

June 3, 2024

### **GOVERNOR MURPHY SIGNS LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING AN EDUCATOR EVALUATION REVIEW TASK FORCE, AND CLARIFYING THE COLLECTION OF STUDENT GROWTH OBJECTIVE DATA**

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Governor Murphy recently signed new legislation into effect (P.L.2024, c.14) which establishes a “New Jersey Educator Evaluation Review Task Force for the purpose of examining the educator evaluation process, gathering data, evaluating the data, and making recommendations concerning the annual evaluation process for teachers, principals, assistant principals, and vice-principals.” The task force will be required to:

- “Examine the educational value, administrative burden, and impacts on teachers, principals, and vice principals of the use of student growth objectives in annual summative evaluations, and identify potential alternative approaches to the use of student growth objectives in annual summative evaluations;
- Examine any unintended consequences of the implementation of the TEACHNJ Act;
- Review current educational research on best practices in educator evaluation in order to promote student achievement and success; and
- Present any recommendations deemed necessary and appropriate to modify or update the TEACHNJ Act and its implementing regulations to the Governor, the Legislature, the Department of Education, and the public.”

The task force is required to hold at least one public hearing and issue a final report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor by September 30, 2024.

Additionally, the new legislation pauses the collection of new student growth objective data for the 2024-2025 school year. Instead, school districts must use “existing student growth objective data from the most recent year in which the educator completed student growth objectives” when conducting evaluations. However, teachers who are in their first year of employment in a school district, those who do not have a record of pre-existing student growth objectives, and non-tenured teachers are “required to set student growth objectives and collect data pertaining to these

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objectives during the 2024-2025 school year.” Finally, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, school districts are mandated to develop guidelines for the collection of student growth objective data, consistent with any applicable laws, rules, or regulations which may be enacted in response to the task force’s findings.

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