



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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*Acting Commissioner*

November 15, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

FROM: Susan Martz, Chief Learning Supports and Specialized Services Officer/  
Assistant Commissioner

SUBJECT: **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) 2016 Accountability Results**

To comply with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (*ESEA*), the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) annually distributes accountability data reports (called profiles) to districts. These profiles provide district-level and school-level data regarding student participation in and performance on statewide assessments, graduation rate, and attendance (grades 3-8). The purpose of this memorandum is to advise you that the *2016 ESEA Accountability Profiles* are available for your review and to provide you with an opportunity to appeal. Additionally, this notification provides resources to support your district's efforts to increase participation rates for the 2016 statewide assessments and to communicate with the public and respond to inquiries once the data becomes public.

Please note that as part of the transition to the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, enacted on December 10, 2015, states were required to continue implementing the provisions of their *ESEA Flexibility Request* until August 1, 2016. Therefore, these profiles reflect schools' and districts' performance consistent with New Jersey's *ESEA Flexibility Request*. For your convenience, the profiles, templates, and forms mentioned in this letter are available at <http://www.nj.gov/education/title1/accountability/progress/16> (*ESEA Waiver Accountability* webpage).

### **Targets for Participation Rate and Performance**

The *Preliminary 2016 ESEA Accountability Profiles* include the total number of valid scores from New Jersey's state assessments and the percent of students meeting the performance standards by subgroup for English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. Meeting the performance standards is defined as earning a performance level of 4 or 5 on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) or scoring in the third or fourth performance category on the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment for the identified content area. (The School Performance Reports, which will be released later this school year,

will include the percent of students meeting the standards for each subgroup along with the state average for comparison.) The participation rate data include the number of enrolled students, the percent not tested and whether the participation rate was met by subgroup. The document entitled, *Understanding Your Annual ESEA Accountability Profiles*, which is available on [the ESEA Waiver Accountability webpage](#), explains how the participation rate and performance are derived.

### **Graduation Rate and Attendance Rate**

For secondary schools, New Jersey has set a statewide graduation rate goal of 90 percent for all subgroups. Schools not meeting the graduation rate goal may meet the annual four-year graduation rate target of 81 percent or the five-year graduation rate target of 85 percent. Schools/Districts that meet any target (above) are considered meeting the graduation rate standard.

For elementary and middle schools, New Jersey has set an attendance rate goal of 90 percent for each accountable subgroup. The data to determine a school's attendance rate is derived from the Average Daily Attendance for the school year reported on the School Register Summary.

The document entitled, *Understanding Your Annual ESEA Accountability Profiles*, which is available on the [ESEA Waiver Accountability webpage](#), further explains how the graduation rate and attendance rate are derived.

### **Availability of Data**

Both the district and school profiles may be accessed on [the ESEA Waiver Accountability webpage](#) using the following login information that is case sensitive:

ID

Password



The information on this web site is **EMBARGOED**. *Therefore, districts may not share data with the media or the public until they are officially released by the NJDOE in the School Performance Reports.*

### **Actions**

Districts and schools should analyze their student performance data to develop and/or continue implementation of appropriate instructional strategies and programs to assist struggling students and to promote participation in the state assessment.

- **Performance**

In preparation for full implementation of the ESSA in the 2017-2018 school year, the 2016-2017 school year is a “hold harmless” year for performance. The Department is now consulting with stakeholders for input on the performance component of the new accountability system that will be implemented in the 2017-2018 school year.

- **Participation Rate, Graduation Rate and Attendance Rate**

Any district and any school that did not meet the participation rate goal of 95%, the attendance rate goal of 90 percent and/or the five-year graduation rate target of 85 percent) for any subgroup must develop a board-approved corrective action plan, referred to as the *ESEA Accountability Action Plan – 2016 Secondary Measures and Assurances*. This plan must articulate the actions the district and/or school will implement to address factors leading to the school's and/or district's inability to meet the participation rate, graduation rate and/or attendance rate indicators. Upon approval of the plan by the board of education, the district must fax a signed copy of the action plan assurances to its local county office of education no later than Friday, January 27, 2017. The receipt of these assurances will confirm district's and schools' continuing efforts to implement strategies and interventions to address the factors impacting participation rate, graduation rate and/or attendance rate.

Additionally, districts and schools should coordinate the actions in the existing plan with the actions in the *ESEA Accountability Plan* to address low graduation rate, attendance rate and/or participation rate. Existing plans include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 2016-2017 Title I LEA Plan in the Electronic Web-Enabled Grant Application (EWEG)
- 2016-2017 Title I Schoolwide Plan
- 2016-2017 School Improvement Plan (Priority/Focus Schools only)

To support your district's the development of the action plan for low participation rate, the Department posted a toolkit, which includes a template for the action steps and the required assurance signature page, on the ESEA Waiver Accountability webpage. The toolkit provides a step-by-step guide to develop your action plan, individual handouts for parents and web links to NJDOE and other resources focusing on the content, use and value of state assessments. We encourage districts to share this resource with stakeholders as appropriate.

### **Appeals (Participation Rate and Performance Only)**

Your district may file an appeal if:

- the district can document an error in the **NJDOE** calculation of the 2016 participation rate for any subgroup that resulted in the district/school not attaining the participation rate target; and/or
- the district can document an error in the **NJDOE** calculation of the performance data.

The Department uses previous year's data (2015) for graduation rate and attendance rate calculations. Any appeals of these data would have been considered last year. Therefore, districts may not submit an appeal of their graduation rate and attendance rate determinations.

For an appeal of participation rate and/or performance date, the district must send a completed *ESEA 2016 Accountability Results Appeal Form*, along with any supporting documentation, to the address on the form, within by Wednesday, November 30, 2016. This form is available on [the ESEA Waiver Accountability webpage](#).

Our intention is to provide you with data to facilitate your planning and efforts to support the success of each student in your schools.

If you have any questions regarding your district/school profiles, please contact the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs via e-mail at [titleone@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:titleone@doe.state.nj.us) or by phone at 609-943-4283.

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c:      Members, State Board of Education  
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