



NJDOE Superintendents Briefing

September 24, 2026

As we move deeper into the school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the [strategic plan](#) overview that I recently shared with the State Board of Education and with many of you at the ASA Convocation event. The conversations that followed reinforced something important: New Jersey's schools have tremendous strengths, and our greatest opportunity is to align our efforts around a clear set of priorities that will help more students succeed. The strategic plan is intended to provide that north star. It outlines where we are headed, the outcomes we seek for students, and how NJDOE will organize its work to better support districts, schools, educators, students, and families. The strategic plan was recently highlighted in State Board-related discussions and briefings.

This work is not about launching a collection of disconnected initiatives. It is about focusing our energy on a few critical priorities, using data to guide decisions, and building the capacity needed to deliver results. Whether the topic is literacy, career readiness, school funding, educator support, or operational excellence, our goal is the same: helping every student thrive while reducing longstanding gaps in opportunity and outcomes.

Superintendents play a critical role in translating vision into action. Over the coming months, this briefing will continue to highlight how the Department's work connects to the strategic plan and what it means for districts. My hope is that these updates help clarify not only what we are doing, but why we are doing it, and how we can work together to achieve meaningful results for New Jersey's students.

Thank you for your leadership and for everything you do each day on behalf of students, educators, and families across our state.

Note: This briefing highlights selected updates, resources, deadlines, and actions during the September 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 communication for complete information and applicable requirements.

► At a Glance

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3. Inspired Instruction
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 - Assessment
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► 1. Early Excellence

Key Reminders: Literacy Screening

- NJDOE is streamlining literacy screener reporting this year through a new direct vendor submission option, reducing administrative burden and improving reporting efficiency for districts.
- Districts must complete the Universal Literacy Screener Data form by October 9 to indicate whether the district or its assessment vendor will submit screener data to NJDOE.
- NJDOE is providing implementation support, including screener alignment resources and technical assistance sessions to help districts successfully meet reporting requirements.

Superintendent Actions

- **Optional:** Register for the [Universal Literacy Screener Data Submission technical assistance session](#) on October 7, 2026.
- **Required:** Complete the [Universal Literacy Screener Data form](#) by October 9, 2026, to indicate whether your LEA or assessment vendor will submit data to the NJDOE.
- **Required for LEAs serving K-3 students:** Submit the 2026-27 Beginning-of-Year universal literacy screener data by November 13, 2026.

Related broadcast:

[Action Required: Universal Literacy Screener Data Submission and Vendor Reporting Broadcast](#)

► 2. Student Supports

Key Reminders: Week of Respect

- The [Week of Respect](#) will be observed from October 5–9, 2026
- Districts are encouraged to use the resources on the Week of Respect webpage.

Superintendent Actions

Optional: Take the [NJ Goes Gold and Blue pledge](#) by October 1, 2026.

Related broadcast and resources:

[New Jersey Goes Gold and Blue Campaign and Week of Respect Broadcast](#)

Key Reminders: Child Tax Credit

- Families with children ages 5 or younger may be eligible for the New Jersey Child Tax Credit and can use SimpleFile to apply.
- The filing deadline has been extended to November 16, 2026.

Related resources:

- [Division of Taxation - SimpleFile](#)
- [Customizable SimpleFile Flyer](#)

► 3. Inspired Instruction

Key Reminders: Literacy and Early Reading

- NJDOE has released guidance to help districts select and implement High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) for literacy. The guide includes a state rubric and implementation checklist to support evidence-based, standards-aligned instructional decisions.
- High-quality instructional materials are a key component of strengthening Tier 1 literacy instruction. Effective materials should include explicit and systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, while avoiding practices not supported by research.
- Districts are encouraged to use student data, external reviews, and stakeholder input when evaluating materials and to support implementation through ongoing professional learning, coaching, and monitoring of instructional fidelity.

