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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026 | MYCENTRALJERSEY.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

EXCLUSIVE



New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill meets with The Record and NorthJersey.com Editorial Board on June 16. SAM COHEN/NORTHJERSEY.COM

# Sherrill reflects on first 10 months, talks NJ's future

**Katie Sobko** NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

On a recent Thursday, Gov. Mikie Sherrill spent her time on the go. A groundbreaking for a bridge in Bayonne, an economic development meeting in Trenton with a business looking to expand in the state, a meeting with the Norwegian ambassador and the standard phone calls to candidates that won during the midterm elections.

All that on top of the regular internal meetings, but that's kind of Sherrill's whole shtick. Calm in the storm, no matter what the storm may be. She navigated an internal investigation and the departure of her lieutenant governor, provided some transparency on the noncitizen voter registration issues and led the state through natural disasters while crafting a budget and hosting the entire world for a soccer tournament.

She's a lifelong public servant, first in the U.S. Navy, then in the U.S. Attorney's Office. She served in Congress from 2019 up until being elected governor of the Garden State last year and she doesn't intend to stop.

She hit the ground running, signing executive orders literally during her inauguration back in January.

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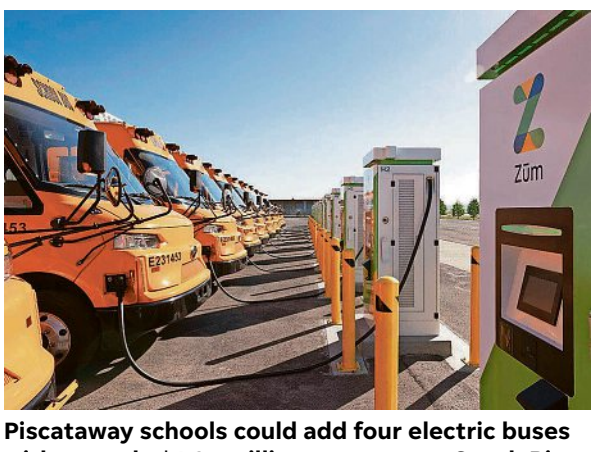
# Electric school buses could be rolling into Piscataway

**Joe Martino**
MyCentralJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Piscataway Township Schools could add four electric school buses to its fleet with a nearly $1.34 million state grant aimed at reducing diesel emissions around students.

The district was awarded up to $1.336 million through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Electric School Bus Grant Program. The money would pay for four electric buses and two Level 2 charging stations.

Piscataway is the largest Middlesex County recipient in the latest round of grants. Pillars Preparatory Academy in South River was awarded up to $700,000 for two electric buses and two fast-charging stations.




Piscataway schools could add four electric buses with a nearly $1.34 million state grant. South River also received funding. ZUM/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

Together, the two Middlesex County recipients could receive more than $2 million for six electric buses and four charging stations.

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# How safe is your Central Jersey hospital?

**Scott Fallon and Joe Martino**
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Central Jersey hospitals earned mostly A and B grades in the latest national patient-safety report card, with several receiving top marks.

New Jersey ranked third nationally in the fall 2026 Hospital Safety Grades from The Leapfrog Group, up from sixth in the spring. About 54% of the state's graded hospitals earned an A.

The nonprofit assigns hospitals grades from A to F based on measures of how well they protect patients from preventable medical errors, accidents, injuries and infections. Grades are issued twice a year.

### New Jersey ranks third nationally for hospital safety

New Jersey ranked third in the nation for the percentage of hospitals earning an A in the fall 2026 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades.

The state improved from sixth place in the spring, with 53.7% of its graded hospitals earning an A.

These are the five states with the highest percentage of A grades:

1. Connecticut: **64.7%**
2. Utah: **55.2%**
3. New Jersey: **53.7%**
4. South Carolina: **52.9%**
5. Virginia: **52.1%**

### Middlesex County hospital safety grades include several A's

In Middlesex County, Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy earned an A for the second consecutive grading period, while Old Bridge Medical Center improved to an A from a B.

Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick also improved to an A from a B.

"Achieving a Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade of 'A' reflects the unwavering dedication, vigilance and teamwork of everyone across our organization," Leslie D. Hirsch, president and CEO of Saint Peter's Healthcare System, said in a statement.

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Volume 111 | No. 27
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