



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 30, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals and School Leads, School Business Administrators, Web User Administrators
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services
Deadline: November 15, 2024

2024 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Profiles

The Every Student Succeeds Act (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 2023-2024 accountability process was outlined in a [broadcast dated October 2, 2024](#).

The purpose of this broadcast is to announce the opening of the embargo period for LEA and school leads to access and review their 2024 ESSA Profiles. The profiles provide school-level and LEA-level 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 2024 ESSA Profiles may be accessed through the [ESSA Data folder](#) in Homeroom. LEA and school administrators will need to log into this folder to access the profiles.

All information contained in the 2024 ESSA 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 2023-2024 School Performance Reports.

The ESSA Profiles have been redesigned for 2024 to allow LEAs to compare performance across schools in a district, review performance relative to annual targets and standards, and compare performance to the prior year more easily. Instructions for how to navigate, understand, and download a profile are available by clicking Overview from the navigation menu and then selecting Instructions. Information will also be available in the ESSA Companion Guide, which is also available in Homeroom. The ESSA Companion Guide provides detailed information about how the ESSA accountability indicators are calculated and how annual targets were determined.

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 also can be found in the same NJDOE Homeroom folder as the profiles, the [ESSA Data folder](#). LEAs and school administrators will have access to three spreadsheets: one for assessment and student growth data, one for Progress toward 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 NJ SMART using district reports. LEAs should review the High School Graduation Cohort Status Profile filtered for accountable school and the August 31, 2023, snapshot for the 2023 Cohort (four-year graduation rate) and the 2022 Cohort (five-year graduation rate).

Reviewing ESSA Accountability Profiles

It is critical for LEA and school leadership and data teams to review the ESSA Profiles to understand the data that will be used for 2023-2024 ESSA accountability determinations and reported in the 2023-2024 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 performance 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 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 may have also excluded certain high school mathematics assessment records if students have already been included in high school assessment results in prior years or if it is determined that students were not required to take the assessment in the given year. LEAs can review students who were excluded in the student-level assessment file on a separate tab labeled "Excluded." A reason for why students were not included in the assessment data used for ESSA accountability purposes is provided in the file. If an LEA believes a student was excluded in error, or if they feel other students should have been excluded, the LEA can file an appeal to request a review.

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, final district assessment 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, 2024.

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