



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: November 1, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services
Deadline: November 15, 2023

2023 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability Profiles

The ESSA accountability system was designed, in consultation with stakeholders and detailed in New Jersey's approved [ESSA State Plan](#), to assist schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing students for postsecondary success. An overview of the 2022-2023 accountability system was outlined in a broadcast dated [October 4, 2023](#).

The purpose of this broadcast is to announce the opening of the embargo period for LEA and school leads to access and review their 2023 ESSA Accountability Profiles. The profiles provide schools and LEA data for each of New Jersey's accountability indicators and show whether student groups met annual ESSA accountability targets and standards.

Accessing and Using the Profiles

The 2023 ESSA Accountability Profiles may be accessed through the [ESSA Data folder](#) in Homeroom. LEA and school administrators will need to log in to this folder in order to gain access to the profiles.

All information contained in the 2023 ESSA Accountability profiles is embargoed. Therefore, the information contained in the profiles may not be shared with the media or public until it is released by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) through the 2022-2023 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 and LEA (or district) from the dropdown menus at the top of the page. 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 each indicator.

Student-Level Data Spreadsheets

The NJDOE has provided student-level data for the academic achievement, academic progress, progress toward English language proficiency (ELP), and school quality indicators. These spreadsheets can be found in the same NJDOE Homeroom folder as the profiles. LEAs and school administrators will have access to three spreadsheets: one for assessment and student growth data, one for ELP student-level data, and one for chronic absenteeism data. There are also glossaries available that explain the data included in each file.

LEAs may access student-level graduation data through the New Jersey Standards Measurement and Resource for Training (NJ SMART) using district reports. LEAs should review the High School Graduation Cohort Status Profile filtered for accountable school, federal calculation, and the August 31, 2022 snapshot for the 2022 Cohort (four-year graduation rate) and the 2021 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 understand the data that will be used for 2022-2023 ESSA accountability determinations and reported in the 2022-2023 School Performance Reports. LEAs may use the appeals process, detailed below, to correct certain types of errors in the data.

The profiles enable educators to review progress towards meeting the intent of ESSA, which is to close educational achievement gaps between student groups. The overview table is a convenient starting point to determine potential areas and student groups in need of intervention and support. 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 page. 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 an error is identified and documented in the NJDOE's calculation of performance on any 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.

The NJDOE includes 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 uses NJ SMART data from the Student Identification (SID) Management Federal High School Math Testing Requirement field, as well as historical assessment and NJ SMART Course Roster data, to identify these students. These students will be included in the student-level assessment file included in the NJDOE Homeroom ESSA data folder. If an LEA files an appeal related to the student-level data, documentation should be submitted that a student took the required high school mathematics assessment while in high school.

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

A link to an appeals form will be available in the NJDOE Homeroom ESSA folder. LEAs should submit separate appeals for each issue identified and upload any supporting document using the upload feature in NJDOE Homeroom. Appeals must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2023.

Contact information

For any questions after reviewing the profiles, the student-level data, and the Companion Guide, please contact the NJDOE's Office of Performance Management at performancemanagement@doe.nj.gov.

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