Resources:

- [A Guide to High-Quality Instructional Materials](#)
- [Weaving the Strands Together: Manville's Early Literacy Journey](#)

Key Reminders: Assessment

- On September 9, 2026, the New Jersey State Board of Education approved proficiency level cut scores for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Adaptive (NJSLA-A): English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- The Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and files were delivered through the Secure File Center to District Testing Coordinators (DTCs). The Centralized Reporting System (CRS) opened on September 18, 2026 for districts to access their data. **Districts do not need to wait for paper ISRs for distribution.**
- Parents and guardians can access NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S results in the family portal on September 28, 2026.
- The New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A) testing window is from October 13–18, 2026.

Superintendent Actions

Required for All LEAs: NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S

- Distribute ISRs to parents by November 9, 2026.
- Report statewide assessment results to school boards by December 8, 2026

Required for LEAs serving high schools: NJGPA-A

- Complete initial upload of data to TIDE by September 30, 2026, and update student data until the data clean-up window closes on November 2, 2026.
- Order all paper-based test materials by October 21, 2026.

Related broadcasts and resources:

- [Parental Notification of Standardized Assessments Broadcast](#)
- [Spring 2026 NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S Results and Reporting Statewide Assessments Results to Local Boards of Education Broadcast](#)
- [NJSLA-A Centralized Reporting System \(CRS\) Virtual Training Sessions Broadcast](#)
- [Performance Level Cut Scores Established for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Adaptive \(NJSLA-A\): English Language Arts \(ELA\) and Mathematics Broadcast](#)
- [Updated Assessment Resources Available Based on Feedback from the 2026 Administrations Broadcast](#)
- [Fall 2026 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive Key Dates and Information Broadcast](#)
- [NJSLA-Adaptive and NJGPA-Adaptive Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [Cut Score Presentation \(Video Time 1:43:58\)](#)

Additional Reporting Resources:

- [NJGPA-A Sample Individual Student Report \(ISR\)](#)
- [NJGPA-A Score Interpretation Guide](#)
- [NJGPA-A Score Interpretation Guide for Parents](#)
- [NJSLA Sample ISRs](#)
- [NJSLA Score Interpretation Guide](#)

► 4. Strategic Enablers

Key Reminders: Governor's Educator of the Year Program

- Nominate teachers and educational services professionals by November 11, 2026.
- Register a Teacher of the Year and an Educational Services Professional of the Year in the online registration system by December 4, 2026.
- Notify all nominated teachers and educational services professionals by December 11, 2026.

Related broadcast and resources:

- [Nominations Sought for 2026-2027 Governor's Educator of the Year Program Broadcast](#)
- [Governor's Educator of the Year Program Materials](#)

Key Reminders: Chapter 10, Educator Evaluations

- On September 9, 2026, the NJDOE presented its proposal to readopt with amendments N.J.A.C. 6A:10, Educator Effectiveness to the State Board of Education (SBOE)
- On October 7, 2026, the SBOE will receive [public testimony](#) on Chapter 10. Members of the public wishing to testify in person may register by noon on Thursday, October 1, 2026.
- This chapter implements the requirements of the Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey (TEACHNJ) Act (P.L. 2012, c. 26), which established a uniform system of educator evaluation rubrics designed to improve student achievement by increasing the effectiveness of the educator workforce.

- The proposed amendments will shift the rules toward a performance-based system that prioritizes instructional feedback, professional growth, and a more direct connection between evaluation results and professional development planning, thereby leading to growth of the educator.

Superintendent Actions

Optional: Submit comments to chapter10@doe.nj.gov.

Related Resources:

- [First Discussion Level Document: Proposed Readoption with Amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:10, Educator Evaluations](#)
- [Chapter 10, Educator Evaluation Proposed Readoption with Amendments Presentation](#)

Key Reminders: School Funding Engagement

NJDOE is hosting regional public forums focused on strengthening New Jersey's school funding system. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about how schools are currently funded and share feedback, ideas, and perspectives to help inform future conversations. Speakers must register in advance.

