



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

January 26, 2021

Dear Class of 2021 Parents and Guardians,

Elizabeth Public Schools remains committed to its goals of college preparedness, career readiness, and “on-time” graduation for every child.

The comprehensive curriculum that has been developed and adopted by the district, in tandem with the highly qualified teachers who deliver rigorous instruction, are vital components to meeting those goals. Additionally, Elizabeth Public Schools’ administration of state assessments, required by federal regulations, and college entrance exams, required by the district, are also essential to high school graduation.

The effects that the pandemic has had on teaching and learning, as well as the related operations and services, have been significant and unprecedented. The challenges that have resulted since schools were closed in March 2020 have had a unique impact on students of the Class of 2021 as it pertains to fulfilling their graduation requirements.

As a result, the following graduation requirements **have been waived** for the Class of 2021:

- 1) Achieve or exceed passing grade on New Jersey Department of Education Approved Statewide high school proficiency assessment*

The modifications to school schedules, operations, and instructional methods that have taken place since March 2020 have resulted in challenges that have been unlike any prior year for students, families, educators, and school district staff. Students expected to graduate in the class of 2021 have faced more obstacles with accessing the state tests required for high school graduation than students in previous graduating classes. As a result, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 214, which **has waived the requirement to pass a proficiency assessment**, including all alternative assessment pathways, in order to earn a high school diploma.

- 2) Perform a total of 60 hour of community service with a minimum of 30 hours completed by the end of tenth grade*

Performing community service hours has long been a district requirement for graduation (**EBOE Policy 6146**) as part of its commitment to character education and its effort to developing caring young men and women who wish to be valuable and productive members of their community by giving back. Due to the challenges created by the pandemic, the Elizabeth Board of Education **has waived the community service requirement** for the Class of 2021.

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

3) *Complete a senior project (local requirement)*

Due to the challenges created by the pandemic, the Elizabeth Board of Education **has waived the senior project requirement** for all students of the Class of 2021.

The following graduation requirement **has not been waived** for the Class of 2021:

1) *Effective beginning with the high school graduating class of 2014, and all subsequent graduating classes, students must take the SAT®, ACT®, or equivalent college entrance exam*

Students in the graduating Class of 2021 were administered the SAT in March 2020 as eleventh graders before the district closed as part of the contract between Elizabeth Public Schools and the College Board to administer the SAT on a school day in March and in October. Although the second administration in October 2020 was cancelled, **the College Board has not cancelled the Spring 2021 administrations and colleges and universities have not waived test scores as part of their entrance criteria; therefore, the district will again be administering the SAT on March 3, March 24, and April 13, 2021** to current eleventh graders. Any senior who has not yet taken the SAT will be afforded the opportunity to participate on one of those three dates. As a result of the March 2020 administration and the access provided to the March/April 2021 SAT administration to students of the Class of 2021, the Elizabeth Board of Education **has not waived the requirement of taking the SAT®, ACT®, or equivalent college entrance exam** for the Class of 2021.

We will continue to provide timely information and updates related to instruction, operations, student and family services, and the reopening of our schools as we proceed through the rest of the 2020-2021 school year.

Thank you once again for your partnership and continued support of Elizabeth Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer