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We Raise New Jersey Statement on Assessment Proposal Revisions

Trenton, NJ (October 3, 2018) – Members of the We Raise New Jersey coalition appreciate the compromise outlined today in the Murphy Administration's revised proposal to the State Board of Education to change the state assessment system and related graduation requirements. We commend the State Board for its leadership in slowing the process for considering the proposal and giving the public an opportunity to meaningfully engage, which has resulted in a stronger policy.

Our coalition, representing education, business, and civic organizations across the state, is focused on ensuring that all New Jersey students graduate ready for success in college, career, and life. We believe that a high-quality state assessment of real-world skills and knowledge is one important part of our education system. We also recognize that there is room for improvement with aspects of our assessment system – and that we need many other measures and supports along a student's educational journey.

We appreciate that the Murphy Administration has proposed maintaining two of the four assessments initially intended for elimination. We believe that ELA 9 and Algebra II are critical courses in a student's educational trajectory for later success and that we should maintain high expectations for all New Jersey students to attain those skills on grade level. In addition, we support limiting the extension of the current set of alternate pathways to graduation and ensuring consultation with the State Board of Education when determining passing scores for alternate pathways.

We believe that today's compromise proves that a wide range of New Jersey leaders can work together to clarify a state vision for all students to succeed in school and beyond. We look forward to continued engagement with other organizations and state officials as we imagine the next generation of state assessments, a fair and meaningful set of graduation requirements and alternate pathways, and a shared commitment to supporting our students, parents, and educators.

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About We Raise New Jersey: WRNJ advocates for the high-quality education every student deserves to be prepared for success in college, career, and community by harnessing the collective strength of New Jersey's influential education, business, and civic organizations. Coalition members include: New Jersey PTA, JerseyCAN, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, New Jersey Council of County Colleges, New Jersey Business & Industry Association, and the New Jersey Charter Schools Association. For more information, visit <http://www.werajen.org/>, and follow <https://www.facebook.com/WeRaiseNJ/> and [@WeRaiseNJ](https://www.instagram.com/WeRaiseNJ/).