

New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) Remote Testing FAQ

Per the New Jersey Department of Education's [2021 Statewide Assessments Administration broadcast](#), the NJSLA will begin on May 3, 2021 and will include a remote testing option.

What is remote testing?

Remote testing is the administration of the NJSLA to students who are not receiving in-person instruction from a teacher in a school building during the assessment window and who do not require certain in-person accommodations and modifications. Students who are remote testing may be at home or in another setting where they are receiving remote learning instruction. These students will be remotely proctored by the test administrator and other authorized personnel designated by the school or district.



How is a remote administration different from our in-school administrations?

Other than the physical location, it is not vastly different from a regular administration. The platforms and operations for both administrators (PearsonAccess^{next}, or PAN) and students (TestNav) are the same ones that test administrators and students have used in the past. With a remote administration, the administrator will be proctoring and communicating with students via the district's approved external meeting application.



Does the TestNav platform access the device camera or microphone to record activity during the testing session?

No. TestNav has no interaction with the device camera or microphone. Remote monitoring is handled completely through the test administrator's approved external meeting application that is used regularly for instruction.



Please review the following pages for a complete list of FAQs. If you have additional questions, please contact NJDOE's Office of Assessments at assessment@doe.nj.gov or (609)376-3960.

FAQ's

Overview

Q: How do I determine if we are remotely testing or in-school testing?

A: Remote testing is intended for students who

- may not be receiving any in-person instruction during the assessment window
- may be at home or in another setting where they are receiving remote instruction

Note: *Districts using a hybrid schedule are strongly encouraged to administer the test in school on days that students are normally attending in-person.*

Q: Where do I get additional details about Remote Testing?

A: Additional information and support are provided through these resources:

- District Test Coordinator Training
 - Each year, NJDOE requires that all District Test Coordinators and District Technology Coordinators participate in training on the administration of the NJSLA statewide assessment program in ELA, mathematics, and science. The Spring 2021 District Test and Technology Coordinator Training will be virtual and on-demand. Training modules will be available March 29–April 16, 2021 and must be completed within that time frame.
- [NJDOE Remote Testing Webpage](#)
- [NJSLA Resource Center](#)
 - [Remote Testing Modules](#)
 - Additional Supplemental material specific to remote testing will be posted prior to DTC Training. This will include:
 - NJSLA Remote Testing Supplemental Manual
 - NJSLA Accessibility Feature & Accommodation Remote Supplement
 - NJSLA Remote Testing Parent Guide

Preparing for a Remote Administration

Q: How is a remote administration different from our in-school administrations?

A: Other than the physical location, it is not vastly different from a regular administration. The platforms and operations for both administrators (PearsonAccess^{next}, or PAN) and students (TestNav) are the same ones that test administrators and students have used in the past. With a remote administration, the administrator will be proctoring and communicating with students via the district's approved external meeting application (Google Meet, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.).

Q: How will a student taking the NJSLA remotely continue testing if their Internet connectivity is interrupted?

A: For Spring 2021, NJDOE has implemented an auto-resume testing functionality within TestNav that will allow a student who is exited from the test to resume testing without the interruption of waiting for a test administrator. If necessary, students will communicate with their Test Administrator for additional support following the communication process established by the school.

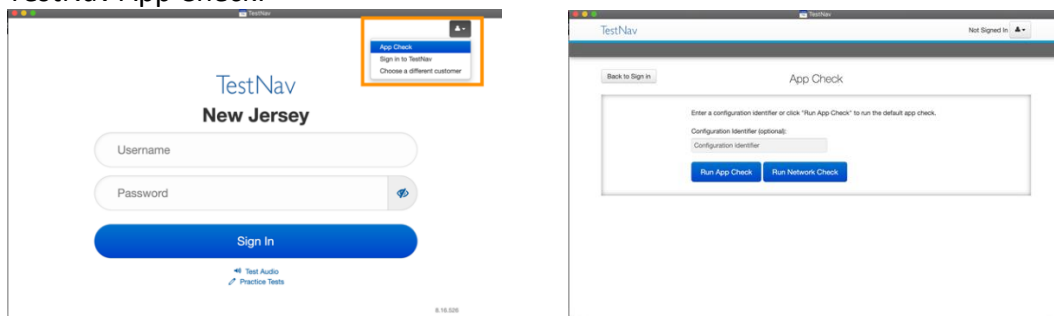
Q: What do I need to do to prepare for a remote administration?

