NJ School Performance Reports: Guide for School Board Members

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

Begin conversations by asking questions that reflect the unique needs of your district. For example:

1. Has our district defined clear goals for school performance? Where are we **meeting our goals** and where are we **falling short** of identified goals? Are we using data to monitor progress toward our goals?
2. Without statewide assessment or student growth data for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, what district data can we use to monitor **student growth and performance**? How can we identify students who need support?
3. How can **local assessment data** inform planning for additional supports and opportunities in the summer and fall? Are there **gaps in our local data** that might lead to missing the needs of certain students?
4. How are we encouraging **the use of data** in our community? Are we regularly sharing data and information publicly? Are we working with district administrators to understand if there is **additional district data**, beyond what appears in the School Performance Reports, that could provide more context?
5. How has the student **population changed** over the last **three years**? Have our programs, policies, and instruction changed along with demographic shifts? What else is changing in the district?
6. Are there schools identified for comprehensive or targeted support in our district? What types of interventions are being implemented to support these schools?
7. How do **per-pupil expenditures** vary across schools in my district? What may be causing the difference?
8. Does the ethno-racial **diversity of the educators** in the district reflect the diversity of the state? What strategies for recruitment, retention, and professional learning can be implemented to ensure that all students have access to diverse and culturally responsive educators?

Engage

Meaningful engagement is important to further the goals of the school community and is a **state and federal requirement.** Reflect on the reports and **have these conversations with the larger school community to collectively** analyze the data and identify potential root causes of any issues that the school community is experiencing. Use the information in these reports as part of your annual school planning process.

1. Make sure **everyone has a seat at the table** to ensure you hear broad and different perspectives:
   - Who should be present (parents, teachers, support staff, students, community members, others)?
   - Have those who have not traditionally been included been invited to participate?
2. Understand student performance **in context** and build a **collective vision** for student success:
   - What is going well? What needs to be done differently?
   - What is the vision for **improved outcomes** for students? How is every student included?
   - When people disagree about what success for all students looks like, **where is there consensus**?
3. Reach out to peer districts/schools or organizations and **collaborate on strategies to improve student outcomes** and connect students to **community partners and nonprofit organizations**.
4. Reach out to state agency offices, community hospitals, and other healthcare organizations who can support **strategies for school improvement**.

Access our **School Performance Reports** and **Stakeholder Engagement Guide** for more information.

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