



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: April 17, 2024

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: Directors of Special Education, Administrators of Programs for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Educational Staff for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

## State Mandated Language Development Reporting of Preschool-Aged Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

N.J.S.A.18A:46-2.14 requires that data on the language acquisition and developmental progress of children aged three to five years who are deaf or hard of hearing be collected and publicly reported annually. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required to report this data to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) in the NJ SMART end-of-year collection in June.

The Office of Special Education has resources to support LEAs in the collection and submission of this data. The four-point rating scale used in determining the child's development is on the [NJDOE website](#) under the District Resources dropdown menu. This rating scale should be completed in consultation with all members working with the child and be based on multiple sources of information. The annual report of the data collected for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years can be found on the [NJDOE website](#). More information regarding the requirements of this legislation can be found in a brief [eLearning video](#) on the NJDOE website.

### Contact Information

For further information or questions, please email [dhh.education@doe.nj.gov](mailto:dhh.education@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group