- [Register for September 30, 6 p.m. - Middlesex \(location to be determined\)](#)
- [Register for October 5, 6 p.m. - Camden County College](#)
- [Register for October 14, 6 p.m. - Stockton University](#)
- [Register for October 22, 6 p.m. - Virtual](#)
- [Register for October 27, 6 p.m. - Essex County Donald M. Payne School of Technology](#)

Superintendent Actions

- **Optional:** Share this information with colleagues and stakeholders.
- **Optional:** Register to speak.

Related resources:

- [School Finance Learning Series: Feedback Survey](#)
- Register now on the [Events Registration](#) webpage to attend a regional public forum.
- September 17, 2026 Newsletter: [Funding New Jersey's Future: Putting Students First. Strengthening Schools Together.](#)

Key Reminders: Application for State School Aid

- Prior to the NJSLEDS snapshot date of October 15, 2026, log into NJSLEDS and carefully review your school district's Student Management submission. Review the free or reduced lunch status, LIEP status, grade level, special education classification, tuition codes, attending and resident district codes, and ensure that all the records are error-free and ready to be preloaded in the Application for State School Aid (ASSA).
- The Application for **State** School Aid (ASSA) will be available on the NJDOE's Homeroom webpage by early November 2026.
- The enrollments reported in the ASSA will be used to calculate 2027-28 State School Aid.

Superintendent Actions

Required: Please make corrections in NJSLEDS prior to October 15, 2026, snapshot.

Related broadcast and resources:

- [Allocation for State School Aid: Important Dates, Work Papers and Procedures Broadcast](#)
- ASSA manual, questions and answers, work papers, and PowerPoint presentation for staff training can be found on the NJDOE's [Application for State School Aid](#) webpage.

Key Reminders: Nonpublic Chapter Reimbursement Process

- School districts will receive reimbursement for actual expenditures for auxiliary and remedial services for students in nonpublic schools on a quarterly basis.
- The Chapters Reimbursement System is open for school districts to submit their reimbursement requests for the quarter ending September 30, 2026.

Superintendent Actions

Required if applicable by enrollment: Submit certified reimbursement requests from the first quarter by October 16, 2026.

Related broadcasts and resources:

[2026-2027 Auxiliary and Remedial Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools \(Chapters 192 and 193\) Quarterly Reimbursements Guidance Broadcast](#)

Key Reminders: Graduation Appeals

LEAs can submit graduation appeals to the NJDOE in NJSLEDS to correct data that impacts the calculation of graduation rates.

Superintendent Actions

- **Optional:** Register on the [NJSLEDS Trainings and Webinars](#) webpage. for the NJSLEDS Graduation Appeals webinar on September 29, 2026, at 11 a.m.
- **Required for LEAs serving high schools:** Submit all appeals and any required documentation by October 2, 2026.

Related broadcast:

[Action Required: Review 2026 Graduation Data and Submit Appeals Broadcast](#)

► 5. Additional Broadcasts and Resources

- [2026-2027 State Seal of Biliteracy Program Participation and Updates Broadcast](#)
- [October 2026 District Report of Transported Resident Students Broadcast](#)
- [Application for State School Aid: Important Dates, Work Papers and Procedures Broadcast](#)
- [Continuation of Climate Change Learning Collaboratives Initiative Broadcast](#)
- [Call for Members for the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and VB-MAPP Alignment Project Advisory Panel Broadcast](#)
- [Celebrating New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week: September 21–25, 2026 Broadcast](#)
- [School Safety Specialist Academy Trainings to Be Held in October and November Broadcast](#)

- [Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Advisory Committee Seeks Members Broadcast](#)
- [High School Voter Registration Law Resources](#)
- [2026–2027 Professional Development Opportunities for Educators of Multilingual Learners Broadcast](#)
- [Starting Strong: Free Virtual OpenSciEd Professional Learning Resources Broadcast](#)
- [New Jersey Inclusion Project: 2026–2027 Professional Learning Opportunities Broadcast](#)

► 6. 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.

