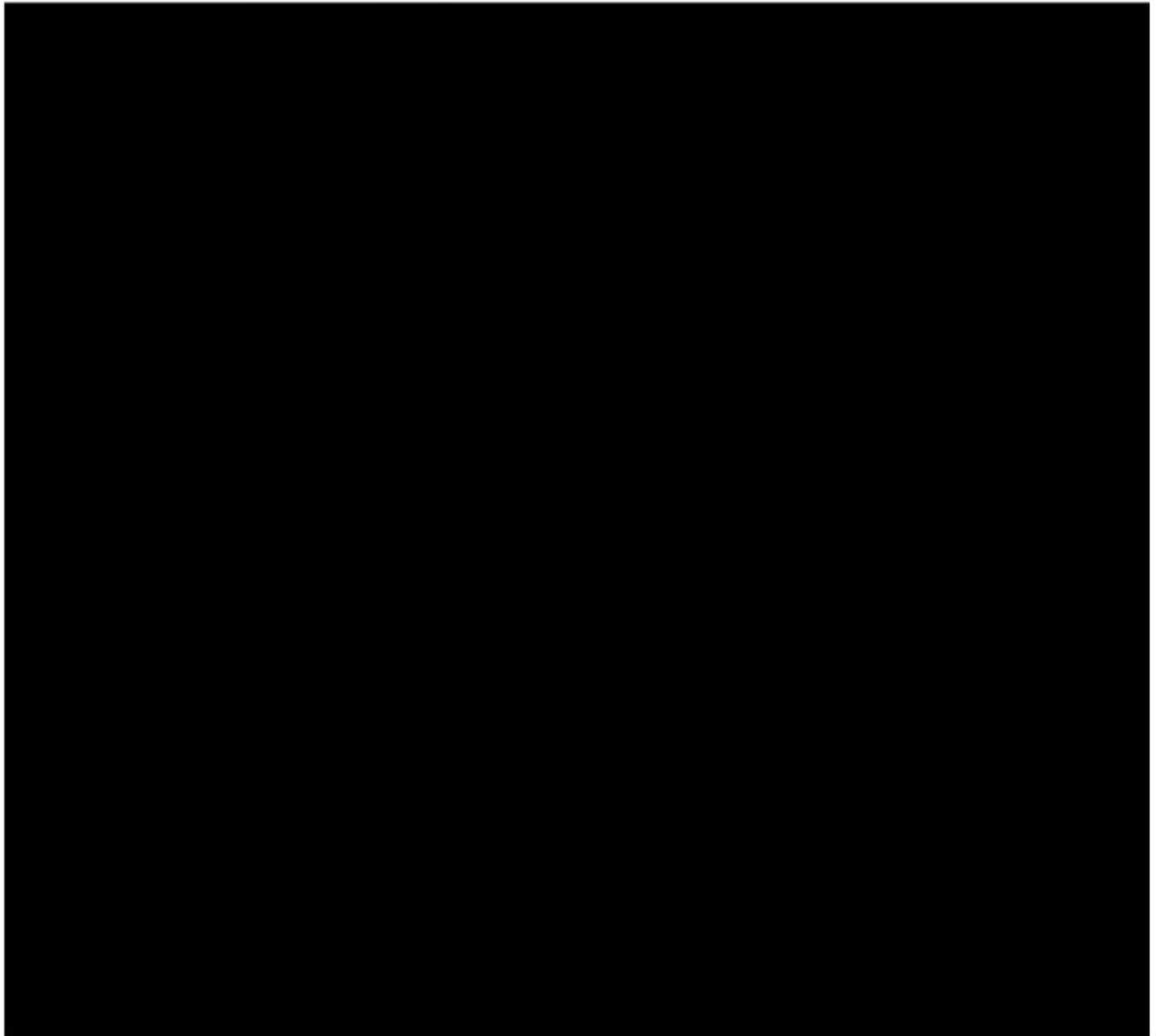


John Migueis < jm@nj21st.com >

Thu, 16 Jul 2026 7:40:43 PM -0400



Good Afternoon,

nj21st is a non-profit, independent civic journalism organization; by now we should be familiar but throwing it in just in case.

We're working on a follow-up article about NJDOE's presentation from July 2026 on standard setting for the NJSLA-A and NJGPA-A.

As I'm sure you're aware this isn't our first time reaching out to your office about this -we began asking questions about comparability, validation, subgroup reporting and accountability a year ago and reached out to the Commissioner's Office multiple times.

We also sent in OPRA requests for records we feel are critical to the public's ability to evaluate and understand how adaptive scores are calculated, checked for accuracy and compared with prior assessments.

