



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 12, 2026

To: Local Educational Agency Leads

Route To: School Business Administrators, Web User Administrators, Principals and School Leads in LEAs serving grades 9 through 12

From: Kimberly A. Murray, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Deadline: August 31, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.

Action Required: Finalize NJSLEDS Graduation Data

The annual New Jersey Statewide Longitudinal Education System (NJSLEDS) Student Management window for local education agencies (LEAs) serving grades 9 through 12 to inactivate 2025-2026 graduates is currently open, and the deadline is August 31, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Student Management is the management system that establishes students' unique identification numbers, compiles demographic data, and tracks graduation data and the pathways students use to meet the [graduation assessment requirements](#).

Key Steps/Actions

Starting the week of August 17, LEAs that serve grades 9-12 should review the NJSLEDS Graduation Student-Level and Graduation Cohort Profile reports based on current data to make sure 2025-2026 graduation data is accurate. Reports based on current data were suspended while updates were made in the system and are expected to resume the week of August 17. After LEAs have uploaded their 2025-2026 graduation data, they should review the following:

- All versions of graduation rates that will be reported and used for accountability purposes:
 - Four-year, five-year, and six-year rates;
 - School and district-level rates; and
 - State and federal rates;
- Cohort status of students in your most recent cohorts:
 - Students who graduated by August 31, 2026, are reported as graduated with the correct school exit withdrawal date;
 - Students who transferred out before the end of the 2025-2026 school year have the appropriate exit withdrawal code;
 - Review students in the Transfer Out – Unverified cohort status to determine if they have the correct exit withdrawal code or if they transferred to another district that may have reported the student under a different state identification number (SID), which may require a SID merge; and
 - Review students with a cohort status of Active Student Status Unknown to determine if an updated record should be uploaded to indicate current status;
- Fields that indicate how students met graduation requirements:

- The IEP Graduation Course Requirement and IEP Graduation Attendance fields are coded correctly to reflect whether students with disabilities did not meet course and/or attendance requirements because of modifications or exemptions in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs); and
- The English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics graduation pathway indicators accurately reflect how students met the graduation assessment requirements.

Review the [Graduation Data Quality Checklist](#) for more tips on how to use the NJSLEDS Graduation Reports to review graduation data. Preliminary graduation rates based on data submitted by the August 31 deadline will be shared with LEAs in mid-September, at which time LEAs can also submit graduation appeals to correct any data submission issues.

Required Graduation Reporting Reminder

New Jersey regulations (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.2(f)) require LEAs to report graduation results annually to their district boards of education or charter school boards of trustees at a public meeting no later than September 30, 2026. LEAs are required to report:

- The total number of students graduating in the prior school year;
- The number of graduates who met the graduation assessment requirements by:
 - Passing a substitute competency test;
 - The portfolio appeals process; and
 - Meeting alternate requirements specified in their IEPs; and
- The number of 12th grade students who were denied graduation and how many of those students were denied solely due to failure to meet the graduation assessment requirements.

The information that LEAs report should align with the data that was submitted in NJSLEDS Student Management by the August 31, 2026, deadline. If an LEA has submitted graduation appeals that are not yet approved and impact these measures, they may report the information that they have appealed with a note that it is pending approval by the NJDOE.

Graduation Resources and Contact Information

Graduation resources are available to support LEAs in reporting graduation data, explaining how graduation rates are calculated, answering frequently asked questions, and describing how to use the associated district reports on the [NJSLEDS Graduation Resources page](#).

Contact reportcard@doe.nj.gov with any questions about how graduation rates are calculated, reported, or used for accountability purposes. Contact the NJSLEDS Help Desk using the [NJSLEDS Help Desk Web Form](#) or by phone at 609-376-3970 with any questions about submitting data in NJSLEDS.