

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the way the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) was able to measure school performance and student achievement for the 2019-2020 School Performance Reports. Some data is not available at all and other data, while available, may not look the same as it did in prior years. The NJDOE also recognizes that our existing data can't begin to measure the hard work and perseverance of the students, families, educators and community members during this difficult year. This past year has been unlike any other, and the NJDOE believes that it is critical to use the available data in the reports, along with other information collected directly within districts and communities, to start conversations, identify gaps in information, and begin to find ways to address the impacts of COVID-19 and ensure all students receive the support that they need.

This document will give an overview of what data is known to be missing or impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting school closures, federal waivers, state executive orders, and other national changes. These changes may have impacted districts, schools, student groups, and grade levels in disproportionate ways. Additionally, individual districts may have had other issues as a result of COVID-19 that may have impacted their results or data quality for the 2019-2020 school year. For all these reasons, we encourage school communities, this year more than ever, to reach out to their districts to see how COVID-19 may have impacted the data for their district and use caution in comparing data in the 2019-2020 School Performance reports to prior or future years.

How to Use this Guide

The following pages of this document provide the status of each data element in the reports along with additional notes. The status field uses the following key:

Symbol/Status	Explanation
	The data elements are available and there is no known systematic issue that would impact the data for the 2019-2020 school year
	The data elements are fully or partially available but there may be some impact as a result of COVID-19. Review notes for more details. Use caution in comparing results for 2019-2020 to prior or future years.
	The data elements are not available or will not be reported for the 2019-2020 school year.

Notes will appear directly in the 2019-2020 School Performance Reports and the [School Performance Reports Reference Guide](#) as well.

Data Element Status and Notes

Section of the Reports	Data Elements	Status for 2019-2020	2019-2020 Notes
Demographics	Enrollment and Demographics		n/a
Student Growth	Median Student Growth Percentiles		Statewide assessments were cancelled in spring 2020. ¹ As a result, student growth percentiles were not calculated for 2019-2020 and this data is not available.
Academic Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NJSLA/DLM Participation and Proficiency – English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Participation Progress toward English Language Proficiency English Language Proficiency Test (ACCESS for ELLs) – Participation and Performance 		Statewide assessments were cancelled in spring 2020. ¹ As a result, assessment data is not available for 2019-2020.

¹ [March 2020 federal waiver](#): Approved by the United States Department of Education (USED) on March 27, 2020

Section of the Reports	Data Elements	Status for 2019-2020	2019-2020 Notes
College and Career Readiness	PSAT, SAT, and ACT Participation and Performance	!	National administrations of the SAT, PSAT, and ACT were cancelled in the spring and summer of 2020. As a result, 2019-2020 results may not be comparable to prior or future years.
College and Career Readiness	Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Enrollment and Performance	!	College Board administered AP tests online in spring 2020 and students were able to take assessments from home. Additionally, the written components of the IB assessments were not able to be administered in the 2019-2020 school year. The IB program developed a reliable and valid score based upon the required assessed work during the two years of the courses to determine a final grade.
College and Career Readiness	Dual Enrollment		n/a
College and Career Readiness	Career and Technical Education (CTE) Participants and Concentrators		n/a

Section of the Reports	Data Elements	Status for 2019-2020	2019-2020 Notes
College and Career Readiness	Industry-Valued Credentials	!	Due to school closures ¹ , many high school students were not able to take the Technical Skills Assessments (TSA), which are end-of-program assessments for Career and Technical Education programs, in spring 2020. This may have impacted the number of industry-valued credentials earned during the 2019-2020 school year.
College and Career Readiness	Course Participation (Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and History, World Languages, Computer Science)		n/a
College and Career Readiness	Seal of Biliteracy	!	Graduation assessment requirements were waived for any 12th grade student who was expected to graduate in the class of 2020 but, as of March 18, 2020, had not yet met the graduation assessment requirement. ² As a result, the Seal of Biliteracy requirement to demonstrate English language proficiency by meeting the graduation assessment requirements was also waived for any students who had not yet met the requirement by March 18, 2020.
College and Career Readiness	Visual and Performing Arts Participation		n/a

