Developed by Metiri Group

What is the NJ Digital Learning and Assessment Portal?

The New Jersey Department of Education established the *NJ Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Portal* to support New Jersey school districts in their readiness for online assessment and transition to digital learning. The shift to online assessment, beginning in 2014/2015 for districts in New Jersey, requires that districts meet PARCC *minimum* requirements for reliable student access during testing periods. Districts are encouraged, however, to meet PARCC *recommended* specifications, as these are expected to meet future guidelines from the 2016-2017 through the 2018-2019 school year.

Readiness for online assessment has accelerated a discussion about a transformation to digital learning. With the abundance of high-quality instructional digital tools and resources and the increasing availability of affordable devices, many districts have begun, or are well-along the way, to personalizing learning to meet the individual needs of students. Personalization involves all students having access to challenging content, feedback through formative assessment, opportunities for learning anytime, anywhere, and individualized instruction to ensure they reach their full potential, with their progress informed by multiple measures including online assessments. Planning for this transformation requires a strategic plan for digital learning supported by stakeholders, with a budget for technology that aligns with learning goals.

The intent of the *NJ Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Portal* is to provide a collection of online resources, planning guides, and professional development tools and resources to assist districts in this transition.

Who should access this portal?

The portal is targeted for all educators interested in planning for and implementing digital learning and online assessment. This suite of foundational materials and resources assists the NJDOE in providing technical assistance and capacity building to LEAs and Test Sites.

What content is available on this portal?

The content on the portal serves two purposes. The first purpose is to provide tools and resources to support districts in ensuring they have assessment-ready devices and the network capacity to meet PARCC specifications for online assessment. It provides school districts with: (***Click on the underlined topic to access the resource.)***

- The most current information on PARCC guidelines and updates.
- A link to NJTRAx, the New Jersey Readiness Tool for Online Assessment
- A planning guide to assist New Jersey districts and schools in identifying gaps in their readiness for PARCC online assessment and a guide to assist LEAs/Test Sites in closing those gaps. (Under development.)
- Access to resources and online professional development intended to build the capacity of New Jersey schools and districts to get ready for online assessments.
- A support email system that enables NJ LEA/Test Site staff to request and receive technical assistance for online technology readiness.

Each resource is strategically aligned to the NJTRAx gap analysis; and each is designed as a stand-alone resource as well as a resource to supplement technical assistance or training sessions.

Secondly, and later in 2014, the portal content will expand to include information and guidance for readiness for digital learning, with a planning guide, webinars, white papers and other online resources to support districts in a transformation to personalized learning.

How are the portal contents organized?

The catalog of online resources in the *NJ Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Portal* is organized for the most efficient access to the type of information needed. It includes the following components, plus information and updates from the New Jersey Department of Education and PARCC: ***(Click on the underlined topic to access the resource.)***

| **NJTRAx** | **Library** | **Support** | **FAQ** |

NJTRAx. NJTRAx is an interactive database developed to assist New Jersey districts and schools in assessing their technology readiness for online assessments as well as for digital learning. Users who have access to the PARCC TRT have accounts in NJTRAx.

Library. The Library provides a collection of online resources, such as a *Quick Start Users Guide*, to support NJ school districts' readiness for digital learning and assessment.

Support. Participants complete a support ticket to request help, to have a question answered by the NJ Department of Education, or to submit a suggestion.

FAQ. *Frequently Asked Questions* provides answers to common questions about users, internet bandwidth, device characteristics and more.

A growing collection of resources

The collection of online resources on the *NJ Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Portal* will continue to grow, as districts and schools prepare for digital learning and assessment. Education leaders are encouraged to visit the portal often for updates and additional resources to guide them in this transition.

All students will be prepared to meet the challenge of a dynamic global society in which they participate, contribute, achieve, and flourish through universal access to people, information and ideas.

– Vision Statement of the New Jersey Educational Technology Plan