



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 11, 2021
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route to: School Business Administrators/Board Secretaries, Public School Accountants
From: Kevin Dehmer, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Finance

Release of Independent Auditor Information for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has posted the following year-end audit documents to the [Finance section](#) of its website:

- School District, Charter School, and Renaissance School Project Audit Program for FY 2021 (Audit Program);
- The School District, Charter School, and Renaissance School Project State Aid/Grant Compliance Supplement for FY 2021 (Compliance Supplement); and
- The School District, Charter School, and Renaissance School Project Administrative Questionnaire (Questionnaire)

Key steps/actions

The *2020-2021 Audit Program* and *Compliance Supplement* have been updated and revised to reflect changes to laws, regulations, programs and financial reporting standards effective for FY 2021. For ease of use, new guidance added to the *Audit Program* has been summarized in the Introductory Section (Significant Changes and Other Changes and Updates).

The *Compliance Supplement* establishes the audit procedures to test compliance with the requirements for selected State of New Jersey funded programs, and is arranged by sections and chapters. Similar to the *Audit Program*, the *Compliance Supplement* presentation for 2021 is applicable to public school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects. The 2021 presentation includes subtitles for each type of aid that clearly indicate whether the compliance requirements and suggested audit procedures for that aid category are applicable to independent audits of school districts, charter schools, or renaissance school projects.

The *Questionnaire* must be completed by every school district, charter school, and renaissance school project. The school undergoing audit must present the completed *Questionnaire* to the auditor no later than commencement of audit fieldwork. The *Questionnaire* is included in Section III – Chapter 6 of the *Audit Program*. Auditors must review this questionnaire in conjunction with their test of transactions and include a finding and recommendation if the school district, charter school, or renaissance school project presents a questionnaire that is substantially incomplete or inaccurate.

School district, charter school, and renaissance school project business administrators/board secretaries are encouraged to download a copy of the *Questionnaire* from the [NJDOE's Finance webpage](#) for completion prior to the start of the audit. Auditors will obtain the *Questionnaire* for inclusion in their audit work papers.

Other audit information related to the June 30, 2021 year-end audit available on the NJDOE's website includes:

- [2020-2021 Budget Guidelines](#)
- Illustrative schedules and related instructions for preparing school-based budget Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (CAFR) schedules are posted on the NJDOE's [CAFR webpage](#).
- The *Audit Program* requires school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects to have available for audit a schedule detailing those staff positions requiring a school administrator, principal, or school business administrator certificate as part of the "Checklist for Preparation for an Annual Independent Audit." This checklist is presented in Section III, Chapter 6 of the *Audit Program*.
- The Statistical Section is a required component of the CAFR (reference the *Audit Program* - Section III, Chapter Three) and requires the availability of certain statistical data for presentation. For ease of preparation, when available, the following statistical data for each required schedule will be posted by county, and by school district, charter school, and renaissance school project on the NJDOE's [Finance webpage](#):
 - Annual Average Labor Force Estimates by Municipality
 - Per Capita Personal Income for New Jersey
 - October 2020 District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTS) Summary Report
 - Subcounty Population Estimates
 - On-Behalf TPAF Pension and OPEB Payments for 2020-2021

Contact information

For more information, please email doe.cafr@doe.nj.gov.

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