



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 31, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Directors of Special Services
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Release of the Local District Special Education Profiles

In order to fulfill the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), each state must annually report to the public on the performance of each local educational agency (LEA) in relation to state targets reported in the federally required special education State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR). The reports include local data and state targets for the SPP/APR indicators required for public reporting for 2021-2022 by the United States Office of Special Education Programs (USOSEP).

Targets for indicators related to student performance or outcomes were identified with input from a diverse group of stakeholders. The SPP/APR, which include full descriptions of all indicators and state performance relative to targets, can be found on the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) [State Performance Plan Annual Performance Report](#) webpage.

The purpose of this memo is to announce the release of the Local Special Education Profiles, which show whether the school district met annual state targets for each indicator. The Local Special Education Profiles can be found on the [State Performance Plan Annual Performance Report](#) webpage.

Several enhancements were made to the profiles this year, including:

- Transforming the static, multi-page PDF report into a dynamic data dashboard;
- Organizing indicators by topic, to highlight their applicability and meaning for special education services and programs under the IDEA;
- Including explanatory text and graphics to facilitate interpretation; and
- Ensuring consistency in terminology between the Local Profiles and the School Performance Reports.

NJDOE encourages LEAs to use these reports to compare performance to the state targets and to review data from previous years to identify changes and trends. Key metrics, such as placement in the least restrictive environment, disproportionality, and postsecondary outcomes, may be used to highlight successes and to identify areas for improvement.

Feedback, Support, and Training

In collaboration with the Office of Fiscal and Data Services, the Office of Special Education will be hosting a series of training opportunities called the "Special Education Data360 Series" at the regional Learning Resource Centers. For more information or to register, please visit the NJDOE's [Summer Learning Institute](#) webpage.

Questions or concerns should be emailed to OSEdata@doe.nj.gov.

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