



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 15, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: School Business Administrators, Web User Administrators, Principals, School Leads
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

2025 ESSA Accountability Process Overview

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is currently conducting its annual Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability process using data from the 2024-2025 school year. This broadcast provides updates and expected timelines for that process, as well as how the updated and revised ESSA State Plan that was approved by the United States Department of Education (USDE) in May 2025 will impact the 2025 process.

School Identification and Exit

As outlined in [New Jersey's ESSA State Plan](#), the standard timeline for identifying and exiting schools for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) and additional targeted support and improvement (ATSI) is every three years. Schools were last identified in and exited from these two categories of support in fall 2023 (based on data from the 2022-2023 school year). The NJDOE will not be identifying schools for CSI or ATSI status in fall 2025. The next identification of schools for CSI and ATSI status is scheduled to occur in fall 2026 (based on data from the 2025-2026 school year).

States are required to identify schools for targeted support and improvement (TSI) annually, so the NJDOE will be identifying schools for TSI status in fall 2025. Additionally, any schools currently identified for TSI status for the 2025-2026 school year will be eligible to exit this status in June 2026 if their specified improvement criteria are met. Schools are identified for TSI status if they have one or more student groups that have missed annual targets and performed below the state average for all available indicators for two years in a row. For the fall 2025 identification, the NJDOE will be reviewing whether student groups have met annual targets for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. The 2024-2025 targets for academic achievement and graduation are posted on the [NJDOE Accountability webpage](#).

Timeline for 2025 Accountability Process

The NJDOE expects to share the embargoed 2025 ESSA Profiles with LEAs by the first week of November 2025. The ESSA Profiles allow LEAs to review their 2024-2025 data for all ESSA indicators at the district, school, and student group level. The profiles also show status in meeting annual targets for each indicator, which can be utilized to complete the needs assessment in the ESEA Consolidated grant application, the Title I schoolwide plan, and the school improvement plan.

In addition to the ESSA Profiles, the NJDOE will share student-level data for LEAs to review through NJDOE Homeroom. LEAs will be notified through a broadcast when the profiles and Homeroom data are available for review.

The NJDOE will finalize TSI identification and exit decisions and notify schools by January 31, 2026 if they have been identified for the 2026-2027 school year or will be exiting in June 2026. The NJDOE will not release identification and exit decisions publicly until the School Performance Reports are released in spring 2026.

Updates to ESSA State Plan

New Jersey's updated and revised ESSA State Plan was approved by the USDE on May 27, 2025. These updates are the result of meaningful and ongoing stakeholder engagement and reflect the NJDOE's commitment to continuous improvement. The updated plan includes the following changes that will impact the fall 2025 accountability process:

1. Updated methodology for establishing long-term goals and annual targets for academic achievement and graduation rates;
2. Updated long-term goals and annual targets for the Progress toward English Language Proficiency (ELP) indicator;
3. Two new accountability indicators: Six-Year Graduation Rate and High School Persistence;
4. Expanded indicator performance levels for academic achievement, graduation rates, and progress toward ELP; and
5. Change of the minimum required days present and absent to be included in the chronic absenteeism indicator from 45 to 90 days.

The NJDOE has created a new [ESSA Plan Updates resource document](#) explaining how the updates will impact the 2025 accountability process. Additional details about how all accountability indicators are calculated and how annual targets are established and measured will be included in the ESSA Profile Companion guide, which will be posted on the NJDOE Accountability webpage when the ESSA Profiles are released in November.

Contact Information

Contact the Office of Performance Management with any questions about the accountability system at PerformanceManagement@doe.nj.gov.

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