



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Commissioner

March 15, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

FROM: Susan Martz, Chief Learning Supports and Specialized Services Officer/
Assistant Commissioner

SUBJECT: Updated Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) 2015 Accountability Results

To comply with its *Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Request*, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) annually distributes accountability data reports (called profiles) to districts. These profiles provide data on the district and school level regarding student participation in and performance on statewide assessments, graduation rate, and attendance (grades 3-8). On February 2, 2016, you received notification of the preliminary 2015 ESEA Accountability Profiles for participation rate and performance. The purpose of this memorandum is to advise you that the updated *2015 ESEA Accountability Profiles* are available for your review and to provide you with an opportunity to appeal. **The profiles have been updated to include the secondary accountability measures of graduation rate for high schools and attendance rate for elementary and secondary schools. Please note: Participation rates are still preliminary and do not reflect the result any pending appeal.**

For your convenience, the updated profiles, all resources, templates, and forms mentioned in this letter are available at <http://www.nj.gov/education/title1/accountability/progress/15> (*ESEA Waiver Accountability* webpage).

Goals and Targets for Graduation Rate and Attendance Rate

For secondary schools, New Jersey has set a statewide graduation rate goal of 90 percent for all subgroups. Schools not meeting the graduation rate goal may meet the annual four-year graduation rate target of 78 percent or the five-year graduation rate target of 85 percent. Schools/Districts that meet any target (above) are considered meeting the graduation rate standard.

For elementary and middle schools, New Jersey has set an attendance rate goal of 90 percent for each accountable subgroup. The data to determine a school's attendance rate is derived from the Average Daily Attendance for the school year reported on the School Register Summary.

The document entitled, *Understanding Your Annual ESEA Accountability Profiles*, which is available on the [ESEA Waiver Accountability](http://www.nj.gov/education/title1/accountability/progress/15) webpage, further explains how the graduation rate and attendance rate are derived.

Availability of Data

Both the district and school profiles may be accessed on the *ESEA Waiver Accountability* webpage using the following login information that is case sensitive:



The information on this web site is **EMBARGOED**. *Therefore, districts may not share data with the media or the public until they are officially released by the NJDOE in the School Performance Reports.*

Meeting secondary measures: graduation rate or attendance rate targets

Districts and schools should analyze the graduation rate and attendance rate data to develop and/or continue implementation of appropriate instructional and non-instructional strategies and programs to assist struggling students.

Districts with schools that did not meet the attendance rate goal of 90 percent or the graduation rate goal of 90 percent, the four-year cohort graduation rate target of 78 percent or the five-year graduation rate target of 85 percent for any subgroup must develop a board-approved corrective action plan, referred to as the *ESEA Accountability Action Plan - 2015 Secondary Measures and Assurances*, to address factors leading to the school's and district's inability to meet the graduation rate and/or attendance rate indicators. The plan must be completed if the district and/or any of its schools did not meet the attendance and graduation rate standards. Upon approval of the plan by the board of education, the district must fax a signed copy of the action plan assurances to its local county office of education. The receipt of these assurances will confirm your district's continuing efforts to implement strategies and interventions to address the factors impacting graduation rate and/or attendance rate.

Appeals

Your district may file an appeal if the district can document an error in the Department's calculation of the graduation rate and/or the attendance rate. For any appeal, the district must send a completed *ESEA 2015 Accountability Results Appeal Form*, along with any supporting documentation, to the address on the form, by **Friday, March 30, 2016**. This form is available on the *ESEA Waiver Accountability* webpage.

If you have any questions regarding your district/school profiles, please contact the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs via e-mail at titleone@doe.state.nj.us or by phone at 609-943-4283. Thank you.

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- c: Members, State Board of Education
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