

# THE OAKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*"One Community....One Vision....Committed to Excellence"*

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Members of the School Community,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to provide you information about the 2017-18 New Jersey School Performance Reports, which were recently released and are available on the NJ School Performance Reports webpage at [www.njschooldata.org](http://www.njschooldata.org).

## **Use, Share and Improve the New Jersey School Performance Summary Reports**

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 your school and district
- **Start conversations** with school community members and ask questions
- **Engage** with school communities to identify what schools are doing well and where they can improve

## **Enhancements to the 2017-18 School Performance Reports**

The 2017-18 reports include changes that respond to stakeholder feedback collected through a feedback survey, at parent round tables and workshops, and from stakeholder engagement throughout the year.

These changes include:

- **More informative, easier to understand** one-page Summary Reports
- **Additional navigation tools and an improved search page** within the reports
- **Emphasis on student growth** with the growth section of the reports newly featured before the academic achievement section in the reports
- **More information** about Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, dual enrollment, graduation pathways, progress toward English language proficiency, staff demographics, and discipline

## **One-Page Summary Reports**

Along with the full reports, one-page Summary Reports for each school and district are also available. The Summary Reports provide a high-level summary of how well a school or district is performing.

A Summary Report Guide is also available on the School Performance Reports webpage to explain the different data points on the Summary Reports.

The NJDOE continues to seek public input on ways to improve future reports. Please complete the feedback survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/VKNTTRC](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VKNTTRC) or email [reportcard@doe.nj.gov](mailto:reportcard@doe.nj.gov) with feedback and suggestions.

# 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?



# NJ School Performance Reports:

## Guide for Middle and High 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 **rigorous coursework**? What percentage of students take college admission tests like the SAT?
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. 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. Do students have **access to** Career and Technical Education (CTE) or **college-level coursework** through programs or dual-enrollment opportunities?
8. What is **changing** in the school or district? What needs to change? How do I know?
9. 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?

Access our [School Performance Reports](#) and [Stakeholder Engagement Guide](#) for more information.



[www.state.nj.us/education](http://www.state.nj.us/education)  
[www.njschooldata.org](http://www.njschooldata.org)



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