Our OPRA requests for records connected to this started December last year and continued with various responses, clarifications and modifications until February 2026.

This is a very brief breakdown of how that went down...

On C244214, NJDOE stated that it or its contractors don't make or keep technical manuals, item-selection specifications, scale-score construction details, standard errors, linking studies, documentation ensuring adaptive scores remain comparable to fixed-form NJSLA tests or ESSA compliance materials.

In a June 23, 2026 response to our OPRA, NJDOE (again) denied or withheld many of the records we asked for. When we asked about standard errors or score-accuracy data, your office told us it wasn't available because it hadn't been calculated.

We got a 749-page Cambium proposal as a courtesy but that didn't include the items we've been asking for during the 12 months prior.

We decided to submit a more focused OPRA request for the actual deliverables, technical memoranda, simulation records, quality-control materials, reports, document indexes and records showing what was provided to NJDOE and when.

Today we reviewed the presentation by the DOE this month (attached) which indicates that the Spring 2026 transition to adaptive testing introduces a new scoring scale, that past NJSLA and NJGPA cut scores no longer apply and that new performance boundaries must be set before results can be shared. It also mentions that actual Spring 2026 student-response data will be used during the standard-setting process.

Given the Department's previous responses and the new information in this presentation, please respond to the following:

- Does NJDOE still claim that it and its contractors don't create or keep technical manuals, item-selection specifications, scale-score construction records, linking studies, comparability studies or ESSA accountability materials for the adaptive assessments?
- Have any of these records been created, completed or provided to NJDOE since the Department's earlier responses? If so, please identify the records, their completion dates and whether they will be publicly released.
- Has NJDOE, Cambium or another contractor finished a linking, equating or comparability study that connects the new adaptive scoring scale with the previous fixed-form NJSLA and NJGPA scales?
- If no linking or comparability study has been completed what's the basis for the claim "comparable" results are ensured?

- What does 'comparable' mean? That results will be consistent among students taking the Spring 2026 adaptive assessment? Does it mean that the 2026 results will be comparable to earlier NJSLA and NJGPA results?
- NJDOE stated on June 23 that standard-error data had not been calculated - is that done and if not when does the DOE believe it will be completed?
- Before the Spring 2026 results are released, will NJDOE publish technical documentation on:
 - Standard errors and score precision
 - Reliability
 - Classification accuracy and consistency
 - Performance of the adaptive item-selection algorithm
 - Compliance with the assessment blueprint
 - Item exposure rates
 - Differential item functioning or other subgroup-bias analysis
 - Validity for state and federal accountability use
 - Comparability with earlier fixed-form assessments?
- The presentation states that actual Spring 2026 student-response data will guide the arrangement of test questions and assist educator panels in recommending new cut points. Will panelists receive impact data showing the percentage and number of students who would fall into each performance level under the proposed cut scores?
- How many educators and parents will be on each standard-setting panel, how will they be selected, what's the criteria, what regions, grade levels and student populations will they represent?
- Will NJDOE release the final Performance Level Descriptors, panel recommendations, impact data, final cut scores and documentation explaining any changes made after the panels finish their work?
- Has NJDOE's Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the new scoring system, the Spring 2026 administration, the standard-setting plan or the comparability of the new results with past years?
- Has HumRRO or another independent organization conducted any psychometric analysis, external scoring check, validation study or comparability review related to the Spring 2026 assessments?
- Will NJDOE release any final findings, recommendations or reports from the Technical Advisory Committee or independent reviews that aren't protected drafts or deliberative materials?

- Will you publish multi-year trend data comparing the 2026 adaptive-assessment results to prior tests and, if so, how will you inform users about the new scale and new cut scores?
- How can districts, parents and the public determine whether a change in a district's 2026 proficiency rate connects to student achievement v. a change in the assessment, scoring scale, adaptive algorithm or cut points?
- When will results for Spring 2026 NJSLA-A and NJGPA-A be released?
- Will the completed technical report and supporting validation documentation be released before, at the same time as or after the public release of the results?

Please also provide an update on NJ21st's targeted follow-up OPRA request for the actual technical deliverables, reports, simulation records, quality-control records, document indexes and transmittal records related to the adaptive-testing contract.

Being that we've been asking for this information close to a year now, we would hope for a response within seven business days; please reply to all as BOE's and other outlets are cc'd and this is an important issue.

You can look at our full coverage of this issue here: <https://nj21st.com/njadaptivetesting/>

Thank You

John Migueis
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1 Attachment(s)

2026-NJSLA-A-and-NJGPA-A-...
1.9 MB