

# NJ School Performance Reports: Guide for Elementary 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. Without statewide assessment data or student growth data for 2019-2020, what data is being shared by the district to monitor **student growth and performance** and identify students that need additional support?
4. Is my district offering **additional supports and opportunities** in the summer and fall to address the disruptions caused by COVID-19?
5. Does my student have access to **counselors, nurses, child study teams, and librarians**?
6. Do students have opportunities in the **visual and performing arts or music**?
7. Is full-day or half-day pre-kindergarten offered in my student's school and is there a cost to attend?
8. What is **changing** in the school or district? What needs to change? How do I know?
9. How do **per-pupil expenditures** in my school compare to other schools in the district?
10. Does the ethno-racial **diversity of the educators** in my school reflect the diversity of the state?
11. What information did the district or school share in the Narrative section of the report? Is there additional information that I want to know that is not included there?

## 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?