

# The Bridge

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A monthly newsletter for educators from the  
New Jersey Department of Education



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## In this Issue

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has announced the Common Core Model Lesson/Unit Plan Awards ([www.state.nj.us/education/sca/awards/](http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/awards/)). Find out how to submit your exemplary lesson and unit plans that support New Jersey educators in successfully delivering curriculum and instruction aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts (ELA)/literacy and mathematics.

To offer comments on the proposed revisions to the Core Curriculum Content Standards, the details are in the article on the five-year revision of the state's standards. In a separate article, learn about the recommendation to the State Board of Education to adopt the Next Generation Science Standards as the state's revised 2014 science standards.

Learn about a new annual reporting system instituted by the NJDOE this May that gives prospective teachers and prospective employers information about the college teacher preparation programs in New Jersey.

As you prepare for summer vacation, read the final update on teacher preparation regulations.

The State Board of Education recognized students and educators at its annual awards ceremony in May. You can find the winners here: [www.state.nj.us/education/sboe/student/may14.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/education/sboe/student/may14.shtml)

The NJDOE's Office of Career and Technical Education held a successful professional development institute in May. See photos showing students and educators who participated in the event.

Find out which 10 districts have exemplary second-language programs in world languages and bilingual/English as a second language in the article about the recognition event in May.

## New Jersey Department of Education Announces Common Core Model Lesson/Unit Plan Awards

Sponsored by the Office of Academic Standards, these awards recognize exemplary lesson and unit plans that support New Jersey educators in successfully delivering curriculum and instruction aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts (ELA)/literacy and mathematics. Submissions will be judged against national quality rubrics and principles. The highest-scoring plans will be recognized and rewarded by the state. For the application, visit [www.state.nj.us/education/sca/awards/](http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/awards/).

The process of measuring plans against national standards serves as a powerful method to identify excellence in the classroom. Current New Jersey teachers who are using the CCSS to improve student success are encouraged to submit lesson and unit plans to the NJDOE for scoring against the Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products (EQuIP) rubrics and the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). EQuIP is an initiative of the American Diploma Project Network designed to identify high-quality materials aligned to the CCSS. UDL is a framework and set of principles intended to guide the design of inclusive classroom instruction and ensures that course materials are accessible for all learners. The EQuIP alignment process and UDL principles will be used to ensure the highest-quality CCSS practices. For more information, please visit EQuIP at: [www.achieve.org/EQuIP](http://www.achieve.org/EQuIP) and UDL at: [www.cast.org/udl/](http://www.cast.org/udl/).

### Quality submissions endorsed and rewarded

After being vetted against the EQuIP rubric and UDL principles, exemplary lesson and unit plans will be included on the Educator Resource Exchange ([njcore.org](http://njcore.org)) for the benefit of other NJ educators. The exemplary lesson and unit plans will be identified with an insignia that represents state-endorsed distinction.

- A teacher or team of teachers contributing a lesson plan that earns an exemplary score will receive an award of \$200, an official endorsement of their lesson plan, and state recognition.

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# State's Curriculum Standards to Undergo Five-Year Review

For more information about the proposed standards, to register to speak at any of the public hearings, or for contact information to send comments, go to NJDOE's 2014 Standards Public Review and Comment page at: [www.nj.gov/education/news/2014/standards/](http://www.nj.gov/education/news/2014/standards/) or click on the links below.

The New Jersey Department of Education is announcing that it will be taking public comment on revisions to the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Every five years, the State Board of Education is required by law to review and re-adopt the Core Curriculum Content Standards. All nine subject areas of Core Curriculum Content Standards are being reviewed this year, and seven of the nine are available to the public for review and comment through June 20. The remaining two subject areas will be open for comment in the fall.

The standards include: Visual and Performing Arts; Comprehensive Health and Physical Education; English Language Arts; Mathematics; Science; Social Studies; World Languages; Technology; and 21st Century Life and Careers. No changes have been proposed to the English Language Arts and Mathematics standards as the State Board of Education fully reconsidered these standards in 2010, and elected to adopt New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in these areas that reflect the Common Core State Standards.

The State Board of Education originally adopted the Core Curriculum Content Standards in 1996 so that school districts would have the same expectations about what students should know and be able to do by the time they graduate from high school. In each of the five-year review processes, the standards have been reviewed and adjusted by expert committees to incorporate new content where appropriate, so that the standards continue to address the educational needs of students.

The public review and comment period on the first set of standards runs until June 20. The public has the opportunity to review the draft standards and provide comments and suggestions at public hearings or by email before adoption by the State Board of Education.

