



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 27, 2023  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: ESEA Directors, LEA and School Administrators, Students, Educators, Families, Staff Involved with the Coordination of ESEA Programs  
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services  
Deadline: August 9, 2023

## **NJDOE Invites Public Comment on Proposed Amendments to New Jersey ESSA State Plan**

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is inviting public comment to a **limited set of revisions** to New Jersey's 2017 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan (State Plan). During the 2022-2023 school year, the United States Department of Education (USED) notified states that they must submit amendments to their state plans to reflect implementation of changes following the COVID-19 emergency.

New Jersey's State Plan was approved in 2017 following the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) through the ESSA. The State Plan describes New Jersey's approach to improve school and district accountability in an effort to close the achievement gap and ensure that all students have equitable access to high-quality educational resources and opportunities.

The list of required changes can be viewed on the [NJDOE ESSA webpage](#). The amendments are limited in scope and reflect changes that have already been made related to:

- 1) The [approved short-term amendments](#) to the State Plan, which was based on the [2021-2022 Addendum for the Consolidated State Plan due to COVID-19](#);
- 2) The current assessment system (e.g., replacing PARCC assessments with the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment);
- 3) The [New Jersey Performance Review Report FY 2019](#); and
- 4) The corrective action plan issued by USED for the Migrant Education Program (MEP) in 2017.

The NJDOE recognizes that a broader review of the State Plan is necessary and therefore, beginning fall 2023, the NJDOE will collaborate with stakeholders to reassess New Jersey's long-term student goals and the success of the State Plan's implementation since its approval in 2017. Following meaningful engagement with stakeholders, the NJDOE expects to then submit an updated State Plan, with significant changes, to USED in 2024.

### **Public Comment Process**

The complete list of redlined changes to the State Plan is available for review on the [NJDOE ESSA webpage](#). The NJDOE invites all members of the public to review the proposal and submit comments to [ESSA@doe.nj.gov](mailto:ESSA@doe.nj.gov) by **August 9, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.** Following the two-week public comment period, the NJDOE will submit the limited amendments to USED.

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