

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) 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 student.

Here are some example questions:

1. What are my goals for my student? Where is my student's school meeting those **goals**? Where is the school **falling short** of identified goals? **Why** is the school strong or weak in certain areas?
2. What **student needs** are being met? What needs are not being **addressed** for the students or school?
3. To what degree do students have access to **counselors and nurses**?
4. To what degree do students have opportunities in the **visual and performing arts or music**?
5. Is full-day or half-day pre-kindergarten offered in my student's school and is there a cost to attend?
6. What does it mean to be **chronically absent**? What percentage of students are chronically absent in my student's school? Why might certain grade levels have **higher percentages** of chronically absent students?
7. What is **changing** in the school or district? What needs to change? How do I know?
8. What is **unfamiliar** to me? What do I want to learn more about?

Engage

Reflect on the reports and **have these conversations with individuals in your school or district.** Consider the cause of any issues your school community is experiencing and figure out how you can be part of the solution. 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 my student's 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 my student's school?
5. Do the **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?