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November 3, 2017

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads

ROUTE TO: Principals

FROM: Peggy McDonald, Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services

SUBJECT: *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2017 Accountability Profiles*

The purpose of this memo is to provide information on how to access your district and school 2017 *ESSA* Accountability Profiles, along with information to guide your review of the data.

In December 2015, the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* reauthorized the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, and presented an opportunity for states to redesign their school accountability systems. Through work with numerous stakeholders, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) developed a school-level accountability system that will better assist schools and districts in preparing their students for postsecondary success.

The 2017 *ESSA* Accountability Profiles offer schools and districts the first opportunity to review their students' performance under this new accountability paradigm.

The 2017 *ESSA* Accountability Profiles provide school and district-level data regarding the accountability indicators required by *ESSA* and detailed in New Jersey's approved [ESSA State Plan](#). These indicators include: academic achievement on statewide assessments, academic growth, graduation rate and chronic absenteeism, which is New Jersey's measure of student success and school quality.

Next year, the indicator of growth toward English language proficiency will be added to the *ESSA* Accountability Profiles to assess how schools and districts are advancing their English language learners toward biliteracy. Data are presented in the profiles for all student groups that meet the minimum n-size of 20 students to facilitate the identification of performance gaps and strategic planning for improvement.

Accessing and Using the Profiles

Both the 2017 school and district profiles may be accessed on the NJDOE's [Title I website](#) using the following login information, which is case sensitive:



*The information on this web site is **embargoed**.* Therefore, districts may not share data with the media or the public until the information is officially released by the NJDOE in the 2017 School Performance Reports, which is scheduled to be made publicly available in January 2018.

Reviewing ESSA Accountability Profiles

It is critical for district-level and school-level leadership and data teams to review *ESSA* Accountability Profile data to ensure the data are correct and to determine if interventions and supports for learning have been successful in each school and for specific subgroups. The *ESSA* Accountability Profiles also offer school and district teams an opportunity for a preliminary review of the data that will be in the 2017 School Performance Reports.

To support understanding of the indicators and the calculations used in developing this year's profiles, the NJDOE has prepared an [ESSA Accountability Profiles Companion Guide](#). District and school staff should use this Guide to help in the analysis of their *ESSA* Accountability Profiles data. For each accountability indicator, the Companion Guide includes a definition, the purpose, a description and examples of the calculation, and the targets and long-term goals required by *ESSA*.

Appeals (Participation Rate and Performance Only)

Your district may file an appeal if, after reviewing the *ESSA* Accountability Profiles, you identify and document an error in the calculation of either a school's or the district's performance against any of the accountability indicators that resulted in the school/district not meeting the interim targets/state average/standard and/or long-term goal.

The NJDOE will accept appeals for its calculation of the data, but not appeals of the actual data used to calculate the accountability outcomes (e.g., assessment data, graduation rate data). Therefore, appeals to amend the data used in the accountability calculations will not be considered. Appeals must be submitted by the district on behalf of its schools, using the [ESSA 2017 Accountability Results Appeal Form](#). The district should submit the completed form, located on the NJDOE's *ESSA* webpage, and any supporting documentation, no later than **November 15, 2017**.

Your ongoing efforts to meet the needs of your students is appreciated. It is the NJDOE's intent that the data in the 2017 *ESSA* Accountability Profiles will inform the identification and implementation of the instructional strategies, supports and interventions necessary for all students to achieve the high standards that New Jersey has established.

If you have questions after reviewing your profiles and the Companion Guide, please contact the NJDOE's Office of Supplemental Educational Programs via email at titleone@doe.state.nj.us or by calling (609) 376-3803.

c: Members, State Board of Education
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