Administration Window
  - January 29-February 3, 2010: Vendor receives SRA student responses from districts;
  - February 15-March 31, 2010: Vendor scores student responses and reports results to districts via online rosters;
  - March 2-11, 2010: HSPA administration
  - March 29-April 1, 2010: Districts access SRA PATs for second administration window;
  - April 12-30, 2009: Second Administration Window;
  - May 1-3: Vendor receives student responses from districts;
  - May 10-June 2, 2010: Vendor scores student responses and reports results online.



## ELL (LEP) SRA Issues

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- Department expects to be able to make Spanish language PATS available for the two SRA administration windows;
- We shall review options for additional languages but can make no assurances at this time;
- SRA instructional support for these students should presume that PATs will be in English and probably in Spanish;
- Further policy details about this issue will be forthcoming.

## Reminder: Summer 2009 SRA

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- Deadline for Summer 2009 SRA submission (Appendices H, J, Y, Z) to counties is August 31, 2009;
- Student responses to SRA PATs “banked” for the graduating class of 2010 will be reviewed by DOE for eventual submission to the state vendor to be linked to the student’s subsequent SRA data file;
- Students beginning 2009-2010 school year with “banked” SRA work must sit for October 2009 HSPA.



## The New SRA: Next Steps

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- Share this information with your colleagues and community;
- Focus on helping students pass the October 2009 HSPA;
- Expect detailed directions about SRA process in coming weeks from DOE and state vendor;
- Give us constructive feedback;
- Remember, retaining the *status quo* is not an option.

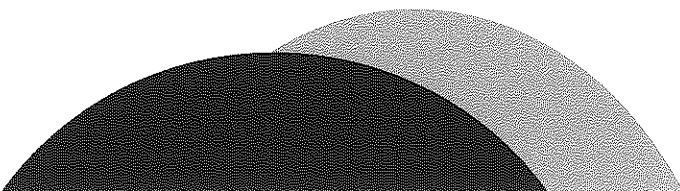


## The New SRA: Contact Information

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- Faye Ball, SRA Program Coordinator: 609-984-1970; [faye.ball@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:faye.ball@doe.state.nj.us)
- Timothy Peters, Director, Office of State Assessments: 609-984-7761; [timothy.peters@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:timothy.peters@doe.state.nj.us)





**QUESTIONS?**

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**THANK YOU!**