



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 23, 2025  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: Principals, Supervisors, Teachers  
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Teaching and Learning Services  
Deadline: August 14, 2025

## Invitation to Participate in a Pilot to Rethink Student Growth Objectives (SGOs)

As a companion to the recently released educator evaluation guidance for the 2025–2026 school year, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is launching a pilot initiative to explore and test improved models for measuring student growth.

“The Innovations in Measuring Student Growth for Evaluation Pilot Program” will run from September 2025 through June 2026 and aligns with the broader goals of the [Educator Evaluation Review Task Force](#). The pilot is designed to actualize the best practice recommendations from the recently released guidance, informing the future of measuring student growth in the teacher evaluation process.

### Pilot Overview

Purpose: To identify and test approaches designed to reinvent the traditional SGO process by:

- Maintaining alignment with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS);
- Improving integration of measuring student growth data with other required evaluation components;
- Encouraging collaborative decision-making throughout the process; and
- Reducing administrative burdens many times associated with SGOs.

The Commitment to Participate:

- Attend **four in-person convenings** (at the NJDOE unless otherwise specified) with a team of four representatives (comprised of both administrators and teachers). The first session will be a full day training and orientation scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025.
- Collaborate with other Local Educational Agency (LEA) pilot participants and the NJDOE on best practices in all aspects of measuring student growth.
- Assist in the development of templates, FAQs, and exemplars to support implementation.
- Commit to site visits from NJDOE staff.
- Complete surveys and participate in feedback activities.
- Districts will give a notification to the local unions informing them of the district’s participation
- Please note: There is no funding associated with this pilot.

**How to Apply**

LEAs interested in participating should complete the [pilot application](#) by **August 14, 2025**. Up to 15 LEAs will be selected to participate. The selection process will ensure geographic and demographic diversity, including representation across regions of the state, district types, grade configurations and sizes.

Two technical assistance sessions will be offered for those interested in applying for the pilot. Please visit the NJDOE [events page](#) to register:

- Monday, July 28, 2025: 9-10 a.m.
- Thursday, July 31, 2025: 9-10 a.m.

**Contact Information**

For more information, please contact the Office of Educator Effectiveness at [EduEval@doe.nj.gov](mailto:EduEval@doe.nj.gov).

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