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October 31, 2019

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

ROUTE TO: Principals

FROM: Peggy McDonald Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

SUBJECT: *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2019 Accountability Profiles*

The purpose of this memo is to provide information on how to access and review district and school data for the 2019 *ESSA* Accountability Profiles.

As a requirement of *ESSA*, and in consultation with numerous stakeholders, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) developed a school-level accountability system to better assist schools and districts in preparing their students for postsecondary success.

The 2019 *ESSA* Accountability Profiles provides school and district-level data regarding the accountability indicators required by *ESSA* and detailed in New Jersey's approved [ESSA State Plan](#). This data should be used, along with other data, to facilitate the identification of performance gaps and strategic planning for improvement in all student groups that meet the minimum n-size of 20 students. New Jersey's accountability system is captured in indicators that include academic achievement on statewide assessments in ELA/L and mathematics, academic growth in ELA and mathematics, four and five year graduation rates, chronic absenteeism, and progress toward achieving English language proficiency.

Accessing and Using the Profiles

Both the 2019 school and district profiles may be accessed on the NJDOE's [Title I website](#) using the following login information, which is case sensitive:

www.nj.gov/education

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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 2019 School Performance Reports.

English Language Proficiency Student Data Spreadsheets

The English language proficiency (ELP) indicator constitutes 20 percent of the overall accountability rating for schools enrolling 20 or more English language learners in a school. Districts may view ELL student-level results for each school in the ELP Student Data Spreadsheet which can be found on the [NJDOE Homeroom](#) page at the “ELP Data” link. This folder contains student-level data for all of the students included in the ELP Indicator. The report will only include English language learners (ELLs) in grades 1—12 who have two or more consecutive ACCESS for ELLs scores or ELLs in Kindergarten—grade 12 who meet proficiency during their first year in their accountable district.

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 2019 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 any applicable 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 in any of the accountability indicators.

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). Appeals to amend the data used in the accountability calculations will not be considered as the deadlines for districts to review all data being used in this process have passed. Appeals must be submitted by the district on behalf of its schools, using the [ESSA 2019 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, 2019**.

Your ongoing efforts to meet the needs of your students is appreciated. It is the NJDOE’s intent that data in the 2019 *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 Fiscal and Data Services via email at OFDS@doe.nj.gov or by calling 609-376-9101.

- c: Members, State Board of Education
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- Senior Staff
- Diana Pasculli
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- Executive County Superintendents
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