

State Alignment Summary

Assess · Develop · Document

Renzulli Learning is the K–12 platform that **measures and develops the seven durable skills** New Jersey's career readiness framework wants every graduate to master — critical thinking, creativity, executive function, leadership, collaboration, communication, and self-direction.

OVERVIEW

New Jersey's career readiness framework names the seven durable skills it wants every graduate to master — critical thinking, creativity, executive function, leadership, collaboration, communication, and self-direction. The framework is led by the **NJ Department of Education (NJDOE)** and the **NJDOE Office of Career Readiness**, with **Governor Mikie Sherrill** (sworn in January 20, 2026) and **Lt. Governor Dr. Dale G. Caldwell**. The **2020 NJSLS-CLKS** framework comprises four standards: **9.1 Personal Financial Literacy**; **9.2 Career Awareness, Exploration, Preparation, and Training**; **9.3 CTE**; and **9.4 Life Literacies and Key Skills** (NEW in 2020) — 9.1, 9.2, 9.4 required for ALL students. **N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1** requires **120 credits** for graduation. The **NJGPA** is the primary graduation assessment pathway; class of 2026 reqs adopted October 8, 2025 (effective NJ Register November 3, 2025). Classes **2025-2027** must complete the **FAFSA** or **NJAFSA**. **7 NJ CTSOs**: DECA, FBLA-PBL, FFA, FCCLA, HOSA, TSA, SkillsUSA.

NEW JERSEY'S DURABLE SKILLS FRAMEWORK IN CONTEXT

Renzulli Learning is the K-12 platform that both **measures** these durable skills (Cebeci Test of Creativity, Executive Function Assessment, Leadership Assessment, Profiler) and **develops** them (Project-Based Learning, Personal Success Plan, Enrichment Database). The seven durable skills run through every New Jersey career readiness requirement listed below.

WHERE NJ STANDS

- **NJSLS-CLKS** — 4 standards: 9.1 Personal Financial Literacy, 9.2 Career Awareness, 9.3 CTE, 9.4 Life Literacies and Key Skills (NEW in 2020); 9.1, 9.2, 9.4 required for ALL
- **120-Credit Graduation Requirement** (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1) — 20 ELA, 15 math, 15 science, 15 social studies, 5 world lang, 2.5 financial literacy, 15 PE/health, 5 arts, 5 21st Century Life and Careers/CTE
- **NJGPA** — grade 11; aligned to grade 10 NJSLS ELA + Algebra 1/Geometry; class of 2026 reqs adopted Oct 8, 2025
- **FAFSA / NJAFSA** — classes of 2025-2027: required as a graduation requirement
- **CTE Programs of Study + WBL** — Perkins V; 16 National Career Clusters; 21 County Vocational-Technical Districts
- **Individual Learning Plan (ILP)** — N.J.A.C. 6A:8-6.6; Bridge Year ILP
- **ESSA Accountability** — 4-year + 5-year graduation rates; federal + state versions; NJ SMART → NJSLEDS Sept 2, 2025
- **7 NJ CTSOs** — DECA, FBLA-PBL, FFA, FCCLA, HOSA, TSA, SkillsUSA

RENZULLI ALIGNMENT

- **Each NJSLS-CLKS standard** mapped to Renzulli instruments producing evidence of growth
- Both **measures and develops** the seven durable skills behind every NJ requirement
- **Cebeci Test of Creativity** measures creativity behind NJSLS-CLKS Standard 9.4 (US Patent 12,087,176)
- **Profiler** in 20+ languages anchors NJSLS-CLKS Standard 9.2 Career Awareness and FAFSA-driven planning
- **Leadership Assessment + PBL** develop the durable skills behind every NJ CTSO
- **EFA** develops persistence behind 120-credit completion, NJGPA prep, and CTE concentrator progression
- **PSP** documents progression mapped to NJSLS-CLKS standards, ILP goals, and CTE concentrator status

DURABLE SKILLS ALIGNMENT TO NEW JERSEY'S CAREER READINESS REQUIREMENTS

MAINE REQUIREMENT

NJSLS-CLKS — The Four Standards

The 2020 NJSLS-CLKS comprises four standards: **9.1 Personal Financial Literacy**, **9.2 Career Awareness, Exploration, Preparation, and Training**, **9.3 CTE**, and **9.4 Life Literacies and Key Skills** (NEW in 2020). Standards 9.1, 9.2, 9.4 required for ALL students. NJDOE describes the CLKS Practices as **habits of the mind**.

HOW RENZULLI ASSESSES & DEVELOPS

Each NJSLS-CLKS standard maps to durable skills Renzulli measures and develops. 9.1 → **40,000+ Enrichment Database + PSP**. 9.2 → **Profiler in 20+ languages + PSP**. 9.3 → **PBL + Leadership Assessment + PSP**. 9.4 → **Cebeci + EFA**. PSP exports evidence across all four standards.

