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TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads

FROM: Jeffrey B. Hauger, Ed.D., Director
Office of Assessments
Division of Talent and Performance

SUBJECT: Update on New Jersey's Procurement of New Science Assessments

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is in the final phase of the state-required procurement process for the new science assessments that will be administered this school year. The NJDOE expects the procurement process to be finalized in the coming weeks, at which time the NJDOE will release detailed information and guidance for districts on the new science assessments.

However, to assist school districts in preparation for such changes, the NJDOE can provide the following information at this time:

- The new science assessments will be administered in spring 2018 and will be aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science, which all school districts were required to implement by the 2017-18 school year, as indicated in the NJDOE's [September 9, 2014 memo](#).
- While the new science assessments will be computer-based tests including technology-enhanced items, it is not anticipated that districts will need to implement any significant infrastructure and technology upgrades to administer the tests.
- The NJDOE is sensitive to the timing of the roll-out of the new assessments this year and, as a result, will not include the new science assessments as part of the state's accountability for the 2017-18 school year under the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC).
- The science assessments will be administered in grades 5, 8 and 11. There will be no 4th-grade science assessment this school year. The grade 11 high school assessment will be a comprehensive science assessment rather than an end-of-course high school biology assessment.