



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 9, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Directors of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
From: Kevin Dehmer, Interim Commissioner of Education
Deadline: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 and every Wednesday thereafter

Required Information Sharing on Student Device and Internet Connectivity

All local education agencies, including charter schools, Renaissance School Projects and Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities (APSSD) are required to share information on the number of Pre-K 3 to Grade 12 students lacking devices and/or internet connectivity and the barriers preventing all students from having a device and/or connectivity using the following link: [Student Device and Connectivity Information](#). Responses are due by noon each Wednesday starting October 14, 2020. Districts that report zero students without a device or connectivity will not need to share information via the link above again, unless a student or students lose their access to a device or connectivity.

This information sharing is part of a broader effort to tackle the digital divide, or unmet Pre-K-to Grade 12 student technological needs for remote learning among New Jersey students. This effort includes the \$54 million digital divide grant for public schools that Governor Murphy announced in July. For this weekly requirement, local educational agencies (LEAs) with state-funded preschool programs are to report on the device and connectivity needs of all three- and four-year-olds enrolled in their district, including those enrolled in contracted Head Start programs, contracted preschool providers and district-operated classrooms. The device and connectivity needs of all students with disabilities who attend school at an out-of-district placement, such as educational services commissions, jointure commissions, regional day schools, county special services school districts, public college operated programs, APSSD, etc., must be reported by the school the student attends.

Additionally, the NJDOE has added a number of new fields to the NJ SMART SID Management database related to remote instruction, student devices, and connectivity to allow for reporting required by both the NJDOE and the United States Department of Education. The new fields will come online October 19, 2020 and districts are required to complete the collection by November 24, 2020.

The information collected will be used by the NJDOE to direct assistance to districts regarding use of all available funding sources for purchase, as well as any other barrier to ensuring that all students have equitable access to educational services in remote, hybrid and in-person environments. These efforts are critical not only during the pandemic but to ensure that going forward, all students will benefit from the increased capacity of school districts to provide online learning both in school and at home.

Please contact districtsupports@doe.nj.gov or your County Office of Education with questions regarding this requirement.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group