



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, Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: Principals, Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction, Supervisors, Instructional Coaches, Teachers

From: Dr. Tiffany Neill, Acting Chief Academic Officer
Division of Academic Services

Action Required: Universal Literacy Screener Data Submission and Vendor Reporting

As noted in the [August 19, 2026, broadcast](#), Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities (APSSDs) are required to submit student-level universal literacy screener data three times per year to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) following each screening window. To support implementation of these requirements, the NJDOE, in partnership with the [New Jersey Tiered Systems of Support for Early Reading \(NJSS-ER\)](#) at the Rutgers University Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, has developed resources to assist LEAs with screening administration and data submission. This broadcast provides information on the availability of direct vendor submission beginning with the 2026-2027 Beginning-of-Year (BOY) reporting window, required LEA actions, screening resources aligned to the New Jersey Literacy Framework, and upcoming technical assistance opportunities.

Submissions

To streamline reporting, reduce administrative burden, and improve the accuracy and efficiency of statewide data collection, the NJDOE will offer two different options for submission:

Option 1: Direct Vendor Submission

The Department is pleased to offer a direct vendor submission option beginning with the **2026-2027 Beginning-of-Year (BOY) submission window**. Participating assessment vendors will be able to submit universal literacy screener data directly to the NJDOE on behalf of participating LEAs through an addendum to their contract. The LEA and their vendor should enter into an addendum to their contract for each vendor to directly report Screener data to the Department on behalf of the LEA. The Vendor will report Universal Literacy Screener data to the Department through a secure file upload. Data submissions should be completed for the Beginning-of-Year (BOY) reporting period by November 13, 2026, the Middle-of-Year (MOY) reporting period by February 12, 2027, and the End-of-Year (EOY) reporting period by July 2, 2027. LEAs interested in utilizing direct vendor submission should review any proposed contract addendums with their legal counsel and applicable district offices to ensure compliance with local policies and requirements prior to execution.

Option 2: Submission through NJDOE Homeroom

For LEAs using paper-based DIBELS 8, a data submission template is available in the NJ Homeroom portal. LEAs using other assessments that choose to upload data directly through NJ Homeroom will receive additional guidance from the Office of Learning Equity and Academic Recovery through their designated data contact.

Please complete the [“Universal Literacy Screener Data” form](#) by **Friday, October 9, 2026**, to indicate whether your LEA or its assessment vendor will be responsible for submitting universal literacy screener data to the NJDOE. This information will be used to coordinate data submissions and ensure all required data are received.

Screener Resources

To support LEAs, the NJDOE is sharing a technical assistance document developed by NJTSS-ER that identifies screening tasks within commonly used assessment platforms that align with the criteria outlined in the [New Jersey Literacy Framework: A Guide to Evidence-Based Literacy Practices & Universal Screeners](#). The recommendations are based on a review of vendor materials, technical documentation, and discussions with assessment providers. This resource is intended to support local decision-making and data submission planning. It is not an official NJDOE list of approved, endorsed, or recommended universal literacy screeners, and inclusion of an assessment in this document should not be interpreted as NJDOE approval or recommendation. To view the resource, [click here](#).

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance sessions will be held on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026, and Wednesday, October 7, 2026, from 10:00-10:30 AM**. Interested participants can register for the event by signing up at <https://homeroom6.doe.nj.gov/eventsreg>.

Contact information

Please email the Office of Learning Equity & Academic Recovery at LEAR@doe.nj.gov with questions regarding *The New Jersey Literacy Framework: A Guide to Evidence-Based Literacy Practices & Universal Screeners*, professional learning, and/or data collection, and visit [the LEAR website](#) for more information.