A: Be familiar with all the remote testing resources and establish a standard remote testing protocol to communicate and train test administrators ahead of time to ensure a standard remote testing protocol for all students.

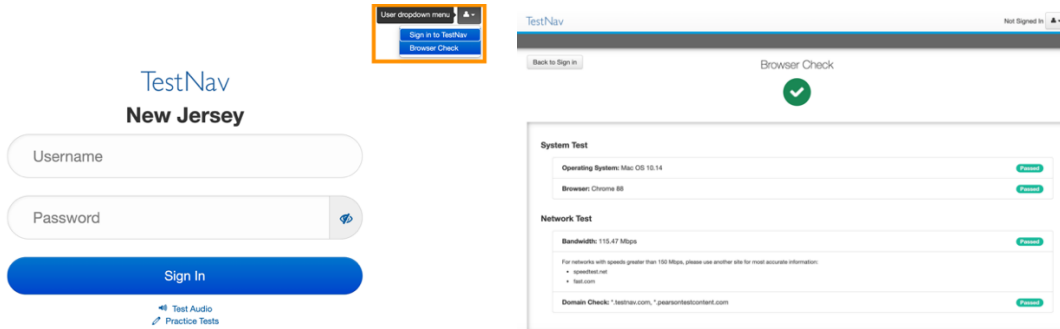
Q: How do I confirm that a student's home device meets the requirements for remote testing?

A: Visit the [TestNav System Requirements](#) page to ensure minimum system requirements are met for student devices. As with previous administrations, the most reliable way to determine if your district's policies and infrastructure meet the needs of an assessment, either in-school or remotely, is to perform an infrastructure trial. Additionally, NJDOE has implemented both the TestNav App Check and a Browser Check to determine if a device meets minimum requirements. Refer to the images below.

TestNav App Check:



Browser Check:



Administering the NJSLA Remotely

Q: How do Test Administrators monitor a test session remotely?

A: Districts will develop plans for conducting remotely administered assessments via an external meeting application. The meeting application must allow test administrators to interact with students via chat and audio while they are testing, with minimal disruption to other students in the session.

Test Administrator Tasks:

1. Facilitate the introduction to each test unit
2. Read the directions and script to all students in the session
3. Have a method of responding to student issues during testing through the district established protocols
4. Close out testing

Q: How do I give my students their testing ticket with login credentials to the test?

A: Districts are encouraged to use their district-approved protocols for sharing sensitive information. If you need additional guidance on these protocols, please contact the NJDOE Office of Assessments at assessment@doe.nj.gov or 609-376-3960.

Q: Are parents/guardians able to assist students with testing?

A: No. Districts must communicate with parents/guardians to express the need for their students to complete the assessments without assistance or interruptions. Districts should communicate the following:

- The intent of the assessments and helpfulness of the results
- Expected student behavior such as honesty, compliance, and respect for the assessment and its outcomes
- Follow-up (with respect to misinformation or inaccurate data due to unacceptable behavior) for non-compliance with expected student behavior

Considerations with Remote Testing

Q: Our Chromebooks are currently in kiosk mode which allows the user to run one application at a time. How should we proceed with testing students remotely?

A: Pearson recommends using browser-based testing instead of the TestNav application for students participating in remote testing. The application's security checks have been adapted to allow for an external meeting application such as Google Meet, Zoom, or Microsoft Teams, to function while students are using TestNav. Pearson's technical support team is ready to assist with any further configuration questions. Appointments are available with level 2 technical support engineers through self-scheduled virtual office hours through the "Schedule Technology Assistance" feature within PearsonAccess^{next}.

Q: Is there any network connectivity considerations that a District Technology Coordinator should be aware of?

