



2023-2024 New Jersey School Performance Reports: FAQ

This document answers frequently asked questions (FAQs) related to the School Performance Reports.

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General Report Information

1. Where are the School Performance Reports available?

The School Performance reports are available on the [New Jersey School Performance Reports website](#). The website has the most recent available reports, along with reports back to the 2011-2012 school year. Additionally, all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required, under federal statute, to include a link to the School Performance Reports on their websites.

2. When are the School Performance Reports released?

The School Performance Reports are typically released in March or April with data from the prior school year. For example, the 2022-2023 School Performance Reports were released in April 2024.

3. Can the data in the School Performance Reports be downloaded?

Yes, databases containing all the data in the School Performance Reports for all schools, districts, and the state can be found on the [Download Data page](#) of the website. The databases can be downloaded to Excel or Access and there are separate databases for school data and district/state data. Data for prior years can be accessed using the School Year filter at the top left of the page.

4. Are Spanish versions of the reports and resource documents available?

Spanish versions of the detailed and summary reports, as well as most resource documents, can be found on the [New Jersey School Performance Reports website](#). After you search for a school or district, you will have the option to run Spanish versions of the Detailed and Summary reports below the English versions. There will also be links to Spanish versions of the resource documents at the bottom of the page.

Additionally, there is a Google “Translate” option on the top right of the website to translate the reports into multiple languages.

5. What types of reports are available?

Reports are available at the school, district, and state level. For both school-level and district-level reports, there are options to view Summary Reports and Detailed Reports.

The Summary Reports were designed to provide parents, educators, and communities with a summary of how a school or district is performing and preparing students for college and careers relative to the state. The “Summary” reports were first released for the 2016-2017 reports.

The Detailed Reports contain more specific and detailed information about schools and districts to present a broader picture of school performance. The Detailed Reports are available for all school years from 2011-2012 to present, however the specific data included has changed over the years.

Data Sources, Availability, and Changes

6. Where does the data reported in the School Performance Reports come from?

Districts submit most of the data in the School Performance Reports through NJ SMART. This includes:

- Enrollment and Demographics
- Course Participation
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) data
- Graduation and dropout rates
- Discipline data
- Staff data
- School and district narratives

Other data comes directly from testing vendors or outside organizations:

- Statewide assessment data
 - New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA)
 - Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)
 - ACCESS for ELLs
 - New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA)
- PSAT, SAT, and ACT information
- Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exam information
- Postsecondary Enrollment rates

For details on where all report data come from, see the [Performance Report Data Sources](#) document that provides details on every data element in the reports, where it comes from, and when it is collected. Additionally, the [New Jersey School Performance Reports Reference Guide](#) provides information on how data elements are calculated and the source of data in the reports.

7. Do the state assessment results include both fall and spring administrations?

Yes, state assessment results in the School Performance Reports include both fall and spring administrations. However, results from the summer administrations are not included.

8. Which students are included in SAT and ACT participation and performance results?

SAT and ACT participation rates represent the percentage of grade 12 students who took the SAT or ACT at least once during high school. If a grade 12 student took the test in grades 10 or 11, they would be included in the participation rate.

For the performance results, if students took the SAT or ACT multiple times during high school, the most recent score is used. This aligns with College Board and ACT reporting practices.

9. How was PSAT participation and performance calculated? What does it mean that the benchmarks vary by grade?

The PSAT participation and performance results only include students taking the PSAT 10 and PSAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) during the 2023-2024 school year. The PSAT 8/9 is not included because it is a different test.

PSAT participation is calculated by taking the number of students taking the PSAT 10 and PSAT NMSQT tests during the school year and dividing by the total end-of-year enrollment for grades 10 and 11. Students typically take the PSAT 10 in grade 10 and the PSAT NMSQT in grades 10 or 11.

College Board has defined separate benchmarks for grades 10 and 11 so there is not a single benchmark for this test like there is for the SAT or ACT. The benchmark each student is expected to meet is based on their reported expected graduation date.

10. Which staff members are included in the teacher and administrator counts?

LEAs submit staff data through NJ SMART's SMID Management collection. Staff data submitted for the fall snapshot is used in the School Performance Reports.

Job codes are used to identify different staff member types:

- **Teachers:** 1000-2999, 4000, 4001
- **Administrators:** 0100-0600
- **Librarian/Media Specialists:** 0003, 3105
- **Nurses:** 0007, 0008, 3114, 3115
- **Counselors:** 0001, 0002, 3100, 3101
- **Child Study Team Members:** 0009, 0010, 0011, 3116, 3117, 3118
- **School Psychologists:** 0009, 3116
- **School Social Workers:** 0010, 3117
- **School Assistance Coordinators:** 0014, 3121
- **School Safety Specialists:** 0040, 3139

11. How were the indicators in the ESSA accountability system determined and how were the indicator scores and summative scores and ratings calculated?

Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, stakeholders from across the state collaborated with the NJDOE to develop, within the legal confines of ESSA, the ESSA accountability system that is reported in the School Performance Reports. See New Jersey's [approved ESSA state plan](#) for more information.

More information about how indicator scores and summative scores and ratings were calculated can be found on the [NJDOE Accountability webpage](#).

12. Where does the data reported in the Narrative section of the School Performance Reports come from? Why do some Narratives not include certain categories?

Districts submit narrative information through the NJ SMART Performance Reports Data submission. This section gives schools and districts the opportunity to share highlights, achievements and other important information about programs, activities, and services that are offered in their own words. Schools and districts can choose the categories that they want to include in their reports, so the reports only show the categories where information was provided.

13. What do the symbols (*, **, N, †) in the reports mean?

These symbols help the NJDOE protect student privacy. New Jersey developed guidelines to protect student privacy under the federal Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA). The [New Jersey's Data Privacy Rules](#) and the [School Performance Reports Reference Guide](#) provide more information about data privacy rules.

- * indicates that data was available for fewer than ten students or the data represents a small percentage of students. There may be some additional cases where the data was kept private because the data could be used to potentially identify individual students.
- ** indicates that data was not available for a minimum of 20 students, the required number for a student group to be included in New Jersey's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability system. This will only appear in sections of the report related to ESSA accountability.
- N indicates that no data was available to report. This happens when there are no students enrolled in a particular student group or if no data was submitted by the district.
- † indicates that there is a table specific note below the table.

14. Why is there no student growth data for 2021-2022 in the 2023-2024 School Performance Reports?

The NJDOE reports on student growth using median student growth percentiles (mSGPs). The calculation of mSGPs relies on one to two consecutive years of prior assessment results to calculate individual student growth percentiles. Due to the cancellation of the NJSLA in both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, SGPs were not calculated for 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022. The 2023-2024 reports will only include mSGP data for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

The NJDOE received approval through the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum to use an alternate measure of academic progress, Relative School Improvement Measure (RSIM) for the 2021-2022 school year only because mSGPs were unavailable. Academic progress data for the 2021-2022 school year based on the RSIM measure should not be compared to the academic progress data for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years based on mSGP.

15. Is there a way to see what has changed in this year's School Performance Reports?

Each year, some data elements may be added or removed from the School Performance Reports based on federal or state requirements, stakeholder engagement, and data quality or data availability. The [School Performance Reports Reference Guide](#) includes a data notes table at the end of each section that includes changes for the most recent reports.

Data Comparisons and Other Reports

16. Why is the enrollment in the School Performance Reports different from the enrollment data on the NJDOE website?

The enrollment data in the School Performance Reports is based on the end-of-year NJ SMART SID Management snapshot which at the beginning of August. The enrollment data on the [NJDOE website](#) is based on the fall NJ SMART SID Management snapshot that occurs in mid-October.

Additionally, the enrollment data in the School Performance Reports includes students in contracted Pre-K programs, such as Head Start Programs, in the district and state level totals, but the enrollment data on the NJDOE website does not include these students.

17. Why is the number of testers in the schoolwide state assessment data in the Academic Achievement section not equal to the sum of testers across the grade-level and end-of-course test data?

There are several reasons why the schoolwide testers may not equal the sum of testers across the grade-level and end-of-course tables.

Schoolwide results:

- Are used for accountability purposes;
- Exclude students who have been enrolled in the school for less than half a year; and
- Include students who took the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment.

Grade-level and end-of-course results:

- Are used for reporting purposes;
- Include all students who took the assessment; and
- Include only students who took the NJSLA assessment.

18. Why are the statewide assessment results in the Academic Achievement section of the reports different from the assessment data posted on the NJDOE assessment results webpage?

There are several reasons why the assessment data in the Academic Achievement section of the School Performance Reports may be different from the assessment data on the [NJDOE assessment results](#) page.

The main reason for differences between the grade-level and end-of-course assessment results in the School Performance Reports and the assessment results on the NJDOE website is that the School Performance Reports results combine fall and spring testers. The results on the NJDOE website report on fall and spring testers separately.

Additionally, the data in the School Performance Reports is used to meet federal reporting requirements, so additional rules have been applied to determine which students should be included. Some high school students who took end-of-course mathematics assessments were excluded from the data in the School Performance Reports because they were already included in high school assessment results from a previous year.

19. What is the difference between the state graduation rates and the federal graduation rates reported in the 2023-2024 school performance reports?

