STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: November 24, 2026

To: Local Educational Agency Leads

Route To: ESSA Program Directors, Grant Directors, School Business Administrators

From: Jacqueline Gibbs, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Accountability and Analytics

Deadline: December 18, 2026

Title I Comparability of Services Report for 2026-2027 Now Available

The purpose of this memo is to notify local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving Title I funds (Title I LEAs) that the 2026-2027 Comparability of Services Report is now available in NJGMS and is due **Friday, December 18, 2026**. This memo also outlines how to access the report, the data required, and the steps for LEAs that do not meet the requirement(s).

Background

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) must ensure that Title I LEAs provide services in Title I schools that, taken as a whole, are at least comparable to the services provided in schools not receiving Title I funds. To meet this requirement, NJDOE collects a Comparability of Services Report from each Title I LEA annually.

Accessing and Submitting the Report

The report is now available in NJGMS and can be accessed through the Electronic Web-Enabled Grant (EWEG) system by selecting the NJGMS bridge link. Instructions for completing the report are available through the instructions link on the report's overview tab. LEAs should submit the report once their Application for State School Aid (ASSA) enrollment data are final (see Data Requirements below) and no later than December 18.

Data Requirements

Title I LEAs must calculate comparability using current data. For 2026-27, LEAs must use student enrollment from the Application for State School Aid (ASSA), which is also accessible through NJDOE's Homeroom portal. All student and staffing information must be updated in EWEG before the December 18, 2026 deadline. NJDOE will randomly select LEAs for monitoring and data verification in spring 2027.

LEAs That Do Not Meet the Requirement(s)

LEAs that do not meet comparability in one or more grade spans must complete a "long form" outside the grants management system. The long form collects additional staffing and salary information that allows NJDOE to re-evaluate comparability using alternate methods. LEAs that still

do not meet the requirement after NJDOE reviews the long form must develop and implement a corrective action plan to come into compliance no later than February 2027.

Contact Information

For general questions about the Comparability of Services requirement(s), please contact the Office of Fiscal and Data Services at OFDS@doe.nj.gov. Questions about grade span grouping within the report should be directed to the EWEG help desk at eweghelp@doe.nj.gov.