

NJDOE News

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Commissioner Librera Announces Release of 2001 School Report Cards

Commissioner of Education William L. Librera today announced the release of the 2001 New Jersey School Report Cards. The School Report Card contains detailed statistical profiles of all public schools in the state and is an important element in New Jersey's strategic plan to set high standards, measure school progress and report results to the public each year.

"I hope that the public will continue to look to the School Report Card for information about their schools as they begin the public process to adopt their budgets for the 2002-03 school year," said Commissioner Librera. "The School Report Card provides key information regarding school demographics and student performance for parents and members of the public."

The 2001 School Report Card presents five years of data in most of its categories. The five main sections of the School Report Card are:

- A school narrative, enabling parents and community members to see the school through the eyes of those who work there.
- School-level demographic and organizational data. New to the current edition are items related to professional development as reported by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards and a more detailed breakdown of average class sizes for the state's elementary schools.
- School-level student achievement results for state tests administered for fourth, eighth, and eleventh-graders, and results of the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and Advanced Placement (AP) examinations. For the first time, summary AP data are included in the 2001 edition.
- Graduates and post-graduation plans for high school students, including graduation rates and routes by which students earned their diplomas.
- District-level personnel and fiscal information.

Report cards are made available in an electronic format, and are available to local school districts, as well as to other citizens, via the Internet. They can be accessed through the Department of Education's web site:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education>

This web location is linked to

<http://nj.evalsoft.com>

where users may choose between downloading the actual software application to their personal computers or accessing another web site where individual report cards may be selected and printed locally without having to download and install the software on a personal computer. Visitors to the special link will be connected to an Educational Information Resource (EIR) that serves as a portal to other features and sources of information. Users will be able to analyze data collected for all schools and use a sophisticated query capability to compare districts and schools with each other. The EIR will also include school-level data from the state assessment program.

The report card site will provide users with an opportunity to complete a survey in which they can assess the site's usefulness and make recommendations for improvement. Responses to the survey will be used to guide future efforts to improve the report cards.

The reports released today are the seventh to be produced under a 1995 state law that standardizes much of the information and requires its annual distribution. They also represent the eleventh time New Jersey has issued a report on its public schools since the first report cards were distributed in 1989.

Report cards are produced for elementary/middle and secondary schools in regular school districts, schools operated by county vocational and special services districts, schools in regular districts that reported special education enrollments only for the 2000-01 school year, and elementary charter schools. In addition to these six, two new school type formats were added this year. One is for comprehensive high schools (schools that offer students training in approved occupational programs) and charter school with secondary grades (9-12).

Commissioner Librera thanked local school district personnel for their cooperation in supplying data for the statistical profiles.