

NJ School Performance Reports: Guide for Educators

Use this optional guide to foster conversations about the information that matters to your community.

Learn More

The School Performance Reports reflect the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) commitment to providing parents, students, and school communities with a large variety of information about each school and district. These reports can be used as a tool to help evaluate whether all students have equitable access to high quality education.

We encourage you to use these reports to:

- **Learn more** about the school and the district
- **Start conversations** with school community members and ask questions
- **Engage** with school communities to identify where schools are doing well and where they can improve

Start Conversations

Ask questions that reflect the unique needs of your classroom. For example:

1. How has the percentage of students in a **specific student group in the school** changed over the past three years? How has this impacted instructional practices?
2. Which grade level is experiencing the most **improved student outcomes**? How much does performance on state assessments **vary by grade or student group**? What can I learn from the educators that are making strong gains with all students? What can I share with other educators?
3. How are students doing **before** they get to my classroom? How are they performing **after** they leave my classroom? How can I use this information to improve my practice?
4. Do students have access to **counselors and nurses**?
5. Is there evidence of equitable access to **rigorous and diverse coursework, career-based learning, visual and performing arts, or other opportunities** that meet the needs and interests of all students?
6. Where are we meeting our goals? Where is the school falling short of identified goals? Why are we strong or weak in certain areas?
7. How does the **experience, level of education, and retention** of teachers in the school or district compare to the state? Are new teachers receiving the needed supports?
8. What percentage of students are **chronically absent**? What are ways to improve chronic absenteeism rates?

Engage

Reflect on the reports and **have these conversations with the larger school community to collectively** analyze the data and identify areas for collaboration and strategies for improvement. You might consider:

1. How does the **information and data** that I collect in the classroom align with the data in the reports? What could be the reason for differences? What information am I missing?
2. What **professional learning** needs to occur to improve student outcomes? What professional learning opportunities would benefit parents and community members?
3. How can **professional learning communities** use the data in the reports and other data available in the district to improve classroom instruction? In what ways can the data in the reports be used to inform collaborative discussions regarding vertical alignment of instruction?
4. What role do the New Jersey Student Learning Standards play in the creation of formative, summative, and benchmark assessments in my classroom and school district?
5. What's happening in **nearby schools and districts**? How can the lessons they learned and the opportunities they seized be leveraged to improve schools?