



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 15, 2025  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities  
Route To: Data Coordinators, Directors of Technology, NJ SMART points of contact  
From: Shashi Yellambhatla, Chief Information Officer  
Office of Information Technology

## **An Important Step Forward: Department to Transition NJ SMART to New Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System**

The New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) NJ Standards Measurement and Resource for Teaching (NJ SMART) is the current comprehensive statewide longitudinal data system that serves multiple purposes, including staff/student identification, data warehousing, data reporting, and analytics.

NJ SMART was originally launched to help New Jersey's public education system develop evidence-based practices, meet new federal data reporting requirements, including those pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and use technology to improve information sharing and administrative efficiency.

To support the NJDOE's mission of providing equitable access to high-quality education and achieving academic excellence for New Jersey students, NJDOE has been preparing to transition from NJ SMART to the New Jersey Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (NJSLEDS).

The updated system is intended to align with evolving technology and data needs, offering improved accuracy, streamlined workflows, enhanced security, and flexibility for future developments.

### **What's Next?**

- Between now and September 2025 the NJDOE will partner with our school districts to test the new NJSLEDS system through a series of pilots on various data collection/submission capabilities.
- Feedback from these pilots will be used to refine the development of the new NJSLEDS application, along with the training and support documentation, which will be easily accessible on the new NJSLEDS website.
- A special focus will be made on continuity, ensuring that the NJ SMART data submissions/collection timeline continues smoothly until the transition to NJSLEDS is completed.

### **Additional Information**

Project updates, news, webinars, and key documentation will be posted on the new NJSLEDS website coming soon.

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

NJ LEE Group