



# NJ School Performance Reports: Guide for Middle and High School Families and Communities

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 student. Here are some examples:



1. What are my **goals for my student**? Where is the school meeting those **goals**? Where is the school **falling short** of identified goals? Why are we **strong or weak** in certain areas?
2. What is **unfamiliar** to me? What do I want to learn more about?
3. 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?
4. What percentage of students take the **SAT or ACT**, take **Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB)** courses and exams, or enroll in **dual enrollment coursework** to earn college credit?
5. Are students in all student groups **graduating** at the same rate? How are students meeting the **graduation assessment requirements**?
6. Are students graduating with **industry-valued credentials**? Are students enrolling in **colleges and universities** after graduation?
7. Does student have access to **counselors and nurses**?
8. What does it mean to be **chronically absent**? What percentage of students are chronically absent? Why might certain grade levels have **higher percentages** of chronically absent students?
9. What is **changing** in the school or district? What needs to change? How do I know?
10. How do **per-pupil expenditures** in my school compare to other schools in the district?

## Engage

Reflect on the reports and **have these conversations with individuals in your school or district**. Consider the causes of any issues your school community is experiencing and figure out how you can be part of the solutions. You might consider:

1. Which **decision makers** can I meet with to address my concerns (teachers, principals, superintendents, board of education members)? What **resources** are available to me to address my student's needs?
2. What resources are available to help address student needs outside of school?
3. How can I **better understand** the needs of my student? How can my student's concerns be heard by teachers and leaders?
4. How does our school **compare** to others in the district? In the area? What are some of the **best practices** from other schools that can be used at our school?
5. Do my **school's goals** for my student **reflect** the **goals that I have** set for my student?
6. How can I help my student access **rigorous coursework** and well-rounded educational supports?

Access our [School Performance Reports](#) and [Stakeholder Engagement Guide](#) for more information.

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