¹ [Executive Order 107](#): signed by Governor Phil Murphy on March 21, 2020

² [Executive Order 117](#): signed by Governor Phil Murphy on April 7, 2020

Section of the Reports	Data Elements	Status for 2019-2020	2019-2020 Notes
Graduation and Postsecondary	Graduate Rates	!	Graduation assessment requirements were waived for any 12th grade student who was expected to graduate in the class of 2020 but, as of March 18, 2020, had not yet met the graduation assessment requirement. ¹ Additionally, the requirement to report on status in meeting annual ESSA targets was waived for 2019-2020. ² As a result, annual targets and status in meeting those targets are not reported for Cohort 2019 4-year and Cohort 2018 5-year graduation rates (NJDOE uses prior year graduation rates for accountability purposes).
Graduation and Postsecondary	Graduation Pathways	!	Graduation assessment requirements were waived for any 12th grade student who was expected to graduate in the class of 2020 but, as of March 18, 2020, had not yet met the graduation assessment requirement. ¹ As a result, the pathway option of "Requirements waived under Executive Order 117" has been added for 2019-20 to count these students.
Graduation and Postsecondary	Dropout Rates	!	While dropout data is available for 2019-2020, it is unclear how changes to state and local policies may have affected dropout rates for the 2019-2020 school year.
Graduation and Postsecondary	Postsecondary Enrollment	!	The National Student Clearinghouse has reported that undergraduate enrollment is down nationwide compared to the same time last year. As a result, caution should be used in comparing this year's results to prior or future years.

¹ [Executive Order 117](#): signed by Governor Phil Murphy on April 7, 2020

² [March 2020 federal waiver](#): Approved by USED on March 27, 2020

Section of the Reports	Data Elements	Status for 2019-2020	2019-2020 Notes
Climate and Environment	Chronic Absenteeism and Days Absent		<p>The requirement to report on chronic absenteeism and related accountability measures for the 2019-2020 school year was waived.¹</p> <p>As a result, NJDOE will not report on chronic absenteeism and other attendance data for 2019-2020. Tables showing attendance data will be hidden in the 2019-2020 reports.</p>
Climate and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence, Vandalism, HIB, and Substance Offenses • Police Notifications • Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Investigations • Student Disciplinary Removals 		Due to school closures in spring 2020 ² , discipline data for the 2019-2020 school year may not be comparable to prior or future school years and NJDOE recommends caution in making comparisons.
Climate and Environment	School Day		The start and end times in this table may reflect standard hours for in-person instruction. These hours may have been adjusted due to remote or hybrid instruction schedules.

¹ [March 2020 federal waiver](#)

² [Executive Order 107](#): signed by Governor Phil Murphy on March 21, 2020

Section of the Reports	Data Elements	Status for 2019-2020	2019-2020 Notes
Accountability	ESSA Status Schools Identified as Requiring Comprehensive or Targeted Support	!	<p>The ESSA requirement to identify schools for Comprehensive and Targeted Support and Improvement during the 2020-2021 school year was waived.¹ Any school that was identified for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement during the 2019-2020 school year for support during the 2020-2021 school year will retain the same status for the 2021-2022 school year and continue to receive support and interventions from the NJDOE.</p> <p>Exit dates for currently identified schools are not included in the 2019-2020 reports because the NJDOE submitted requests to USED to adjust identification and exit timelines and these requests are pending approval.</p>
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSA Accountability Progress (2019-2020 data only) • Accountability Indicator Scores and Summative Ratings • Accountability Summary by Student Group 	✘	The requirement to calculate indicator scores, summative scores, and progress toward long-term goals and interim progress was waived for the 2019-2020 school year. ¹ This data will not be included in the 2019-2020 reports.
Narrative	District Narratives	✔	n/a

¹ [March 2020 federal waiver](#): Approved by USED on March 27, 2020

Section of the Reports	Data Elements	Status for 2019-2020	2019-2020 Notes
Climate and Environment	Device Ratios		<p>All schools were required to close and cease in-person instruction beginning in March 2020, and schools switched to remote instruction.¹ As a result, the number of devices available in each school was not consistent throughout the 2019-2020 school year as districts worked to meet the technological needs of their students. Device ratios are not included in the 2019-2020 reports because a single device ratio would not give a full picture of the availability of devices and the changing nature of this information during the 2019-2020 school year.</p> <p>More up-to-date information about student device and connectivity needs is available on the NJDOE website.</p>
Staff	Experience and Education		n/a
Staff	Student to Staff Ratios		n/a
Staff	Demographics		n/a
Staff	Retention		n/a
Per-Pupil Expenditures	Per-Pupil Expenditures by Source		n/a

¹ [Executive Order 107](#): signed by Governor Phil Murphy on March 21, 2020