



NJDOE Superintendents Briefing

August 27, 2026

This briefing highlights selected updates, resources, deadlines, and actions discussed during the August Superintendent Briefing. It is intended as a high-level summary and is not a comprehensive account of all NJDOE broadcasts, guidance documents, reporting requirements, deadlines, or district responsibilities. Districts should continue to review NJDOE broadcasts, Homeroom notifications, and official communications for complete information and applicable requirements.

NJDOE has also updated its system for distributing our broadcasts system, which is now on the Granicus GovDelivery system. While these broadcasts were previously only sent to superintendents, your staff can now sign up to receive this information directly to their inbox. All memos and resources are still available on the [NJDOE Broadcast website](#).

If you have colleagues in your district who would benefit from receiving the Broadcast, please encourage them to subscribe through our [GovDelivery portal](#). You can also use the GovDelivery portal to update your contact information and subscription preferences.

► At a Glance

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► 1. Celebration: County Teachers of the Year

Key Reminders

- Join NJDOE in congratulating New Jersey's 21 County Teachers of the Year for 2026-2027.
- Consider highlighting these educators and other outstanding local teachers at opening convocations, board meetings, and community events.

Related resources:

- [County Teachers of the Year Press Release](#)
- [County Teachers of the Year 2026-27](#)

► 2. School Funding Engagement

NJDOE has launched a statewide effort to review New Jersey's school funding system with a focus on predictability, transparency, accountability, district cost pressures, and student needs.

Superintendent Actions

- Encourage district participation in future stakeholder discussions.
- Encourage board members and community stakeholders to learn more about the funding system.
- Sign up for our School Funding Outreach Newsletter

Related resources:

- [School Funding Outreach Press Release](#)
- [School Funding Outreach Website](#)
- [School Finance Learning Series State Aid 101 and Feedback Survey](#)

► 3. Literacy and Early Reading

Key Reminders

- Districts should administer universal literacy screeners at least three times annually in grades K-3.
- Beginning-of-Year screener data should be submitted to the NJDOE on a rolling basis as data become available, with all required submissions due no later than **November 13, 2026**.
- Parents must receive screening results within 30 days of each screening window.
- STRONG-ER literacy coaching applications are due **September 16, 2026**.

Superintendent Actions

- Ensure screening results drive instructional decisions and interventions.
- Review district implementation and family communication plans.
- Consider applying for STRONG-ER literacy coaching support.

Related resources:

- [Universal Literacy Screener Data Collection Update Broadcast](#)
- [Learning Equity and Academic Recovery \(LEAR\)](#) literacy resources
- [STRONG-ER Leadership Team Training and Coaching Support broadcast](#) and [application](#)
- [Andover Implementation presentation](#)

► 4. Student Supports, School Climate, and Family Engagement

Key Reminders

- Districts should review guidance and FAQs on the new bell-to-bell ban on internet-enabled devices with leadership teams and counsel, and communicate expectations clearly, plan for exceptions, and monitor implementation
- Students may not be denied enrollment based on immigration status.
- Students experiencing homelessness must be immediately enrolled when eligible, even when documentation is unavailable.
- Districts should review procedures for supporting newly arrived students, multilingual learners, and students experiencing homelessness.
- The Governor's Back-to-School Resource Packet is available for distribution to families.
- State law modified the distribution of funding for Auxiliary and Remedial Services (Chapters 192-193) to a reimbursement model

Superintendent Actions

- Review enrollment and support procedures.
- Share back-to-school resources with families.
- Communicate local expectations regarding student use of internet-enabled devices.
- Ensure student support staff understand enrollment requirements.

Related resources:

- [Enrollment Guidance Regardless of Immigration Status Broadcast](#)
- [Students Experiencing Homelessness Broadcast](#)
- [Back-to-School New Jersey State Resource Packet Broadcast](#) and [Packet](#)
- [Internet Enabled Devices Guidance](#) and [FAQs](#)
- [Auxiliary and Remedial Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools Broadcast](#)

► 5. Assessment

Graduation Requirements

The State Board approved graduation-ready cut scores of 450 in English language arts and 450 in mathematics on the NJGPA-A. Alternative-assessment cut scores remain the same as those used for the Classes of 2024 through 2026. The portfolio appeal remains available as a third pathway for the Class of 2027.

Key Reminders

- Spring 2026 NJGPA-A results are now available.
- Districts should identify Class of 2027 students who may need additional support or another graduation pathway.
- Parents and guardians must receive student reports within the required timelines.

Results and Reporting Timeline

Date	Milestone
August 17	Digital individual student reports, summative files, and aggregate school and district results available.
By September 4	Paper individual student reports sent to LEA and APSSD central offices.
October 5	Date identified in the broadcast for accountable LEAs to complete parent or guardian distribution within 30 days of receipt.
Forthcoming	A later broadcast will establish deadlines for local public reporting of spring assessment results.

Superintendent Actions

- Confirm that district teams have accessed and reviewed the August 17 files.
- Identify Class of 2027 students who need additional support or another graduation pathway.
- Send family communication that explains the results, available supports, and next steps in clear language.

Related resources:

- [NJGPA-A Graduation Requirements Broadcast](#)
- [Spring 2026 NJGPA-A Results Broadcast](#)
- [Assessment](#) Website and [NJSLA-A and NJGPA-A FAQs](#)

► 6. Accountability and Data Reporting

Key Reminders

- NJSLEDS Graduation Data must be finalized by **August 31, 2026** at 5:00 p.m.
- Districts must report graduation outcomes to their boards of education by **September 30, 2026**.
- Districts participating in NJQSAC Cohort 2 reviews must submit Gifted and Talented Education Service Reports by **October 1, 2026**.

