



Christie Administration Releases School Performance Reports

For Immediate Release

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Date: May 6, 2016

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Trenton, NJ – The Department of Education today released School Performance Reports for the 2014-15 school year.

The reports highlight indicators of college and career readiness which include the following: data on student growth on yearly assessments; enrollment in middle school arts courses; participation in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and dual enrollment programs; and school climate data, such as chronic absenteeism.

"The School Performance Reports provide an important, transparent tool for educators and parents to help improve our schools and to keep New Jersey's public school system as one of the best in the nation," Education Commissioner David C. Hespe said. "These reports also provide the public with the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how prepared students are for college and careers."

Some key changes to the School Performance Reports include:

- The school-wide participation and grade-level performance of students on the 2014-2015 Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments rather than the New Jersey Assessment for Skills and Knowledge (NJASK).
- The K-8 school reports show the percentage of students who participate in visual and performing arts. Previously, information on the arts was reported only at the high school level. Visual and performing arts are one of the nine curricular areas that must be taught in all New Jersey public schools. National studies have found that students from lower socioeconomic communities who are involved in the arts are three times more likely to receive a bachelor's degree than students with little or no arts involvement. Those findings were echoed in a 2012 report by the New Jersey Arts Education Partnership, which found New Jersey students who were involved in the arts were more likely to have higher scores in language arts literacy and more likely to enroll in college.
- The high school reports now include a table that shows the percentage of students who participate in dual enrollment courses. The dual enrollment programs enable students to earn college credits while they are still enrolled in high school.

In the coming months, the Department will continue to work with teachers, administrators, school board members and parents to review the reports and ensure that the most important indicators of school performance are included.

The School Performance Reports, the interpretive guide and other supporting documents can be accessed [online](#).