



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Weekly Message – June 7, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, the Department of Education [announced](#) New Jersey's 21 County Teachers of the Year for the 2016-17 school year. A panel of educators will select which of these talented educators will become New Jersey's State Teacher of the Year. That person will be recognized by the State Board of Education in October and will go on to represent New Jersey at the National Teacher of the Year competition.

We are proud of all of the New Jersey educators whose hard work and continual improvement have made our public schools among the best in the nation. I invite you to look at the Department's [Educator Recognition](#) webpage for more information about the Teacher of the Year program and other efforts to recognize our excellent educators.

Sincerely,

Peter Shulman  
Deputy Commissioner

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**Broadcast Memos This Week** – All broadcast memos can be found at the following link:  
<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/>

**[FY 2017 ESEA-NCLB Consolidated Subgrant Application](#)** – This is official notification that the FY 2017 *ESEA-NCLB* Consolidated Subgrant Application will be available on the Electronic Web Enabled Grants (EWEG) system on Wednesday, June 8, 2016. Access to the EWEG system is through the New Jersey Homeroom at:  
<http://homeroom.state.nj.us/>.

**Target Audience:** Chief School Administrators, Charter School Lead Persons, Renaissance School Project Lead Persons and State Agency Office of Education Directors  
**Deadlines:** July 7, 2016

**[NJ SMART End-of-Year Practice Period](#)** – The NJ Smart practice period gives districts the ability to submit data for 10 weeks prior to the June 30 snapshot to ensure that districts have the correct data for teacher evaluations, mSGP calculations, performance reports and funding for programs and grants.

**Target Audience:** Chief School Administrators, Charter School Lead Persons and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

**[2015-16 School Register Summary Data Collection](#)** – The School Register Summary is a mandatory data collection to be completed annually by every school district, charter school and Renaissance school project.

**Target Audience:** Chief School Administrators, Charter School Lead Persons and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons  
**Deadlines:** August 3, 2016

**[2016-17 Debt Services Aid Payment Schedules](#)** – This memo announces the distribution of 2016-17 debt service aid payment schedules.

**Target Audience:** Chief School Administrators and Board Secretaries/School Business Administrators

[AchieveNJ Update](#) – This AchieveNJ end-of-year update provides information about the annual evaluation survey, the practice instrument RFQ for 2016-17, summer data submissions, and AchieveNJ regional summer workshops.

**Target Audience:** Chief School Administrators, Charter School Lead Persons, Renaissance School Project Lead Persons, All District Principals, Assistant/Vice Principals and Teaching Staff Members

**Deadlines:** Varies: see memo

**Community Input Needed for Survey on School Performance Reports** – The New Jersey Department of Education is reaching out to parents, educators, students and other stakeholders in the school community with a survey on what information they would like to see in the state’s School Performance Reports. The survey, which is entirely voluntary, will provide insight into ways New Jersey can improve its public reporting about schools. The NJDOE is asking superintendents to use local school district websites, emails, newsletters or other communications to circulate the attached template letter to their citizens, or provide citizens with the survey link and other relevant information to encourage participation in the survey. Both taking and distributing the survey is optional. Everyone’s time and feedback is greatly appreciated.

- [Sample Letter to Local Stakeholders](#)

**Target Audience:** Chief School Administrators, Charter School Lead Persons and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

**Deadlines:** July 31, 2016

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## Resources and Opportunities

**The Amistad Commission Summer Curriculum Institute for Teachers** – As part of the Amistad Commission’s mandate to survey, design, promote and create public awareness programs regarding slavery, the African slave trade and the vestiges of slavery, the Commission will conduct two regional summer workshops, with an emphasis on social studies, for public school elementary and secondary teachers and administrators. **Note that the northern region location below has changed:**

- [Informational Flyer](#)
- Southern Region: [Rowan University, Glassboro – July 25-27](#)
- **Updated** – Northern Region: [Kean University, Union – August 1-3](#)

**Please note: All registrants who previously registered for the Bloomfield workshop will automatically be transferred to the Kean workshop.**

**Target Audience:** Chief School Administrators, Charter School Lead Persons, Renaissance School Project Lead Persons, Public and Nonpublic School Teachers, Administrators and other Educators

**New Jersey Child Assault Prevention 2016-17 Grant Applications\*** – The New Jersey Child Assault Prevention (NJ CAP) is announcing its 2016-17 grant applications. NJ CAP, which provides schools and communities with information and resources to reduce children’s vulnerability to assault and bullying, is a program of the Educational Information and Resource Center and the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. Applications to reduce or waive the cost of program implementation are due June 30, 2016.