Sessions for the first set of standards will be conducted from 4:00–7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

June 11, 2014 Gloucester County Institute of Technology, Sewell, NJ  
1360 Tanyard Road, Sewell, NJ 08080

June 12, 2014 Somerset County Office, Somerville, NJ  
27 Warren St., Somerville, NJ 08876

Standard	Content Area	Link to Proposed Standards Document	Send Comments to this Email Address
1	Visual and Performing Arts	<a href="#">Proposed 2014 Visual and Performing Arts Standards</a>	<a href="mailto:vpartsstandards@doe.state.nj.us">vpartsstandards@doe.state.nj.us</a>
2	Comprehensive Health and Physical Education	<a href="#">Proposed 2014 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Standards</a>	<a href="mailto:healthpestandards@doe.state.nj.us">healthpestandards@doe.state.nj.us</a>
3	English Language Arts	<a href="#">Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts &amp; Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects</a> (no change)	<a href="mailto:elastandards@doe.state.nj.us">elastandards@doe.state.nj.us</a>
4	Mathematics	<a href="#">Common Core State Standards for Mathematics</a> (no change)	<a href="mailto:mathstandards@doe.state.nj.us">mathstandards@doe.state.nj.us</a>
5	Science	<a href="#">Proposed 2014 Science Standards</a>	<a href="mailto:science@doe.state.nj.us">science@doe.state.nj.us</a>
6	Social Studies	<a href="#">Proposed 2014 Social Studies Standards</a>	<a href="mailto:socialstudiesstandards@doe.state.nj.us">socialstudiesstandards@doe.state.nj.us</a>
7	World Languages	<a href="#">Proposed 2014 World Language Standard</a>	<a href="mailto:worldlanguagesstandards@doe.state.nj.us">worldlanguagesstandards@doe.state.nj.us</a>
	Preschool	<a href="#">Proposed 2014 New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards</a>	<a href="mailto:preschoolstads@doe.state.nj.us">preschoolstads@doe.state.nj.us</a>

### Second Set of Standards to Be Adopted

Standard	Content Area	Link to Proposed Standards Document	Email Address
8	Technology	Coming soon Proposed 2014 Technology Standards	<a href="mailto:techstandards@doe.state.nj.us">techstandards@doe.state.nj.us</a>
9	21st Century Life and Careers Standards	Coming soon Proposed 2014 21st Century Life and Careers Standards	<a href="mailto:standard9@doe.state.nj.us">standard9@doe.state.nj.us</a>



## Next Generation Science Standards Are Recommended as New Jersey's Science Standards

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are standards that are based on the Framework for K–12 Science Education developed by the National Research Council and completed in April 2013. The development of the standards was a collaborative, state-led process, resulting in new K–12 science standards that are rich in content and practice, and arranged in a coherent manner across disciplines and grades to provide all students with an internationally recognized science education. In the current five-year standards revision process, the state is recommending that the State Board of Education adopt the NGSS as the state's science standards in July.

### Why the NGSS?

It has been more than 15 years since the publication of Benchmarks for Science Literacy and the National Science Education Standards, which formed the core of the current New Jersey science standards. Since their publication, many advances have occurred in the fields of science and science education, as well as in the innovation-driven economy.

There is a growing emphasis on the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) connections as the required background to fill many of our emerging technical jobs. Studies show that too few students are entering STEM majors and careers at every level from those with relevant postsecondary certificates to PhD's.

Our science standards need to stimulate and build interest in STEM. We can't successfully prepare students for college, careers and citizenship unless we set the right expectations and goals. Our standards must provide the necessary foundation for local decisions about curriculum, assessments, and instruction.

Improved K–12 science standards will better prepare high school graduates for the rigors of college and careers. In turn, employers will be able to hire workers with strong science-based skills, including specific content areas, but also skills such as critical thinking and inquiry-based problem-solving.

### What's Different in the Next Generation Science Standards?

Every NGSS standard has three dimensions: disciplinary core ideas (content), scientific and engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts. Currently, New Jersey science standards integrate disciplinary core ideas and practices, but omit the cross-cutting concepts. The integration of rigorous content and application reflects how science is practiced in the real world.

The NGSS also coordinate with Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics that were adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education in 2010. This provides an opportunity both for science to be a part of a child's comprehensive education, as well as ensuring an aligned process of learning in all content areas. The three sets of standards overlap in meaningful and substantive ways.

### Stakeholder Input

The state Department of Education has sought input on the NGSS since their publication from review committees, as well as from the public via regional



meetings and webinars. The feedback received so far has been overwhelmingly positive. An archived copy of one of the webinars can be found at:

[www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/science/resources.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/science/resources.htm).

More information on the NGSS can be found at: [www.nextgenscience.org](http://www.nextgenscience.org).

Ask questions or share your opinion by emailing: [science@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:science@doe.state.nj.us).

