



NJ School Performance Reports Data Privacy Rules

The 2016-17 New Jersey School Performance Reports contain information related to school and district performance, which is based on student-level information. Student-level information is confidential under the federal [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#), is not to be made accessible to the public pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, and will not be released.

While the school performance reports do not include student-level information like names or student identification numbers, in some cases where data is reported by student group or grade level, the number of students represented in a table by a count or percentage may be small. In order to make sure that this data cannot be linked back to a specific student, the data in that table may not be displayed. New Jersey requires a minimum of 10 or more students in order to report most performance data in the school performance reports.

In general, the rules used throughout the school performance reports are:

1. In cases where student counts or percentages represent fewer than 10 students, data will not be displayed.
2. In cases where the proficiency rate or percentage of students that “met or exceeded expectations” is less than 10% or where chronic absenteeism rates are greater than 90%, then that data will not be displayed.

In cases where data is not displayed due to these rules, the reports will show * to indicate that data privacy rules have been applied. In cases where no data is available, the reports will show N.

In some cases, other related data cannot be displayed as well even though it may represent more than 10 students. For example, if a school has 20 students taking the PARCC ELA assessment, 11 females and 9 males, information about the male student group would not be displayed because there are fewer than 10 students. However, in this case we would also have to hide information about the female student group because you could use the overall information about the school and the information about the female student group to figure out the information for the male student group.

This could also occur across school and district level reports. If there are only two schools in district, school A and school B, and we cannot report information for school A due to low student counts, we would also hide the overall district level data in order to be able to report information for school B.

Additionally, under the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, New Jersey has defined the minimum number of students necessary for a student group to be included in the *ESSA* school accountability system to be 20 students. Although all students are factored into a school’s

overall performance for each indicator, only student groups with 20 or more students are included in the accountability system as a “subgroup”.

In cases where data is not displayed based on ESSA accountability rules, the reports will show ** to indicate that data was available for fewer than 20 students.

For specific rules about each table in the school performance reports, see the [School Performance Reports Reference Guide](#) and look for the Data Privacy notes in each section of the guide.

For more information about how New Jersey chose the minimum number of students to be included in the *ESSA* school accountability system, see [New Jersey's ESSA plan](#).