



Exit Criteria for Schools Identified for Support and Improvement under the *Every Student Succeeds Act*

Introduction

The mission of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is to support schools, educators and districts to ensure all of New Jersey's 1.4 million students have equitable access to high-quality education and achieve academic excellence. New Jersey's *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* accountability system helps NJDOE identify the schools and districts that need more support in preparing all students for postsecondary success.

New Jersey's approved [ESSA state plan](#) outlines how schools will be identified for support and improvement, how long schools will remain in status, and the exit criteria that will be used to determine whether schools can exit status.

Exit Criteria for Schools Identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)

A school in need of comprehensive support and improvement has the opportunity to exit status every three years when the identification methodology is used to identify a new cohort of schools. A school may exit status if:

- It is no longer has a summative score that is at or below the 5th percentile of Title I schools; and
- It demonstrates improved student performance on accountability indicators as compared to student performance at the time of identification for comprehensive support and improvement;
- Its four-year graduation rate is above 67 percent, if a high school; and
- It successfully implemented its approved comprehensive support and improvement plan as confirmed by NJDOE.

Exit Criteria for Schools Identified for Additional Targeted Support and Improvement for Low Performing Student Groups (ATSI)

A school in need of additional targeted support and improvement for low-performing student groups has the opportunity to exit status every three years when the identification methodology is used to identify a new cohort of schools. A school may exit status if:

- It no longer has a student group with a summative score that is at or below the 5th percentile of Title I schools; and
- It demonstrates, for the student group for which the school was identified as in need of targeted support and improvement, improved student performance on accountability indicators as compared to student performance at the time of identification.

Exit Criteria for Schools Identified for Targeted Support and Improvement for Consistently Underperforming Student Groups (TSI)

A school in need of targeted support and improvement for consistently underperforming student groups has the opportunity to exit status every year. A school may exit status if it no longer has a student group that both:



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- Misses interim targets for all available indicators for two consecutive years; and
- Performs below the state average for all available indicators for two consecutive years.

Important Update for 2019-20

On March 24, 2020, the NJDOE submitted a federal waiver request and on March 27, the United States Department of Education approved the request to waive statewide assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act for the 2019-20 school year due to school closures related to the novel Coronavirus disease.

As a result, the timeline by which schools are eligible to exit status has been shifted by one year. Any school that was identified for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement during the 2019-20 school year will retain the same status for 2021-22 and continue to receive support and interventions from the NJDOE.