

2024 ESSA State Plan Long-Term Goals and Annual Targets Changes

In 2024, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in collaboration with stakeholders, proposed changes to its Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan. This document explains the most significant changes in the 2024 ESSA State Plan: how the long-term goals and annual targets for academic achievement and graduation rate are defined.

This new methodology for determining long-term goals and annual targets will be used to update the 2023-2024 academic achievement and graduation targets and for the identification of schools for targeted support and improvement for the 2025-2026 school year.

2024 ESSA State Plan

Future Goals

Academic Achievement: 100% of all students will meet or exceed grade-level expectations on the statewide English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessment.

Graduation: 95% of all students will graduate within four years of entering 9th grade, and 96% of all students will graduate within five years.

Long-Term Goals

Academic Achievement: Close the gap between baseline performance and the future goal (100% proficient) by 20% over six years.

Graduation: Close the gap between baseline performance and the future goal (95% four-year graduation rate, 96% five-year graduation rate) by 25% over six years.

After six years, new long-term goals will be established based on current baseline data.

2017 ESSA State Plan

Long-Term Goals

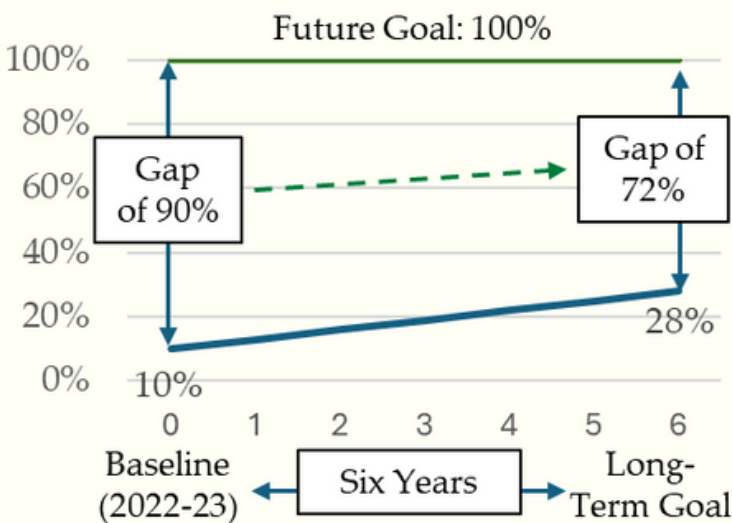
Academic Achievement: 80% of all students will meet or exceed grade-level expectations on the statewide English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessment by 2032.

Graduation: 95% of all students will graduate within four years of entering 9th grade, and 96% of all students will graduate within five years.

What has changed?

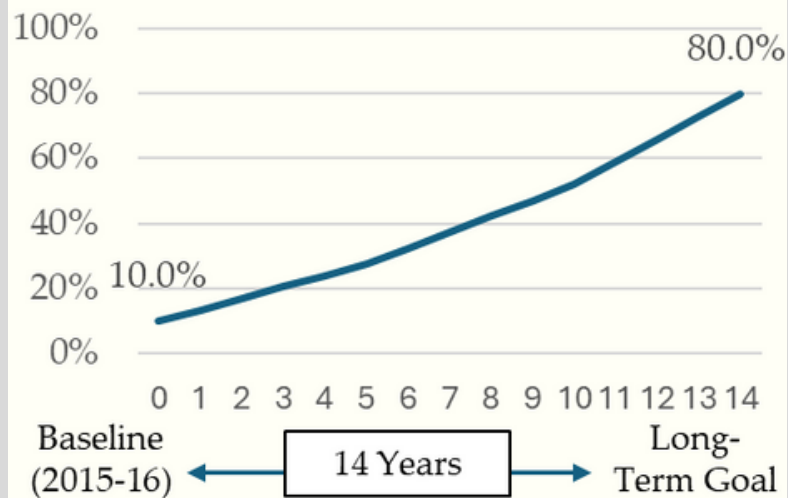
- New future goals without a timeframe
- Shorter long-term goal timeframe (14 years in 2017 plan, 6 years in 2024 plan)
- Unique long-term goals based on closing gaps and each school and student group's baseline performance instead of a one-size fits all approach
- Sustainable plan to develop future goals

Example: 2024 Academic Achievement Goal



Goal is to reduce gap by 20% ($90 - 20\% \times 90 = 72$).

Example: 2017 Academic Achievement Goal



Goal is 80% for all student groups.

Read the [ESSA State Plan](#) on the NJDOE website



2024 ESSA State Plan Long-Term Goals and Annual Targets Changes

2024 ESSA State Plan

Annual Targets

Unique annual targets for years 1-5 will be established based on school or student group baseline data from 2022-23. They will initially be based on the annual amount of progress required to reach the long-term goal in six years, with progress equally distributed across the six years.

Each year, targets will be reviewed. If the previous year's annual target was not met, the remaining annual targets will be adjusted to reflect the annual amount of progress required to reach the long-term goal in the remaining years. The long-term goal will not change.

2017 ESSA State Plan

Annual Targets

Unique annual targets for years 1-13 were established based on school or student group baseline data from 2015-16. The amount of progress required each year increased over time.

What has changed?

- New long-term goals and annual targets will be established every six years.
- Annual progress is now equally distributed across years.
- Targets will be adjusted annually to provide a better measure of whether schools are on track to meet the current long-term goal.

Performance Levels for Annual Meaningful Differentiation

As part of New Jersey's system of annual meaningful differentiation, each school and student group is assigned a performance level for each indicator on an annual basis. For academic achievement and graduation rate, this performance level is based on a school's or student group's annual performance on the indicator as compared to the annual target and goals. Schools with student groups that have not met targets for all indicators for two consecutive years may be identified for targeted support and improvement. The NJDOE expects to implement changes to the performance levels starting with the 2024-2025 process.

2024 Academic Achievement Levels
No Improvement
Progress, Target Not Met
Target Met with CI*
Target Met
Exceeds Expectations

2017 Academic Achievement Levels
Target Not Met
Target Met with CI*
Target Met
Met Goal

*CI = Confidence Interval

2024 Graduation Levels
No Improvement
Progress, Target Not Met
Target Met
Met Goal

2017 Graduation Levels
Target Not Met
Target Met
Met Goal

What has changed?

- Target Not Met category is split into two new categories to differentiate between schools that have not made improvement and schools that have made improvement but did not meet their annual target.
- Met Goal changed to Exceeds Expectations for academic achievement, but it is still assigned to schools with proficiency rates of 80% or higher.

Read the [ESSA State Plan](#) on the NJDOE website

