



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LUCILLE E. DAVY
Commissioner

August 21, 2007

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Lucille E. Davy
Commissioner

SUBJECT: **NJ SMART**

The Department would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work during the last several months in the second NJ SMART data submission cycle for the End of Year 2007 data file. In the next couple of weeks, the NJ SMART portal will open for any Statewide Student Identifier (SID) resolution activities required for student records for which you do not yet have a SID.

I hope that your district is taking advantage of the statewide, county-based EDanalyzer® training that is happening this month. EDanalyzer® is a powerful and straightforward data exploration tool that will allow you to view several years of state assessment data and student demographic information that are currently in the NJ SMART data warehouse. EDanalyzer® supports full student listing (drill-down) as well as graphing capabilities, and will be an important tool for your district as you continue to use data to assess student performance and make decisions about teaching and instruction. EDanalyzer® is being offered for free to all districts who participate in NJ SMART.

As we look ahead to the next school year, the Department plans to move on to the next phase of NJ SMART which includes the beginning of integration of some of the summary level district reporting requirements. Moving some summary level reports into the NJ SMART student-level database will require additional data elements, and files, to be submitted to NJ SMART. This notification is to let you know of data elements which will be added to the core NJ SMART student data file for the October 15th snapshot, as well as plans for collecting Special Education data beginning on December 1st via NJ SMART.

The new data elements to be collected as of October 15th are as follows:

Special Education Classification

Migrant Status

LEP Status

Economic Disadvantage Status (*Free/Reduced Lunch*)

Enrollment Status (*full time, part time, shared time*)

The NJ SMART Student Data Handbook will be updated with the definitions and code sets for these elements, and all NJ SMART users will receive notification of the changes and the new version of the document as soon as it is available. The Department is moving towards integrating the assessment pre-identification processes with NJ SMART which is the driver behind the addition of these five data elements.

It is important to remind you that all of the other required elements, including city/state/country of birth continue to be mandatory submission elements. It is essential for the integrity of the statewide student-level database that all student records include these data elements.

The Department will be including NJ SMART data submission compliance and quality into NJQSAC scoring starting September. Late NJ SMART data submissions or poor data quality will result in the district not meeting QSAC indicators. In addition, the Department will be using the October 15th data submission as a pilot process for moving towards using the NJ SMART student level data submission process to support calculation of State Aid. It is critical that your district comprehensively meets all NJ SMART reporting requirements and timelines.

The December 1st submission cycle will include a Special Education-specific student-level data file which will collect the summary level data your district has submitted for the ADR report in the past. The NJ SMART Student Data Handbook will have a chapter added which will outline all details with regard to these required data elements and the December 1st data submission.

If you have questions or comments, please call NJ SMART at 1-800-254-0295 or send an email to NJSMART@pcgus.com.

Again, thank you for your continued hard work and commitment to NJ SMART. This project is the Department's highest priority, and we firmly believe that all districts, staff and students will benefit greatly from the NJ SMART database.

c: County Superintendents

LEE Group

Garden State Coalition of Schools

John Hart

William King

Jack Longworth