

# NJ School Performance Reports: Guide for Educators

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 classroom.

Here are some example questions:

1. How has the percentage of students in a **specific student group in the school** changed over the past three years? How has this impacted instructional practices?
2. Which grade level is experiencing the most **improved student outcomes**? How much does performance on state assessments **vary by grade or student group**? What can I learn from the educators that are making strong gains with all students? What can I share with other educators?
3. How are students doing **before** they get to my classroom? How are they performing **after** they leave my classroom? How can I use this information to improve my practice?
4. To what degree do students have access to **counselors and nurses**?
5. To what degree do students have opportunities in the **visual and performing arts or music**?
6. To what degree do students have access to **rigorous coursework**? What percentage of students take college admission tests like the SAT?
7. Where are we meeting our goals? Where is the school falling short of identified goals? Why are we strong or weak in certain areas?
8. What student needs are being met? What needs are not being addressed for the students or school?

## Engage

Reflect on the reports and **have these conversations with the larger school community**. Dig in to the root cause of any issues the school community is experiencing and figure out how to become a part of the solution. You might consider:

1. What does my **administration** need to know? What **resources or opportunities** are available to ensure all voices are heard?
2. What **professional learning needs** to occur to improve student outcomes? What professional learning opportunities would benefit parents and community members?
3. How can the needs of students and families be better **understood**? How can their concerns be heard by the administration?
4. What's happening in **nearby schools**? How can the lessons learned and the opportunities seized by others be leveraged to improve schools?
5. Do teachers know the **vision the community has for students**? How can that vision be met?
6. How can I help my students access challenging coursework and well-rounded educational supports?