



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: November 2, 2022
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services
Deadline: November 15, 2022

Review 2022 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability Profiles

The ESSA accountability system was designed, in consultation with numerous stakeholders and detailed in New Jersey's approved [ESSA State Plan](#), to assist schools and districts in preparing their students for postsecondary success. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) received approval from the United States Department of Education through the [COVID-19 State Plan Addendum](#) to make changes to the accountability system for the 2021-2022 school year. These changes were outlined in an [October 5 broadcast memo](#).

The purpose of this broadcast is to announce the opening of the embargo period for local educational agency (LEA) and school leads to access and review their 2022 ESSA Accountability Profiles. The profiles show whether student groups in each school and LEA met annual ESSA accountability targets and standards for each indicator. Several enhancements were made to the profiles this year, including:

- Transforming the static, one-page pdf report into a dynamic data dashboard with a separate tab for each accountability indicator;
- Adding an "overview" tab that provides an accountability summary for each indicator and student group;
- Including explanatory text and graphics to facilitate interpretation, and
- Ensuring consistency in terminology between the Accountability Profiles and the School Performance Reports.

Accessing and Using the Profiles

The 2022 ESSA Accountability Profiles may be accessed through the [ESSA Data folder](#) in NJDOE Homeroom. LEA and school administrators will be required to login to this folder to gain access to the profiles. An LEA's NJDOE Homeroom administrator can assist with access if needed. All information contained in the 2022 ESSA Accountability profiles is embargoed. Therefore, the information contained in the profiles may not be shared with the media or the public until it is released by the NJDOE in the 2021-2022 School Performance Reports.

Once the link to the profiles is selected, users will be routed to the "Overview" page of the profile, which is also the first tab in the horizontal navigation bar at the top of the page. On this page, select the County from the dropdown menu and then select the LEA (or district). The default school will be the LEA's profile, or the district-level data. Use the dropdown menu under "School" to view the profile for a specific school within the LEA. The remaining tabs on the top navigation bar provide more detailed information for each accountability indicator, including outcomes and annual targets for each student group. Simply click on a tab to view how the LEA or school performed on the indicator. The bar graphs on each indicator tab show the percent of student groups that met the annual target or standard, did not meet, exceeded, or were not assessed against a target or standard for falling "below the n-size," or including too few students to provide valid and reliable insight.

Student-Level Data Spreadsheets

The NJDOE also provided student-level data for the Progress toward English Language Proficiency (ELP) and academic achievement indicators. These spreadsheets can be found in the same NJDOE Homeroom folder as the profiles. LEA and school administrators will have access to two spreadsheets, one for ELP student-level data and one for assessment data. There is a separate glossary for each file that explains the data included in the spreadsheets.

LEAs may also access student-level graduation data through [NJ SMART](#) using district reports. Administrators should review the High School Graduation Cohort Status Profile filtered for accountable school, federal calculation, and the August 31, 2021 snapshot for the 2021 Cohort (four-year graduation rate) and the 2020 Cohort (five-year graduation rate).

Reviewing ESSA Accountability Profiles

It is critical for LEA and school leadership and data teams to review the ESSA Accountability Profiles to ensure that the data are correct. LEAs must use the appeals process, detailed below, to correct any suspected errors. These data will be used for 2021-2022 ESEA accountability determinations and reported in the 2021-2022 School Performance Reports.

The profiles may also be used to determine if interventions and supports for learning have been successful in each school and for specific student groups. The Overview table is a convenient starting point to determine potential areas and student groups in need of interventions and supports. Leadership may want to conduct a [root cause analysis](#) to determine why some student groups met fewer annual targets than others.

To support the understanding of the indicators and the calculations used in developing this year's profiles, the NJDOE has prepared a Companion Guide that is available within the NJDOE Homeroom ESSA Data folder. For each accountability indicator, the Companion Guide includes a definition, the purpose of the indicator, a description of the calculation along with examples, and any applicable targets and long-term goals required by ESSA.

Appeals

LEA administrators may file an appeal if, after reviewing the ESSA Accountability Profiles, they identify and document an error in the calculation of either a school's or the LEA's performance on any of the accountability indicators. Additionally, appeals may be filed if a review of the student-level assessment data suggests that a student was included in the academic achievement indicator calculations in error.

As outlined in the [October 5 broadcast memo](#), this is the first year that the NJDOE must include grade 12 students who did not meet the federal high school mathematics testing requirements in high school as non-participants in the participation calculation. The NJDOE used historical assessment and NJ SMART Course Roster data to identify these students. These students are included in the student-level assessment file available in the NJDOE Homeroom ESSA data folder. All appeals regarding these grade 12 students must include documentation that the student took the required high school mathematics assessment while in high school.

The NJDOE will only accept appeals related to its calculation of the data. Appeals to amend the LEA-submitted data used in the accountability calculations (e.g. chronic absenteeism, graduation rate data) will not be considered as the deadlines for LEAs to review and correct those data have passed.

A link to an appeals form will be available in the NJDOE Homeroom ESSA Data folder. LEA administrators must submit separate appeals for each issue they identify. LEA administrators should upload any supporting documentation using the upload feature in the NJDOE Homeroom. Appeals must be submitted by November 15, 2022 at 5 p.m.

Contact Information

Any questions related to the 2022 ESEA Accountability Profiles may be directed to the Office of Fiscal and Data Services at OFDS@doe.nj.gov.

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