



2021-2022 New Jersey School Performance Report: FAQ

The following are frequently asked questions (FAQ) and answers related to the School Performance Reports.

1. Is all data available in the 2021-2022 School Performance Reports?

The 2021-2022 School Performance Reports include nearly all data that was previously reported prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as assessment results and accountability data. However, the 2021-2022 reports will not include student growth as measured by median student growth percentiles (mSGPs) because individual student growth percentiles (SGPs) were not calculated for the 2021-2022 school year due to lack of prior year assessment results for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.

2. Where can I view the School Performance Reports?

Visit the [New Jersey School Performance Reports website](#) to see the most recent School Performance Reports, school reports for prior years, the database and additional resources.

3. 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 document at the bottom of the page.

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

4. Where does the information 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)
- 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.

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

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

- * indicates that data was available for fewer than 10 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.

6. What is the difference between the “Detailed” and “Summary” School Performance Reports?

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

The “Detailed” School Performance Reports contain more specific and detailed information about schools and districts to present a comprehensive picture of school performance. The “Detailed” reports are available for all school years from 2011-2012 to present.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 occurs at the end of June. 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.

10. Why are there no assessment results from the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years in the 2021-2022 School Performance Reports?

The NJDOE received a federal waiver in March 2020 that removed the requirement to administer statewide assessments and report on statewide assessment results for the 2019-2020 school year. Statewide assessments, including NJSLA, DLM, and ACCESS for ELLs, were cancelled in spring 2020 as a result of this waiver.

Additionally, the NJSLA was cancelled in spring 2021. The DLM and ACCESS for ELLs assessments were administered in spring 2021.

As a result, statewide assessment results for the NJSLA and related accountability measures are not available and were not reported for the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school years.

11. Why is there no student growth data for 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 in the 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 reports will not include any mSGP data.

The NJDOE received approval through the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum to use an alternate method to calculate academic progress for the 2021-2022 school year. For 2021-2022, the NJDOE measured academic progress in ELA and mathematics using Relative School Improvement Measure (RSIM). RSIM is based on a school's aggregate scale score improvement on the statewide assessments in ELA and mathematics, when comparing prior year performance from 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to 2021-2022 performance. Schools are then assigned a percentile rank based on their improvement as compared to schools with similar prior year performance. RSIM is only measured for students in grades 3-8. Results of the RSIM measure are available on the [NJDOE's Accountability page](#) under 2022 Accountability Data.

12. Why are 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;
- Include only students who took the NJSLA assessment.

13. 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.

14. 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 are 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 students who took end-of-course mathematics assessments who were not enrolled in the corresponding end-of-course assessment are excluded from the data in the School Performance Reports because these students were not required to take the assessment in 2021-2022. Some students took the assessment in 2021-2022 only to meet future graduation assessment requirements.

15. 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.

16. 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) tests during the 2021-2022 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.

17. Is discipline data for 2021-2022 comparable to data from prior years?

The NJDOE recommends caution in comparing the 2021-2022 discipline data with the data from 2020-2021 and 2019-2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the data from those years.

18. What is the difference between the state graduation rates and the federal graduation rates reported in the 2021-2022 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. 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.

For the “federal version” of the 2022 graduation rates, students with disabilities who did not meet either the state course requirements, local attendance requirements, and/or state graduation assessment requirements for graduation because of a modification or exemption in their IEP were not included in the graduates count (the numerator), but are included in the adjusted cohort count (the denominator).

Because graduation assessment requirements were waived for 2021 graduates, the “federal version” of the 2021 graduation rate only excludes students with disabilities who did not meet either the state course requirements and/or local attendance requirements.

In the 2021-2022 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.

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

Currently, districts submit staff data through NJ SMART’s SMID Management collection only. Previously, staff data was collected through both SMID Management and the formerly collected Staff Submission. Staff data submitted as of 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, 0041, 3114, 3115, 4002
- **Counselors:** 0001, 0002, 3100, 3101
- **Child Study Team Members:** 0009, 0010, 0011, 0013, 3116, 3117, 3118, 3120
- **School Psychologists:** 0009, 3116
- **School Social Workers:** 0010, 3117
- **School Assistance Coordinators:** 0014, 3121
- **School Safety Specialists:** 0040, 3139

20. 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](#).

21. How is accountability data in the 2021-2022 School Performance Reports impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and federal waivers?

The NJDOE received federal waivers in both 2020 and 2021 that removed the following accountability requirements:

- Calculate indicator scores and summative scores for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years;
- Measure progress toward long-term goals and measures of interim progress for accountability indicators for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years; and

- Identify schools for comprehensive and targeted support and improvement during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years (based on 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 data, respectively).

As a result of these waivers, any school that was identified for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement during the 2019-2020 school year remained in status for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.

The NJDOE was required to identify schools across four categories during the 2022-2023 school year (based on 2021-2022 data):

- Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI): Overall Low Performing;
- Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI): Low Graduation Rate;
- Additional Targeted Support and Improvement: Low Performing Student Group (ATSI); and
- Targeted Support and Improvement: Consistently Underperforming Student Group (TSI).

For the TSI identification that occurred during the 2022-2023 school year, status in meeting annual targets for the 2018-2019 and 2021-2022 school years were used since data was not available for two consecutive years.

Additionally, all schools that were previously identified were eligible to exit status at the end of the 2022-2023 school year if the NJDOE's Exit Criteria were met.

The NJDOE received approval to make a one-time change to the identification timeline under the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum. Under the approved Addendum, the NJDOE will identify schools for CSI and ATSI status in both fall 2022 and fall 2023. Schools identified for CSI or ATSI status in fall 2022 will be eligible to exit status in fall 2023 if all exit criteria are met. Schools identified for TSI status will be eligible to exit annually if exit criteria are met.

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

NJDOE welcomes public feedback. Please fill out our [feedback survey](#). You can also email reportcard@doe.nj.gov with feedback or any questions.