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"Committed to Excellence"*

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Members of the School Community,

New Jersey's School Performance Reports provide families, educators and the public a picture of overall school performance. The performance reports offer valuable information across many elements, including schoolwide academic achievement and progress, demographics, school climate, chronic absenteeism, and college and career readiness.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) encourages all members of the school community to use the reports to help start local conversations by asking questions such as: Are our students on track for success? Are all of our students making progress from last year? What areas is our school doing well in, and in what areas might we need improvement?"

The School Performance Reports were developed with, and are continually enhanced by, input from stakeholders like you. Below are some of the enhancements to the reports.

New Jersey School Performance One-Page Summary Reports

For the first time, the NJDOE is publishing one-page, parent-friendly Summary Reports providing easy-to-read highlights of each school. The Summary Reports are a dashboard of key indicators such as student progress, graduation rates and 2-year and 4-year college attendance. The NJDOE has also made available a guide (rc.doe.state.nj.us/Documents/SummaryReportGuide.html) to explain the different data points on the Summary Reports.

Over Two Dozen New Data Elements

The 2016-17 New Jersey School Performance Reports (rc.doe.state.nj.us/SearchForSchool.aspx) contain new data elements, including:

- Updated school narratives with information across a variety of categories;
- Full and/or half day Pre-K and K reporting;
- Chronic Absenteeism by grade, subgroup, and progress toward statewide goals;
- In-school and out-of-school suspensions; and
- School start and end times.

Summative Rating

Federal law requires New Jersey to include a summative rating based on a formula that combines a few key measures (i.e., proficiency, student growth, graduation and chronic absenteeism). This summative rating is just *one part* of the overall performance of a school and it is used to determine which schools need the most intense support. Visit www.state.nj.us/education/ESSA/ for more information.

The NJDOE continues to seek your input on how to further improve the usability of these reports. Please fill out the feedback survey (www.surveymonkey.com/r/V5WKDYD) or email the reportcard@doe.state.nj.us.

Thank you,

Pedro A. Garrido
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