NJ School Performance Reports: Guide for Administrators

Use this optional guide to foster conversations about the information that matters to your community.

Learn More

The School Performance Reports reflect the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) extensive efforts to engage with parents, students, and school communities, and share the information that is most valuable in providing a picture of overall school performance.

We encourage you to use these reports to:
- **Learn more** about the school and the district
- **Start conversations** with school community members and ask questions
- **Engage** with school communities to identify where schools are doing well and where they can improve

Start Conversations

Start conversations by asking questions that reflect the unique needs of your school or district.

Here are some example questions:

1. How has the student **population changed** over the last **three years**? Have our programs, policies, and instruction changed along with demographic shifts?
2. Where do we see **students growing**? Consider each student group, performance level, and grade level.
3. How did all students in the school perform on the **state assessments** relative to the rest of the district? How effective are teachers in the school and district at **improving student learning**? Does performance on state assessments **vary by grade or student group**?
4. What does the school community care about? Does the school **offer rigorous and diverse coursework and opportunities** that meet the needs and interests of all students?
5. Where are we meeting our goals? Where is the school falling short of identified goals? Why are we strong or weak in certain areas?
6. What student needs are being met? What **needs** are not being addressed for the students?
7. What is **changing** in the school or district? How do we know?

Engage

Meaningful engagement is important to further the goals of the school community and **is a state and federal requirement.** Reflect on the reports and **have these conversations with the larger school community**. Dig in to the root causes of any issues that the school community is experiencing.

1. Make sure **everyone has a seat at the table**:
   - Which stakeholders are needed at the table (parents, teachers, students, community members)?
   - Have those who have not traditionally been included been invited to participate?
   - Which stakeholders will be able to provide a broader perspective?
2. Understand student performance **in context** and build a **collective vision** for student success:
   - What is going well? What needs to be done differently?
   - What is the vision for **improved outcomes** for students? How is every student included?
   - When people disagree about what success for all students looks like, **where is there consensus**?
3. Reach out to peer districts/schools or organizations and **collaborate on strategies to improve student outcomes** and connect students to **community partners and nonprofit organizations**.
4. Reach out to state agency offices, community hospitals, and other healthcare organizations who can support **strategies for school improvement**.

Access our **School Performance Reports** and **Stakeholder Engagement Guide** for more information.

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