



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 16, 2026
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Web User Administrators, Principals and School Leads in LEAs serving grades 9 through 12
From: Jacqueline Gibbs, Chief Accountability and Analytics Officer
Deadline: October 2, 2026, 5 p.m.

Action Required: Review 2026 Graduation Data and Submit Appeals

Local educational agencies (LEAs) serving grades 9 through 12 can now view preliminary graduation rates in the New Jersey Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (NJSLEDS). These preliminary rates are based on the NJSLEDS Student Management snapshot captured on August 31, 2026. LEAs can submit graduation appeals to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) in NJSLEDS to correct data that impacts the calculation of graduation rates. All appeals and any required documentation **must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 2, 2026.**

NJSLEDS Graduation Reports

The NJSLEDS **Graduation Cohort Profile** and **Graduation Student-Level** reports are available to LEAs to review their graduation data. The Cohort Profile report shows calculated state and federal graduation rates and the count and percentage of students in each cohort category. The Student-Level report shows all students by graduation cohort with their cohort category (Graduated, Dropout, Transfer Out – Unverified, etc.) and other information used in the calculation of graduation rates.

Resources can be found on the [NJSLEDS Graduation User Resources page](#). Details on how to use the reports can be found in the Graduation Reports User Guide. The Graduation Data Quality Checklist gives suggestions of what LEAs should look for in the NJSLEDS Graduation Reports to help determine if data is accurate.

Graduation Appeals Process

The graduation appeals process provides LEAs with a final opportunity to resolve issues due to incorrect or missing information in their graduation data before it is finalized and used for reporting and accountability purposes. Resources for the graduation appeals process, including the Graduation Appeals Handbook and the Graduation Appeals User Guide can be found on the [NJSLEDS Graduation User Resources page](#). The Graduation Appeals User Guide provides details on the appeals process, reasons for appeals, how to identify issues and fix errors, and the required documentation for each type of appeal.

For additional details and suggestions of what data to review, see the [August 12, 2026 Graduation Data broadcast](#).

All appeals should be submitted **by 5 p.m. on October 2, 2026**, however LEAs are encouraged to submit appeals as early as possible during the appeal window since they are reviewed on a rolling basis. Submitting appeals early allows the NJDOE to follow up if additional information is required. LEAs should make sure that appeals include clear explanations and appropriate documentation. LEAs can monitor appeal decisions on the NJSLEDS Graduation Appeals page.

The NJDOE will review all appeals and make final decisions by late October. The NJDOE expects to update NJSLEDS graduation reports to reflect final 2025-2026 graduation rates in November. LEAs will be notified when the final data is available.

Graduation Resources and Training

Graduation resources are available on the [NJSLEDS Graduation Resources page](#) to support LEAs in reporting graduation data, explaining how graduation rates are calculated, answering frequently asked questions, understanding the appeals process, and describing how to use the associated district reports.

The NJSLEDS team will be hosting **Graduation Appeals webinars** on Wednesday, September 16 at 11 a.m., Tuesday September 22 at 1 p.m., and Tuesday September 29 at 11 a.m. Register for webinars on the [NJSLEDS Trainings page](#).

Contact Information

Contact the NJSLEDS Help Desk using the [NJSLEDS Help Desk Web Form](#) or by phone at 609-376-3970 with technical or account issues in NJSLEDS. Contact gradappeals@doe.nj.gov with any questions about your district's graduation data or the graduation appeals process.