



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 16, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: School Business Administrators/Board Secretaries, Public School Accountants/Public School Auditors
From: Scott Henry, Director
Division of Finance
Deadline: December 11, 2020

Release of 2019-20 Fiscal Year Audit Summary Application (AudSum)

The Audit Summary Application (AudSum) is the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) web application through which every school district, charter school, and renaissance school project must submit certified fiscal data. The web application for the year ending on June 30, 2020 is expected to be available for use on or before September 16, 2020. The deadline for school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects to certify audited fiscal year 2020 AUDSUM data is **December 11, 2020**. State statute (*N.J.S.A. 18A:23-8*) requires that an audit of the accounts of a school district, charter school, or renaissance school project be made only by a registered municipal accountant or a certified public accountant of New Jersey who holds an uncancelled registration license as a public-school accountant for New Jersey.

Key steps/actions

Authorized public school staff and Independent public-school auditors can access AudSum through the NJDOE's [Homeroom website](#). Independent public-school audit firms are advised that completion of the system registration process is required before entry into the application will be permitted. Repeat registration is not required. However, once registered, all independent public-school auditors must annually obtain a unique PIN for access to each individual AudSum associated with the public-school audit client.. Accordingly, please submit your public school audit client PIN request, including a list of your firm's school district, charter school, and renaissance school project audit clients as of June 30, 2020 to the NJDOE at audsum@doe.nj.gov as soon as possible. You will be notified of your PIN within five days of your request.

Background

AudSum data is utilized by the NJDOE for many critical purposes, such as the Taxpayer's Guide to Education Spending, indirect cost rate calculations, Certified Tuition Rates and reporting to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Beginning with the year that ended on June 30, 2018, the collection of annual unaudited school-level spending was collected through the AudSum "School Level Expenditures" screen. For the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2020, New Jersey school districts must comply with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirement to annually include per-pupil expenditures of federal, state, and local funds for each school in the district within the school district's electronic "Report Card."

The NJDOE will utilize the district-reported data to generate "School Level Spending" reports meeting the minimum requirements of ESSA. Because this data is unaudited, only school district users are authorized to certify to the accuracy and completeness of data entered into the "School Level Expenditures" screen. The school district will have the option to upload expenditure data by county, district, school (CDS) code into AudSum, or to manually enter each school's expenditures into AudSum.

Please refer to the NJDOE's [ESSA webpage](#) for detailed information and reporting requirements. Please refer to pages 22 through 27 of the [AudSum Manual](#) for detailed instructions for completion of the "School Level Expenditures" screen.

For documentation purposes, the NJDOE has published an "Audit Summary Worksheet," listing each available line item for 2019-20, and the line items that have been added for 2019-20 are marked as "new" and highlighted in yellow for easy identification. The worksheet can be accessed by selecting the "Audit Summary Worksheet" link on the NJDOE's [Audit Summary Application](#) webpage. Several new lines were added this year to record revenues and expenditures related to the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

AudSum data will be preloaded into the 2021-2022 school district budget software. The school business administrator/board secretary in each school district, charter school or renaissance school project is ultimately responsible for the timely submission of the school certified and independent public-school auditor certified AudSum data to the NJDOE.

Contact information

Please email questions regarding the AudSum to audsum@doe.nj.gov.

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