Superintendent Actions

- Confirm graduation data are accurate.
- Verify all required submissions are assigned and tracked.
- Ensure district data teams are aware of upcoming deadlines.

Related resources:

- [Action Required: Finalize NJSLEDS Graduation Data Broadcast](#)
- [Action Required: Gifted and Talented Education Service Report Submission Broadcast](#)

► 7. Educator Workforce and Professional Practice

Key Reminders

- Evaluation component weights remain unchanged for 2026-2027.
- SGOs remain required for non-tenured educators.
- Educators must be notified of evaluation policies and procedures by **October 1, 2026**.
- Provisional teachers must be registered within 60 days of employment.

Superintendent Actions

- Review evaluation requirements with school leaders.
- Verify provisional teacher registrations.

Related resources:

- [Educator Evaluation Rubric Weights for 2026-2027 Broadcast](#)
- [Provisional Teacher Certification Registration Reminders Broadcast](#)

► 8. Early Childhood Services

Key Reminders

- Required preschool screenings must be completed upon enrollment.
- Districts should begin preschool enrollment planning for the 2027-2028 school year. Projected enrollments are due by **November 15, 2026**.
- Temporary Classroom Units may not be used after the 2026-2027 school year.
- Families with children ages 5 or younger may be eligible for the New Jersey Child Tax Credit and can use SimpleFile to quickly apply by **October 15, 2026**.

Superintendent Actions

- Confirm preschool screening processes and timelines with early childhood staff.
- Review projected preschool enrollment and facility needs for 2027-2028.
- Develop a transition plan for any classrooms currently using Temporary Classroom Units.

Related resources:

- [Important Reminders for Early Childhood Services for the 2026-2027 School Year Broadcast](#)
- [Launch of SimpleFile Portal: Expanding Access to the State's Refundable Child Tax Credit Broadcast](#)

► 9. Additional Broadcasts and Resources

- [Launch of the WIDA English Language Development Standards Website Broadcast](#) and [WIDA ELD Standards](#)
- [Community-Based Instruction Training Opportunities Broadcast](#)
- [Dynamic Learning Maps Fall 2026 Assessment Window Broadcast](#)
- [Migratory Student Identification and Reporting Guidance Broadcast](#)
- [District-Level Supports for the McKinney-Vento Program Broadcast](#)
- [Student Information Requests from Military Recruiters and Postsecondary Institutions Broadcasts](#)
- [Student Information Card for School Bus Drivers and Aides Serving Students with Disabilities Broadcast](#) with [Student Bus Information Card](#)

► 10. Upcoming Deadlines

Important: The deadlines below highlight major upcoming due dates discussed during the briefing and are not a comprehensive list of all state, federal, programmatic, or reporting requirements.

Due Date	Action	Who Does This Apply To
August 31	NJSLEDS Graduation Data Finalization	LEAs serving 12 th graders
September 15	Submission deadline for eligible Charter Renewals	Eligible charter school operators
September 16	STRONG-ER Applications Due	LEAs serving K-3 students
September 30	Districts must report graduation outcomes to their boards of education	LEAs serving 12 th graders
September 30	HESSA deadline for NJ Teacher Loan Redemption Program	All eligible educators
October 1	Educators must be notified of evaluation policies and procedures	All LEAs
October 1	Gifted and Talented Service Reports	QSAC Cohort 2 and Charter Renewals Only (District List by Cohort)
October 1	TPAF Reimbursement Submission and Certification	All LEAs
October 5	LEAs to complete parent or guardian distribution within 30 days of receipt for NJGPA	LEAs with students who took NJGPA-A in the spring
October 7	Nonpublic Project Completion Reports (NPCR)	LEAs who received FY26 Nonpublic School Aid
October 7	Professional Development and Mentoring Statements of Assurance	All LEAs
November 13	Beginning-of-Year literacy screener data due	LEAs serving K–3 students
November 15	Projected enrollments for 2027-2028 preschool enrollment due	LEAs serving preschool students
December 23	Window closes for Dynamic Learning Maps instructionally embedded assessments	All LEAs

► 11. Superintendent Action Checklist

Note: This checklist is intended as a planning tool and summary of key discussion points from the briefing. It should not be interpreted as a complete list of district obligations, reporting requirements, or compliance activities.

- ☐ Share NJDOE broadcast and GovDelivery sign-up information with staff who need regular updates.
- ☐ Review school funding materials, sign up for updates, and complete the State Aid 101 feedback survey.
- ☐ Confirm K–3 literacy screening, data reporting, interventions, and family notification plans.
- ☐ Decide whether to apply for STRONG-ER literacy coaching support by September 16.
- ☐ Share back-to-school, family support, Child Tax Credit, and SimpleFile resources with families.
- ☐ Review enrollment and support procedures for immigrant students, students experiencing homelessness, newly arrived students, and multilingual learners.
- ☐ Communicate local rules for student use of internet-enabled devices, including exceptions.
- ☐ Review Chapters 192/193 funding changes with district and nonpublic services staff.
- ☐ Use NJGPA-A results to identify students who need support or another graduation pathway, and communicate results and next steps to families.
- ☐ Finalize graduation data, report graduation outcomes to the board, and track all required data submissions.
- ☐ Complete educator evaluation notices and provisional teacher registration requirements.
- ☐ Confirm preschool screening, enrollment projections, facility planning, and any Temporary Classroom Unit transition plans.
- ☐ Review additional broadcasts that may apply to your district.
- ☐ Calendar key deadlines through December and assign an owner for each item.
- ☐ Recognize local Teachers of the Year and other outstanding educators.