



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 19, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, School Staff
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Release of 2022-2023 Postsecondary Enrollment Data

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has updated the [2022-2023 School Performance Reports](#) to include postsecondary enrollment information for both the class of 2023 and class of 2024. This information can be found in the Graduation/Postsecondary section of each school, district, and state report or downloaded in the [School Performance Reports databases](#).

Background

The NJDOE receives information annually about students enrolling in colleges in universities after graduation from the [National Student Clearinghouse](#) (NSC), which has over 3,550 participating colleges and universities and represents approximately 97% of students in public and private institutions.

Historically, the NJDOE has reported on the percentage of New Jersey public high school graduates enrolling in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation and within 16 months of graduation. States are required to report on postsecondary enrollment rates under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Improvements to Postsecondary Data Quality

For the 2022-2023 school year, additional time and review were necessary to ensure data accuracy, resulting in the data not being available for the initial report release in April. While most students who enroll in a postsecondary institution each year can be matched by NSC, there are certain factors that may result in a student not being reported. These factors include:

- Postsecondary enrollment information cannot be shared with the NJDOE if students request a FERPA block on their postsecondary enrollment records;
- Students who attend a college or university outside of the United States are not included in the NSC data;
- Certain colleges or universities may not participate in sharing data with NSC or may fail to report data for a certain semester or a certain group of students; and
- NSC may not be able to match a student to in the information provided by the postsecondary institution with a high level of confidence.
 - Examples of this would be cases where students change their name between high school and college or cases where students attend multiple postsecondary institutions and the information from the institutions does not match.

In 2023, the NJDOE worked with NSC to implement a manual review process, specifically targeting the cases where students were not matched with a high level of confidence. Additionally, NSC reviewed data from previous years to identify if additional matches could be found under this new process.

Updated Reports and Data

The 2022-2023 School Performance Reports now include postsecondary enrollment for the Class of 2023 as of fall 2023 (fall after graduation) and Class of 2022 as of fall 2023 (16 months after graduation). Additionally, the NJDOE has released a separate spreadsheet on the [NJDOE's Graduation and Postsecondary webpage](#) displaying trend data for the past five years, including fall and 16-month postsecondary enrollment rates. It's important to note that the historical rates in this spreadsheet may differ from the rates initially reported in the School Performance Reports. This may be due to the updated manual review process, updated LEA-reported data in NJ SMART, or additional postsecondary enrollment data reported by postsecondary institutions.

To address the fact that a small percentage of high school graduates each year may not be matched, the NJDOE is now reporting a range for overall postsecondary enrollment. The lower bound of the range is the percentage of students who were matched by NSC. The upper bound of the range represents an estimate of the percentage of students who may have enrolled, which is based on the number of high school graduates in each school and LEA and the fact that NSC's data represents approximately 97% of enrollment in higher education institutions.

Contact Information

Contact reportcard@doe.nj.gov for questions about postsecondary enrollment data or the School Performance Reports.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group