



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: April 7, 2021
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Principals, Teachers
From: Lisa J. Gleason, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance

Release of the 2019-2020 School Performance Reports

On April 7, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is making publicly available the State's School Performance Reports for the 2019-2020 school year. The reports may be found on the NJDOE's School Performance Report [website](#), or www.njschooldata.org.

Important Notes about the 2019-2020 Reports

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the way the NJDOE was able to measure school performance and student achievement in the 2019-2020 School Performance Reports. Some data is not available and other data, while available, may not look the same as it did in prior years. Notably, in light of the accountability, school identification, and reporting requirement [waiver](#) that the U.S. Department of Education granted to all 50 states last year, 2019-2020 School Performance Reports do not include statewide assessment participation and performance, student growth, chronic absenteeism, progress toward meeting long-term goals and measurements of interim progress, or ESSA summative ratings or indicator scores. The NJDOE also recognizes that our existing data cannot begin to measure the hard work and perseverance of the students, families, educators, and community members during this difficult year.

The NJDOE believes that it is critical to use the available data in the School Performance Reports, along with other information collected directly within your district and community, to start conversations, identify gaps in information, and enhance efforts to address the impacts of COVID-19 and ensure all students receive the support that they need.

Notes are included throughout the School Performance Reports to explain where data is missing or impacted by COVID-19 and a new [Impact of COVID-19 on Data Availability](#) resource is available to summarize this information.

Enhancements to the 2019-2020 School Performance Reports

The 2019-2020 reports include changes that respond to stakeholder feedback collected over the last several years and during the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes include:

- **New report design** with improved visuals and new navigational tools;
- **Additional data** about graduation cohorts to provide more information about students who do not graduate;
- **New resources** to help explain the impact of COVID-19 on the availability of data in the reports; and
- **A new narrative field, "Learning During COVID-19"**, to give districts an opportunity to share information on how they responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sharing the School and District Reports with your School Community

To help districts share the information in the School Performance Reports and support conversations with school communities, the NJDOE has developed an optional toolkit. The School Performance Reports toolkit includes:

- A [sample letter](#) that superintendents can send to their communities announcing the release of the School Performance 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](#); and
- Information sheets that explain [Graduation Rates](#) and [Median Student Growth Percentiles](#).

The NJDOE Guide for Local Stakeholder Engagement also 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 also 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