MAINE REQUIREMENT	HOW RENZULLI ASSESSES & DEVELOPS
<p>120-Credit Graduation Requirement (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1) 120 credits minimum: 20 ELA, 15 math, 15 science (incl. Biology + lab/inquiry), 15 social studies (incl. 10 US History), 5 world lang, 2.5 financial literacy, 15 PE/health, 5 arts, 5 21st Century Life and Careers/CTE (the 9.x standards req), ~22.5 electives. Newark and some districts: 130 credits.</p>	<p>Critical thinking, EF, and self-direction drive 120-credit completion. 40,000+ Enrichment Database covers humanities, STEM, financial literacy, arts. PBL generates 21st Century Life and Careers/CTE artifacts. EFA develops persistence. PSP documents progression.</p>
<p>NJ Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA) Grade 11; content aligned to grade 10 NJSLs in ELA and the NJSLs in Algebra 1 and Geometry. Class of 2023 was field test only (P.L.2022, c.60). Classes 2024-2025 use 3 pathways: NJGPA, substitute test (PSAT/SAT/ACT/ACCUPLACER), portfolio appeal. Class of 2026 reqs adopted Oct 8, 2025; effective Nov 3, 2025.</p>	<p>Critical thinking, EF, and self-direction drive NJGPA success. EFA develops planning, working memory, self-regulation. 40,000+ Enrichment Database + PBL develop content depth. Cebeci measures durable skills behind portfolio appeal artifacts. PSP documents pathway selection.</p>
<p>FAFSA / NJAFAA Graduation Requirement (Classes 2025-2027) Classes 2025-2027: every student must complete the FAFSA or NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application (NJAFAA) as a graduation requirement. Enables Pell grants, work-study, loans, state and college aid — the largest financial aid pipeline for college, vocational school, and apprenticeships.</p>	<p>Self-direction and critical thinking drive informed FAFSA decisions. Profiler in 20+ languages identifies postsecondary options. PSP documents postsecondary decisions aligned to NJSLs-CLKS Standard 9.2. 40,000+ Enrichment Database supports the 2.5-credit financial literacy graduation requirement.</p>
<p>CTE Programs of Study + Work-Based Learning (WBL) CTE Programs of Study approved under Perkins V across the 16 National Career Clusters; NJ operates 21 County Vocational-Technical School Districts alongside comprehensive HS CTE programs. Work-Based Learning — formerly Structured Learning Experience (SLE) — supported through NJDOE state WBL handbook.</p>	<p>All seven durable skills drive CTE success. Profiler matches students to CTE pathways and WBL placements. EFA develops concentrator persistence. Cebeci measures creativity. Leadership Assessment supports WBL feedback. PBL generates WBL artifacts. PSP documents CTE concentrator status for Perkins V.</p>
<p>ILP + ESSA Accountability + 7 New Jersey CTSOs ILP: N.J.A.C. 6A:8-6.6; Bridge Year ILP requirements; transition planning goal alignment. ESSA: 4-year + 5-year graduation rates; federal + state versions; NJ SMART → NJSLEDS Sept 2, 2025. 7 NJ CTSOs: DECA, FBLA-PBL, FFA, FCCLA, HOSA, TSA, SkillsUSA.</p>	<p>Self-direction, EF, and leadership drive ILP execution. Profiler surfaces interests for ILP career goals. PSP generates exportable summaries mapped to ILP. EFA develops persistence behind on-time graduation. Leadership Assessment measures durable skills behind every NJ CTSO. PBL produces CTSO competition artifacts.</p>

KEY TAKEAWAY

New Jersey’s career readiness framework names the seven durable skills across the **four NJSLs-CLKS standards** (9.1 Personal Financial Literacy, 9.2 Career Awareness, 9.3 CTE, 9.4 Life Literacies and Key Skills), the **120-credit graduation requirement** (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1), the **NJGPA**, the **FAFSA/NJAFAA** requirement (classes 2025-2027), **CTE Programs of Study** under Perkins V, **Work-Based Learning**, **Individual Learning Plans**, **ESSA accountability**, and the **7 New Jersey CTSOs**. **Renzulli Learning is the K-12 platform that both measures and develops them**. NJ districts get one exportable durable-skills evidence layer for NJSLs-CLKS implementation, NJGPA portfolio appeals, FAFSA/NJAFAA postsecondary planning, CTE concentrator reporting, ILP goal alignment, and CTSO competition documentation.

WANT THE FULL DETAILS?

Visit the complete New Jersey Durable Skills & Career Readiness alignment page for the full crosswalk to the four NJSLs-CLKS standards, the 120-credit graduation requirement, the NJGPA, the FAFSA/NJAFAA requirement, CTE Programs of Study, WBL, ILPs, ESSA accountability, and 7 NJ CTSOs, plus FAQs.

renzullilearning.com/en/new-jersey-career-readiness-alignment-renzulli-learning

CUSTOM ALIGNMENTS AVAILABLE

Need a custom durable-skills alignment for your NJ district’s NJSLs-CLKS implementation, NJGPA portfolio appeals, FAFSA/NJAFAA support, CTE concentrator documentation, or Individual Learning Plan integration?

+1 (203) 680-8301 • renzullilearning.com/en/contact-us

REFERENCES AND SOURCES REVIEWED

• NJDOE; NJDOE Office of Career Readiness; **2020 NJSLs-CLKS** (4 standards: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4); **N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1** (120 credits); **NJGPA** (class of 2026 reqs adopted Oct 8, 2025; effective NJ Register Nov 3, 2025); **P.L.2022, c.60** (A-3196/S-2349, NJGPA field test for class of 2023); **FAFSA/NJAFAA** graduation requirement (classes 2025-2027); **CTE Programs of Study** under Perkins V; **21 County Vocational-Technical School Districts**; **Work-Based Learning (WBL)** handbook; **Individual Learning Plan (ILP)** N.J.A.C. 6A:8-6.6; **ESSA accountability** (federal + state graduation rate versions); **NJSLEDS** (effective Sept 2, 2025); **7 NJ CTSOs** (DECA, FBLA-PBL, FFA, FCCLA, HOSA, TSA, SkillsUSA)