**Target Audience:** Chief School Administrators, Charter School Lead Persons, Renaissance School Project Lead Persons, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, and Administrators of Nonpublic Schools

**Deadlines:** June 30, 2016

**New Jersey Kindergarten through Third Grade Research & Professional Development Opportunities\*** – NJDOE is again collaborating with NIEER and Rutgers GSE to conduct a research study of kindergarten through third grade, as well as offer professional development for teachers and administrators. In addition, Grow NJ Kids will assist in developing a high quality preschool program by providing curricular resources, professional development and targeted

coaching.

**Target Audience:** Chief School Administrators, Charter School Lead Persons and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

**Summer Conference: Universal Design for Learning: Making a Choice for Student Achievement\*** – The Educational Information and Resource Center (EIRC), in collaboration with the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, is sponsoring a summer conference on Universal Design for Learning from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. August 11. The purpose of the conference, which is aligned with the New Jersey Department of Education's efforts to promote Universal Design for Learning (UDL), is to build district and school capacity to implement and sustain UDL principles in classrooms. The conference will include breakout sessions specifically designed for administrators and teachers. Register through the [EIRC website](#).

**Target Audience:** Chief School Administrators, Charter School Lead Persons and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

*\* The details of this program are provided for informational and convenience purposes only. Neither the Department of Education, nor its officers, employees or agents, specifically endorse, recommend or favor this program or the company/entity hosting the program. Please note that the Department of Education has not reviewed, or approved, the materials related to this program. In addition, references in this program to any specific commercial product, process or service, or the use of any trade, firm, or corporation name is provided for informational and convenience purposes only, and do not constitute endorsement, recommendation or favoring by the Department of Education, or its officers, employees or agents.*

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## PARCC Information and Resources

**[Graduation: Ensuring a Meaningful Diploma for New Jersey Students](#)** – At the New Jersey Board of Education meeting last week, the New Jersey Department of Education Office of Assessments gave a presentation with recent data showing high remedial rates for first time/full time students in New Jersey's county colleges and four-year institutions, and highlighted the honesty gap between student results on the standardized tests compared to the same student's grades in the classroom.

**Target Audience:** Chief School Administrators, Charter School Lead Persons and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

**[Rigorous K–12 Assessments Help Reduce Remediation, Increase Student Success](#)** – Higher Ed for Higher Standards – a coalition of college presidents, trustees, chancellors, and state system leaders committed to the implementation of college- and career-ready standards – recently released a policy brief on how new, more rigorous assessments like PARCC are helping to reduce college remediation and increase a students' chance for succeeding in college.

**Target Audience:** Chief School Administrators, Charter School Lead Persons and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

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## In the News

Thanks to your support, our new NJDOE [Facebook](#) page has exceeded 680 followers! "Like" the page to see the latest news and share with your school communities.

### **[New Jersey has 3rd-highest high school grad rate](#)**

New Jersey had the third-highest high school graduation rate in the country in 2014, according to the Diplomas Count report released by Editorial Projects in Education, the nonprofit organization that publishes Education Week. New Jersey's rate of 89 percent was just behind Iowa at 91 percent and Nebraska at 90 percent. The national graduation rate, as measured by the U.S. Education Department's Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate, or ACGR, was 82 percent.

### **[Egg Harbor City school using recess to curb absenteeism](#)**

Extra play time is one incentive officials at the Charles Spragg School in Egg Harbor City are using to reduce the school's high rate of chronically absent students. About one of every five Spragg students missed more than 10 percent

of school, or at least 18 days, last year.

### [Technology programs at Kinnelon High School are thriving](#)

Technology continues to thrive at Kinnelon High School, with engineering and design students recently taking first place in a statewide competition, and three additional teams advancing to a national competition this summer. Most recently, KHS technology students took first place in the 2016 Panasonic Creative Design Challenge Finals, held at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

### [Two school districts awarded 'Promising Practices' by character.org](#)

Character.org has awarded 327 Promising Practices to individual schools, school districts, and youth-serving organizations from across the United States, as well as internationally, and two school districts from Gloucester County are among the recipients. The East Greenwich and Mantua Township School Districts will both be recognized in Washington, D.C. at the National Forum on Character Education in October.

### [Professionals discuss careers, job opportunities with River Dell students](#)

The students of River Dell High School experienced the presence of professionals from a variety of companies at the annual career fair which took place in the school's library where all the professionals had booths and provided students with information on their companies. Representatives from careers such as human services, engineering and architecture, as well as United States Secret Service attended the event.

### [Against the odds: 100% of kids in this Newark program got into college](#)

For the 73,000 children in the state's largest city, the odds of going to college are not good. But 130 kids in the city say they have found a way to defy the odds The New Jersey Law and Education Empowerment Project, or NJ LEEP, a competitive, after-school, college-prep program that students apply to enter during the summer after their eighth grade year, started modestly nine years ago.

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