



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: April 6, 2022
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, School Staff
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Release of the 2020-2021 School Performance Reports

Today, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is making publicly available the New Jersey School Performance Reports for the 2020-2021 school year. The reports may be found on the NJDOE's [School Performance Reports website](#), or www.njschooldata.org.

The School Performance Reports reflect the NJDOE's commitment to providing parents, students, and school communities with a large variety of information about each school and local educational agency (LEA). While even comprehensive data dashboards like these do not fully capture the incredible efforts of our students, families, educators, and community members, the NJDOE believes that it is critical to use the data available in the reports, along with other information collected directly within your LEA and community, to start conversations, identify gaps in information, and continue to find ways to address the impacts of COVID-19 while ensuring all students receive the appropriate supports.

Important Notes about the 2020-2021 Reports

COVID-19 had a significant impact on the way the NJDOE was able to measure school performance and student achievement for both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 School Performance Reports. Accordingly, notes are included throughout the School Performance Reports to explain where data is missing or impacted by COVID-19 and an updated [Impact of COVID-19 on Data Availability](#) resource is available to summarize this information. Some data published in previous years is not available in the 2020-2021 School Performance Reports, such as student growth. Certain data elements that were unavailable for the 2019-2020 reports (e.g., chronic absenteeism data) are available again for the 2020-2021 reports.

The 2020-2021 reports include changes that respond to stakeholder feedback and updated federal and state requirements. These changes include:

- **New career and college readiness data** including Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual enrollment participation by student group and work-based learning participation;
- **Additional graduation data** that includes the 6-year adjusted cohort graduation rate. Note that the NJDOE now uses a different methodology to calculate the federal [graduation rate](#), as per a U.S. Department of Education (USDE) directive, and the new School Performance Reports provide the graduation rate using both the prior calculation methodology and the one as directed by USDE.
- **Expanded staff data** including staff counts and information about teachers by subject area, as requested by stakeholders;
- **New apprenticeship data** that shows how many students register in apprenticeship programs after high school graduation; and
- **Links to additional data** such as Start Strong assessment results and opportunity to learn data, which includes information about internet connectivity and device data during the 2020-2021 school year.

Sharing the School and District Reports with your School Community

To help LEAs share the information in the School Performance Reports and support conversations with their school communities, the NJDOE has developed optional tools that LEAs can use to help communicate about the reports. The School Performance Reports toolkit includes:

- A [sample letter](#) superintendents can send to their communities announcing the release of the reports;
- A [PowerPoint template](#) for presenting school- and district-level data;
- One-page guides to help start conversations for [school board members](#), [administrators](#), [educators](#), and [elementary](#) and [middle and high school families](#);
- Updated [Impact of COVID-19 on Data Availability](#) resource that summarizes which data is missing or impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Information sheets that explain [Graduation Rates](#) and [Median Student Growth Percentiles](#).

The NJDOE [Guide for Local Stakeholder Engagement](#) provides information about how school and district leaders can engage parents, students, staff, and community members.

Contact reportcard@doe.nj.gov for questions or feedback. The NJDOE continues to seek public input on how to improve future reports and encourages stakeholders to complete the [feedback survey](#).

c: Members, State Board of Education
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NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group