



## NJDOE News

**For More Information Contact the Public Information Office: 609-292-1126**

**Faith Sarafin**  
**Kathryn Forsyth, Director**  
**Richard J. Vespucci**  
**Beth Auerswald**

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### **New Jersey Department of Education Releases 2009 School Report Cards**

The New Jersey Department of Education today released the 2009 School Report Cards for all regular public schools and charter schools in the state. The report cards are public accountability documents that are intended to enable members of the public to measure the yearly progress of their local schools.

The annual reports contain detailed statistical profiles of every school in the areas of school environment, student information, student performance indicators, staff information and district and charter financial information.

Established by legislation in 1995, the report cards are produced for all elementary and secondary schools, as well as vocational schools, special education schools, charter schools, and special services school districts.

The school report card is accessible on the DOE Web site at <http://education.state.nj.us/rc/>

In addition to being a resource for community members to check the progress of their schools, the report card contains state-level information that is helpful in providing an overview of education in New Jersey.

The report cards released today are the 15th to be produced under the 1995 state law that specifies much of the information to be reported and requires its annual distribution. They also represent the 19th time New Jersey has issued a report on its public schools, since the first report cards were distributed in 1989.

Some items of note in the 2009 report card:

- The major addition to the report card in 2009 was mandated by the US Department of Education. States were required to report 2007 state and national results in reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) for grades four and eight and the 2009 NAEP math results for grades four and eight. For comparative purposes, the NAEP results are in the same section of the report card as the fourth and eighth grade NJ ASK state totals for grades four and eight. Information about New Jersey's performance on NAEP can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/naep/>
- The criterion for the student/computer ratio changed this year. Formerly, districts could report any computer in the building that was still being used for some instructional purpose. This year's count was to include only instructional, multimedia-capable computers that have manufacture dates after July 1, 2005 and that are available for supervised instruction. Very old computers are limited in their ability to prepare students to use 21st century tools.
- State assessment for grades 3-4 show only one year of results because they are new tests. The changes to the tests for grades three and four complete the realignment of the state tests with the updated academic standards. In the second year of the new tests for grades 5-8 that were administered for the first time in 2008, overall the test results showed improvement across the board. The biggest gains in language arts were in grade 5 from 60.1% proficient in 2007-08 to 66.2% in 2008-09 and grade 6 with 57.4% proficient in 2007-08 to 70.1% proficient in 2008-09. The biggest gain in math was in grade 8 from 67.7% proficient in 2007-08 to 71.8% in 2008-09.
- Graduates via SRA (the alternate proficiency assessment for the HSPA) declined slightly for a third year, from 11.2% in 2006-07 to 11.0% in 2007-08 to 10.9% in 2008-09.
- Students identified as limited English proficient (LEP) showed a dip in 2007-08 but are back at 2006-07 levels for 2008-09.

2006-07 54,258 LEP students or 3.9%  
2007-08 51,824 or 3.7%

2008-09 54,282 or 3.9%.

- The faculty mobility rate has dropped from 6.2% in 2006-07 to 5.7% in 2007-08 and 4% in 2008-09.
- The student expulsions have fallen from 78 in 2005-06 to 76 in 2006-07 to 66 in 2007-08 and to 35 in 2008-09.
- The top six languages spoken at home have some percentage changes in the top six:

	2007-08	2008-09
English	77.6%	78.2%
Spanish	10.8%	10.0%
Korean	.6%	.4%
Portuguese	.5%	.2%
Mandarin	.4%	.1%
Arabic	.5%	replaced by Polish at .1%

- The intended post graduate plans for students has shown a slight drop in the four-year college category and in the employment category:

	2007-08	2008-09
4-yr. college	54.0%	52.6%
2-yr. college	31.0%	31.5%
Oth. post secondary	3.3%	4.7%
Military	1.4%	.4%
Apprenticeship	.2%	.2%
Employment	6.3%	5.8%