Beginning with 2021 graduation rates, the NJDOE was required to make changes to the methodology used to calculate the adjusted cohort graduation rate for federal reporting and accountability purposes. The United States Department of Education (USED) determined that the NJDOE must include only those students who receive a diploma that is fully aligned with the state's standards, meaning they have met the state's graduation assessment requirements, course requirements, and local attendance requirements. This means that students who did not meet some or all graduation requirements because of modifications or exemptions in their Individualized

Education Programs (IEPs) may not be counted as graduates in the calculation of the adjusted cohort graduation rate used for federal reporting and accountability purposes.

As a result of this requirement, the NJDOE began calculating and reporting two versions of the adjusted cohort graduation rate starting with 2021 graduation rates.

The “federal version” aligns with ESSA requirements and USED guidance and will be used for federal reporting and ESSA school accountability only. The “state version” continues to use the same methodology used prior to 2021 and reflects all students who receive a state-endorsed diploma as graduates.

To be included as a graduate in the federal version of the graduation rate, students must have met state course requirements and local attendance requirements for graduation. Additionally, students must have met the graduation assessment requirements in place based on the year they were graduating, regardless of their graduation cohort. Students with disabilities who did not meet all the graduation requirements for their year of graduation because of modifications or exemptions in their IEPs were not included in the graduates count (the numerator) when calculating the federal version of the adjusted cohort graduation rate, but they were still included in the adjusted cohort (the denominator) for the calculation.

In the 2023-2024 reports, the Graduation Rate Trends and Progress charts and Graduation Cohort Profiles (4-Year, 5-Year, and 6-Year), as well as the graduation rates reported in the Summary Reports, reflect the "state version" of the graduation rate. The Federal Graduation Rates and Accountability Graduation Rates tables reflect the "federal version" of the graduation rate. More information and links to graduation resources can be found on the [NJDOE Graduation Rate page](#).

20. Why might some data from district and school files not match the numbers on the School Performance Report?

School Performance Reports data elements are gathered from various collections and, in some cases, may be matched to other data sources to ensure the most accurate metrics. In some cases, data will not be able to be accurately matched, and will result in an output which is different from what a district may expect.

Data measures related to school accountability (academic achievement, student growth, chronic absenteeism, progress toward English language proficiency, and graduation rates) and postsecondary enrollment rates are reported based on the accountable school. School and district files may be based on a student’s attending school only.

If you have any questions on how data is calculated, please review the [New Jersey School Performance Reports Reference Guide](#).

Data Quality

21. Can LEAs request corrections to the data in the School Performance Reports?

Districts submit most of the data included in the reports through NJ SMART. NJ SMART reports give districts the opportunity to review submitted data before each submission window closes. Corrections cannot be made to the data in the School Performance Reports. Districts are encouraged to thoroughly review their School Performance Reports during the annual embargo period.

If LEAs identify an issue in the data due to a submission error, they should contact reportcard@doe.nj.gov to determine if a note flagging data quality issues can be added to the reports. Additionally, if LEAs identify that contact information, such as principal or superintendent names, phone numbers, or addresses, needs to be updated, they should contact reportcard@doe.nj.gov to determine if information can be updated.

22. What can be done to ensure better data on future School Performance Reports?

Districts should work to report clean and accurate data for current and future data collections, such as the NJ SMART Submissions: SID Management, Course Roster Submission, CTE Submission, SMID Management, and assessment registration. Resources are available for each NJ SMART submission on the [Resources & Training page](#). Contact the NJ SMART help desk at 800-254-0295 or njsmart@pcgus.com for questions about submissions.

Embargo Period

23. What is the embargo period for the School Performance Reports?

The NJDOE provides LEA staff an embargoed preview of the School Performance Reports prior to the public release. This embargo period gives LEAs time to review the data, ask questions, and prepare for the public release. LEAs cannot request changes to the data during this period.

24. Where can LEA staff view the embargoed reports?

The embargoed reports are available through [NJ SMART](#) under the Reporting tab. Access to embargoed reports is managed by each district's NJ SMART Homeroom Administrator.

Questions, Contact Information, and Feedback

25. Who should I contact if I have questions or would like to provide feedback or suggested improvements to the report?

If an LEA has a question about NJ SMART submissions or data submitted through NJ SMART, the NJ SMART Help Desk is available to answer any of your technical questions at 800-254-0295 or by emailing the [NJ SMART Help Desk](#).

General questions about the School Performance Reports, the data included in the reports, how data is calculated, or any other questions can be sent to reportcard@doe.nj.gov.

NJDOE also welcomes any feedback on the reports. Please fill out our [feedback survey](#).