A: Local and cloud-based network security/content filter services can interrupt TestNav traffic. Services such as reverse-DNS checks, SSL decryption/inspection, deep packet inspection, HTTP inspection, blocking audio/multimedia files, and blocking archival files have all been known to cause TestNav interruptions. To ensure a successful remote testing administration, please allow devices to connect directly to the TestNav servers.

Q: Does NJDOE require test administrators to record a video of remote testing sessions?

A: No. Recording the testing session is prohibited.

Q: Does the TestNav platform access the device camera or microphone to record activity during the testing session?

A: No. TestNav has no interaction with the device camera or microphone. Remote monitoring is handled completely through the test administrator's approved external meeting application that is used regularly for remote instruction.

Q: One of the recommendations from districts with experience in remote testing is to enable test administrators to visibly monitor students as they take the test. Doesn't this bring up personal privacy issues?

A: NJDOE takes student privacy very seriously and has developed a process for remote testing that is compatible with the same external meeting applications that many schools are already using for instructional purposes. For this reason, the NJSLA remote solution is recommended for students who are already receiving remote instruction.

Guidance to ensure that privacy considerations are implemented throughout all aspects of testing is embedded in the documentation for remote administration. The [NJSLA Resource Center](#) will have additional supplemental material posted as documents are finalized. This will include:

- NJSLA Remote Testing Supplemental Manual
- NJSLA Accessibility Feature & Accommodation Remote Supplement
- NJSLA Remote Testing Parent Guide

Additionally, no Personally Identifiable Information (PII) about test administrators or students is transmitted during remote testing. TestNav relies on student testing tickets that provide students with auto-generated and randomized login information.

Q: What should our school do if we start testing all students remotely, but some students switch to in-person classes, or vice versa?

A: Students must take an entire test with the same mode of testing, i.e., either in-school or remote. However, students may take different tests in different locations. For example, if a student completes NJSLA-Science remotely, and then begins to attend in-person classes, the NJSLA-ELA and NJSLA-Math should be administered in school. If you need additional guidance for other scenarios, please contact the NJDOE Office of Assessments at assessment@doe.nj.gov or 609-376-3960.

Q: Will students testing remotely be scored differently?

A: No. All students are scored exactly the same way, regardless of testing location. However, scores for students who test remotely will appear on separate pages in the score reports. These scores will also be aggregated separately and appear as separate records in the summary data file that is provided to districts and schools.

Accessibility Features and Accommodations for Remote Testers

Q: Are all accommodations available remotely?

A: While testing accommodations are available, some of them may be provided only in an in-person setting. The table below provides an overview of which testing accommodations can be provided in-school (in-person), remotely, or both. It is the responsibility of the district/school to ensure students can receive their testing accommodations as noted in their IEP or Section 504 plan via the mode of test administration selected by the district/school.

What accommodations will be available in-person and remote?		
Accommodations	Available In-School	Available Remote
Assistive technology – Screen Reader (Computer-based Testing (CBT))	✓	⊗
Assistive technology – Non-Screen Reader (CBT)	✓	✓
Closed captioning - ELA Only (CBT)	✓	⊗
Spanish - Math and Science Only (CBT)	✓	✓
Text-to-speech (TTS) (CBT)	✓	✓
Spanish TTS - Math and Science Only (CBT)	✓	✓
American Sign Language (ASL) (CBT)	✓	⊗
Human Reader - Math and Science Only (CBT)	✓	✓
Spanish Human Reader -Math and Science Only (CBT)	✓	✓
Paper-based Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular • Large Print • Human Reader (Math and Science Only) • Braille • Spanish Regular (Math and Science Only) • Spanish Large Print (Math and Science Only) • Spanish Human Reader (Math and Science Only) 	✓	⊗

Q: How do I handle specific accommodation needs that are identified in the AF&A Manual?

A: To guide decisions, a *NJSLA Spring AFA Remote Supplement* has been developed and will be posted to the NJSLA Resource Center prior to DTC Training. In the meantime, please contact NJDOE’s Office of Assessments at assessment@doe.nj.gov or (609) 376-3960 if you have additional questions.