An asterisk (*) denotes that this was added after the August Superintendent Briefing.

Due Date	Action	Who Does This Apply To	Related Resource
September 30	Complete initial upload of data to TIDE.	All LEAs	Fall 2026 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive Key Dates and Information)
September 30	Districts must report graduation outcomes to their boards of education	LEAs serving 12 th graders	Spring 2026 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A) Results
September 30	HESAA deadline for NJ Teacher Loan Redemption Program	All eligible educators	n/a
*October 1	Take the NJ Goes Gold and Blue Pledge.	All LEAs	NJ Goes Gold and Blue School Pledge Form
October 1	Educators must be notified of evaluation policies and procedures	All LEAs	Notification of Educator Evaluation Rubric Weights for 2026-2027
October 1	Gifted and Talented Service Reports	QSAC Cohort 2 and Charter Renewals Only (District List by Cohort)	Action Required: Gifted and Talented Education Service Report Submission
October 1	TPAF Reimbursement Submission and Certification	All LEAs	Federal Programs: Pension and Social Security Reimbursement to the State of New Jersey for Contributions Paid by the State
*October 2	Submit all NJSLEDS Graduation Appeals.	LEAs serving high school	Action Required: Review 2026 Graduation Data and Submit Appeals

Due Date	Action	Who Does This Apply To	Related Resource
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	Spring 2026 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A) Results
October 7	Nonpublic Project Completion Reports (NPCR)	LEAs who received FY26 Nonpublic School Aid	Fiscal Year 2026 Nonpublic Project Completion Report (NPCR)
October 7	Professional Development and Mentoring Statements of Assurance	All LEAs	Action Required: Statement of Assurance Submission for District Professional Development Plans and Mentoring Plans
*October 9	Complete the Universal Literacy Screener Data Form	LEAs serving K–3	Universal Literacy Screener Data Sharing Form
*October 16	Submit Chapters 192-193 certified reimbursement requests from the first quarter.	All LEAs	2026-2027 Auxiliary and Remedial Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools (Chapters 192-193) Quarterly Reimbursements Guidance
*October 21	Order all paper-based NJGPA-A test materials.	LEAs serving high schools	Fall 2026 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive Key Dates and Information
*November 9	Distribute NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S ISRs to parents and guardians.	All LEAs	Spring 2026 NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S Results and Reporting Statewide Assessments Results to Local Boards of Education
*November 11	Nominate teachers and educational services professionals.	All LEAs	Nominations Sought for 2026-2027 Governor's Educator of the Year Recognition Program
November 13	Submit the 2026-27 Beginning-of-Year universal literacy screener data.	LEAs serving K–3 students	Universal Literacy Screener Data Collection Update
November 15	Projected enrollments for 2027-2028 preschool enrollment due	LEAs serving preschool students	Important Reminders for Early Childhood Services for the 2026-2027 School Year

Due Date	Action	Who Does This Apply To	Related Resource
*December 4	School must register the nominated educator in the online registration system.	All LEAs	Governor's Educator of the Year Online Registration System
*December 8	Report NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S statewide assessment results to your school board.	All LEAs	Spring 2026 NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S Results and Reporting Statewide Assessments Results to Local Boards of Education
December 23	Window closes for Dynamic Learning Maps instructionally embedded assessments	All LEAs	Dynamic Learning Maps: Instructionally Embedded Fall 2026 Assessments Window

► 7. 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.

- ☐ Encourage your schools to nominate educators for the Governor's Educator of the Year program.
- ☐ Review the NJSLA-A and NJSLA-S results in conjunction with locally administered assessments.
- ☐ Share Child Tax Credit and SimpleFile resources with families.
- ☐ Consider members for the new Jersey Student Learning Standards and VB-MAPP Alignment Project Advisory Panel. Nominations due October 16, 2026.
- ☐ Consider volunteers to serve on the Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Advisory Committee must complete and submit their application and required materials by October 21, 2026.