



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY  
Lt. Governor

ANGELICA ALLEN-McMILLAN, Ed.D.  
Acting Commissioner

October 20, 2023

**Via Email**

Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Superintendent  
Orange Public Schools District  
451 Lincoln Avenue  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

Dear Dr. Fitzhugh, II:

The Orange Public School District (District) submitted a request on October 6, 2023, for the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) to reconsider the September 28, 2023, placement of the District on the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC), in the areas of Instruction and Program. The District submitted documentation to support the reconsideration request. Following are the indicators the District identified as having been scored incorrectly:

- Instruction and Program Indicators 4 and 5
- Science Growth
- Fiscal Management Indicator 3

**Instruction and Program Indicators 4 and 5**

**4. *"The school district's ELA academic progress.***

- *Academic progress is calculated to include subgroup performance by averaging the mSGP of all students with the average of all subgroups' mSGPs."*  
(Assessment data provided by NJDOE)

**5. *"The school district's mathematics academic progress.***

- *Academic progress is calculated to include subgroup performance by averaging the mSGP of all students with the average of all subgroups' mSGPs."*  
(Assessment data provided by NJDOE)

The District request to review student growth in science is not completed in the reiteration of the 2022-2023 DPR. There is no indicator, or score attached to student growth in science.

The Essex County Office of Education scored Instruction and Program Indicators 4 and 5 which measure student growth in ELA and mathematics, respectively, as 6.3 points out of 7.5 for ELA and 6.5 points out of 7.5 points for mathematics. The District provided documentation of an approval of an equivalency for these two indicators. Therefore, the District will be awarded an addition 1.2 points for ELA and 1 point mathematics making the total points awarded for ELA 7.5 points out of 7.5 points in ELA and 7.5 points out of 7.5 points in mathematics. The Summary of Achievement Score Indicators is now 41.2 and the overall score for I&P is 81%

Fiscal Management Indicator 3

3. *The annual audit of its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and other supporting forms and collections (Auditor's Management Report (AMR), Federal Data Collection Form, and Audit Summary) have been filed by the due date set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1.*

The district presented evidence of extenuating circumstances with the services of the auditing firm. The auditor was extremely late in providing the audit to the District. The District terminated the contract with the auditing firm. Therefore, four points will be restored to the fiscal DPT.

Based on the aforementioned information, a total of two points will be restored to Instruction and Program DPR for Indicators 4 and 5 and four points to the Fiscal Management DPR. The District's initial placement on the NJQSAC continuum for Instruction and Program has been amended as follows:

NJQSAC Areas	Initial Review Placement (September 2023)	Initial Review Placement (Revised) (October 2023)
Instruction and Program	79%	81%
Fiscal Management	88%	92%
Governance	95%	95%
Operations	97%	97%
Personnel	97%	97%

I am pleased to inform you that your district has satisfied at least 80% of the weighted indicators in each of the five areas of the NJQSAC review process and has been designated as "high performing." The Commissioner will recommend to the State Board of Education that your district be certified as providing a thorough and efficient system of education, for a period of three years or until the next NJQSAC review. Congratulations on this accomplishment.

Revised placement results will be presented to the New Jersey State Board of Education at an upcoming meeting. Please be advised that NJQSAC regulations require the District Board of Education to report these placement results at the next regularly scheduled school board meeting.

Sincerely,



Christopher Irving, Ed.D.  
Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Field Support and Services

CI/RG/CS  
Enclosures  
c: Robert Gregory  
Joeseeph Zarra