

NJ School Performance Reports: Guide for Elementary School Families and Communities

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) commitment to providing parents, students, and school communities with a large variety of information about each school and district. These reports can be used as a tool to help evaluate whether all students have equitable access to high quality education.

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

Ask questions that reflect the unique needs of your student. Here are some examples:

1. What are my goals for my student? Where is the school meeting those **goals**? Where is the school **falling short** of identified goals? **Why** are we strong or weak in certain areas?
2. What is **unfamiliar** to me? What do I want to learn more about?
3. Where are **students growing**? Are there differences in student growth across student groups, grade levels, or performance levels?
4. How did students perform on the **state assessments** relative to the rest of the district or the state? Does performance **vary by assessment or student group**?
5. Does my student have access to **counselors and nurses**?
6. Do students have opportunities in the **visual and performing arts or music**?
7. Is full-day or half-day pre-kindergarten offered in my student's school and is there a cost to attend?
8. What does it mean to be **chronically absent**? What percentage of students are chronically absent? Why might certain grade levels have **higher percentages** of chronically absent students?
9. What is **changing** in the school or district? What needs to change? How do I know?
10. How do **per-pupil expenditures** in my school compare to other schools in the district?

Engage

Reflect on the reports and **have these conversations with individuals in your school or district.** Consider the causes of any issues your school community is experiencing and figure out how you can be part of the solutions. You might consider:

1. Which **decision makers** can I meet with to address my concerns (teachers, principals, superintendents, board of education members)? What **resources** are available to me to address my student's needs?
2. What resources are available to help address student needs outside of school?
3. How can I **better understand** the needs of my student? How can my student's concerns be heard by teachers and leaders?
4. How does our school **compare** to others in the district? In the area? What are some of the **best practices** from other schools that can be used at our school?
5. Do my **school's goals** for my student **reflect** the **goals that I have** set for my student?
6. How can I help my student access **rigorous coursework** and well-rounded educational supports?