

## New Jersey School Performance Reports: Data Privacy Rules

The New Jersey School Performance Reports contain information related to school and district performance, which is based on student-level information. Student-level information is confidential under the federal [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#), is not to be made accessible to the public pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, and will not be released.

The School Performance Reports do not include student-level information such as names or student identification numbers. Data that references a small number of students may not be displayed to protect student privacy. New Jersey requires a minimum of 10 or more students to report most performance data in the School Performance Reports.

In general, the rules used throughout the school performance reports are:

1. In cases where student counts or percentages represent fewer than 10 students, data will not be displayed.
2. In cases where the proficiency rate or percentage of students that “met or exceeded expectations” is less than 10% or where chronic absenteeism rates are greater than 90%, then that data will not be displayed. This is done so the data does not show that either 0% of students were proficient or 100% of students were chronically absent, which would violate student privacy by giving information about all students in the school.

In cases where data is not displayed due to these rules, the reports will show an asterisk (\*) to indicate that data privacy rules have been applied. In cases where no data is available, the reports will show a “N.”

In some cases, additional data in a table cannot be displayed even though it may represent more than 10 students. For example, if a school has 20 students taking the state English Language Arts (ELA) assessment, 11 of whom are non-economically disadvantaged and 9 of whom are economically disadvantaged, information about the economically disadvantaged student group would not be displayed because there are fewer than 10 students. However, in some cases, the reports would also omit information about the non-economically disadvantaged student group because overall information about the school and the information about the non-economically disadvantaged student group could be used to figure out the information for the economically disadvantaged student group.

This could also occur across school and district-level reports. If there are only two schools in a district, school A and school B, and information cannot be reported for school A due to low student counts, the overall district-level data would need to be hidden to be able to report information for school B.

Under the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), states are required to report on data both at a school level and disaggregated by student group. Student groups refer to any group of students who share similar characteristics, such as gender, racial or ethnic identification, socioeconomic status, physical or learning disabilities, language abilities, or school-assigned classifications (e.g., students with disabilities). New Jersey has defined the minimum number of students necessary for a student group to be included in the ESSA school accountability system to be 20 students. Although all students are included in a school’s overall performance for each indicator, only student groups with 20 or more students are included in the accountability system when reported by student group.

In cases where data is not displayed based on ESSA accountability rules, the reports will show \*\* (two asterisks) to indicate that data was available for fewer than 20 students.

For specific rules about each table in the school performance reports, see the School Performance Reports Reference Guide on the [School Performance Reports Resources page](#). Each section of the reports has a Data Notes table with a Data Privacy section if data privacy rules are applied.

For more information about how New Jersey chose the minimum number of students to be included in the ESSA school accountability system, see [New Jersey's ESSA Plan](#).