Date: May 21, 2025

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: Data Coordinators, Directors of Technology, NJ SMART Points of Contact, NJSLEDS Points of Contact

From: Shashi Yellambhatla, Chief Information Officer
Office of Information Technology

Announcing the NJSLEDS Soft Launch: Statewide Testing Begins July 7, 2025

As part of the ongoing transition from NJ SMART to the New Jersey Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (NJSLEDS), the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is excited to announce the upcoming soft launch of the NJSLEDS staging environment, beginning Monday, July 7, 2025.

The soft launch period will serve as a critical statewide testing period for districts to explore, interact with, and test all available submissions in the NJSLEDS system prior to the official launch on September 2, 2025. This staging environment is intended to provide all districts, regardless of pilot participation, with hands-on experience to validate workflows, file formatting, error handling, and general system behavior.

What Districts Can Expect

- **Full Access to Submissions:** Unlike pilot testing windows, the soft launch will enable districts to submit and test any of the NJSLEDS submissions using their 2024-2025 School Year data. All submissions except for Special Education should be based on the End of Year collection. The Special Education collection should be based on the Fall 2024-2025 Snapshot.
- **Flexible Testing Period:** This is a sandbox-style environment—districts are encouraged to experiment, test, and provide feedback, but are not required to submit finalized data.
- **Expanded Testing Opportunities:** In addition to core submissions, NJDOE is recruiting districts interested in testing Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Course Roster submissions, which will be introduced during the soft launch.

Please note: As with prior pilot phases, data submitted during soft launch will not carry over to production. This includes newly created SIDs/SMIDs and any updates made to resolve student or staff transfer requests. All data is for testing only and will be deleted at the end of the soft launch.

Why This Matters
The soft launch is an essential step in ensuring a smooth and confident statewide rollout of NJSLEDS in September.

It allows every district to:

- Practice submitting files using the new system
- Gain familiarity with system navigation and error resolution
- Identify local system or process adjustments needed for success

Looking Ahead

- **Official Launch:** The full transition to NJSLEDS begins September 2, 2025.
- **Ongoing Support:** Updated resources, training guides, and Help Desk access will be available on the NJSLEDS User Resources Website.
- **Additional Communications:** Details about access, test account credentials, and support webinars will be shared in June.

The NJDOE thanks you for your continued partnership as we modernize New Jersey's education data systems. Your participation in the soft launch is vital to shaping a seamless and successful statewide transition.

Contact Information
For additional questions or inquiries, please contact the NJSLEDS team at NJSLEDS@doe.nj.gov.

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