

Dear Parents, Guardians and Members of the School Community,

Since the 2011-12 school year, New Jersey's School Performance Reports have provided families, educators and the public a picture of overall school performance. As part of New Jersey's accountability system, the performance reports provide valuable information across many elements, including school wide academic achievement and progress, demographics, school climate, chronic absenteeism, and college and career readiness.

This information can be used to compare a school's performance to other school, district, and statewide results, and to find a school's strengths and identify areas for improvement. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) encourages all members of the school community to use the performance reports to help start local conversations by asking questions such as: How is our school doing relative to other schools? Are all of our students making progress from last year?

The School Performance Reports were developed with, and are continually improved by, the feedback from stakeholders like you. Here are some of the improvements for the 2016-17 School Performance Reports based on feedback:

### **New Jersey School Performance Summary Reports**

For the first time, one-page Summary Reports for each school and district are available. The Summary Reports are a more reader-friendly companion to the full New Jersey School Performance Reports, and provide a high-level summary of how well a school or district is performing with data that address questions such as: Are students on track for success? How much are students learning? Are students graduating? Are students going to college? The NJDOE has also made available a guide to explain the different data points on the Summary Reports.

### **Over 25 New Data Elements**

The 2016-17 New Jersey School Performance Reports include 26 new data elements, including:

- Full and Half Day Pre-K and K;
- Student Growth – by Grade, Subgroup, Progress to Goals;
- Chronic Absenteeism – by Grade, Subgroup, Progress to Goals;
- In-school and Out-of-School Suspensions; and
- School Start and End Times.

### **Additional Feedback Requested**

The NJDOE continues to seek your input on how to further improve the readability and usability of these reports. Please fill out the feedback survey or email the NJDOE Report Card.

Cordially,

Estee Mailot, Ed.D.

Director of Funded Programs/District Test Coordinator