# First Public Release of Educator Preparation Provider Annual Reports

On May 8, the New Jersey Department of Education published the 2014 Educator Preparation Provider Annual Reports for public use. These reports connect teachers and their placement, performance, and persistence back to the college program where they were trained. Specifically, the report provides data on certification and hiring, placement, classroom assignment, demographics, education, and testing and evaluation results. The first public version of the reports does not include every possible element and, therefore, the reports are not being used for the purposes of judgment or accountability. Rather, this effort is a vital stepping stone to more robust data that can be used to further the following goals:

- Professionalize teaching and teacher preparation;
- Highlight programs that are preparing strong educators;
- Empower future teachers with empirical information about choosing a preparation program;
- Empower those who hire teachers with information about providers and their candidates; and
- Empower institutes of higher education with information to promote continuous program improvement.

For more information, see the Overview of the 2014 Annual Reports at [www.state.nj.us/education/educators/rpr/preparation/providers/](http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/rpr/preparation/providers/).

## Common Core Model Lesson

*(continued from p. 1)*

- A teacher or team of teachers contributing a unit plan that earns an exemplary score will receive an award of \$500, an official endorsement of their unit plan, and state recognition.

### Plan submission

Practicing teachers interested in submitting a lesson or unit plan for consideration of a Common Core Model Lesson/Unit Award must complete the application on the NJDOE home page ([www.state.nj.us/education/](http://www.state.nj.us/education/)). The purpose of the application template is to collect model lesson and unit plans in a consistent structure for review, vetting and posting. The format can be used in the development of local practices, but is not a state requirement for local use. Teachers of any grade level and content area who have improved student achievement by integrating the CCSS into their original lessons are encouraged to submit their work as exemplars. Applications must include all requested information. It is advised that all lesson or unit plans be aligned with the EQuIP rubrics and UDL principles prior to submission. Visit [www.achieve.org/EQuIP](http://www.achieve.org/EQuIP) for more information.

Email questions to: [unitlesson@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:unitlesson@doe.state.nj.us).

# NJ Educators Attend 2014 Career and Technical Education Statewide Institute

On May 20, the NJDOE's Office of Career and Technical Education (CTE) sponsored a 2014 Career and Technical Education Statewide Professional Development Institute for teachers, supervisors, school administrators and school counselors interested in the successful transition of students to postsecondary education and careers.

The program of the institute was designed to immerse educators in specific topics that are the key to ensuring that CTE programs are connecting to workforce needs and preparing students to be college- and career-ready. Some of the participants are busily engaged in one of the sessions.



Family, Career and Community Leaders of America student officers assisted NJDOE's Office of Career and Technical Education staff with onsite event coordination at the Institute.



Left to right, the students are Connor Shah, Julia Farhat, Michelle Qu, Heather Paul, and Rohit Iyer

**News,  
Upcoming Events &  
Professional Development  
Opportunities**



Don't forget to check out the Department's calendar of events (<http://education.state.nj.us/events/>) to view upcoming events that may be of interest to you or your district.

## New Teacher Preparation Regulations

On June 4, 2014, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted new regulations designed to raise the bar for entry into teacher preparation programs and to acquire professional certification. The Department believes that establishing higher academic standards for teacher preparation programs will help to ensure that strong candidates enter those programs. Higher standards, including a performance assessment designed to test preparation students' pedagogical skills, will help to ensure certified teachers are adequately prepared in their particular area of licensure. Please visit the [Office of Recruitment, Preparation, and Recognition website](http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/rpr/) ([www.nj.gov/education/educators/rpr/](http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/rpr/)) for more details, including the following resources:

- [Overview of New Teacher Preparation Requirements](http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/rpr/preparation/overview.pdf) ([www.nj.gov/education/educators/rpr/preparation/overview.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/rpr/preparation/overview.pdf))
- [Frequently Asked Questions About New Educator Preparation Regulations](http://www.nj.gov/education/genfo/faq/faq_rpr.shtml#prepregs) ([www.nj.gov/education/genfo/faq/faq\\_rpr.shtml#prepregs](http://www.nj.gov/education/genfo/faq/faq_rpr.shtml#prepregs))



## State Board of Education Honors Students and Educators for Outstanding Achievements

At a special meeting on May 22, the State Board of Education honored students, student groups and educators from around the state at the annual recognition ceremony in Trenton. Accompanied by the executive county superintendent, local school officials, family and friends, the students were recognized for academic success, as well as leadership qualities and volunteerism both at school and within their communities. The educators were recognized for outstanding professional achievements. Check out the honorees here: [www.state.nj.us/education/sboe/student/may14.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/education/sboe/student/may14.shtml).

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## Recognition Ceremony Held for Ten Outstanding Model Second-Language Programs for World Languages and Bilingual/English as a Second Language

Ten New Jersey school districts were honored in May for their outstanding second language programs at a recognition ceremony held at the headquarters of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials. Five awards were presented for world languages programs and five for bilingual/English as a second language programs.

The model programs project is a collaborative effort of the New Jersey Supervisors of World Languages Initiative and the Statewide Advisory Committee for Bilingual and ESL Education, with assistance from the New Jersey Department of Education. They also establish the criteria for the awards.

The 10 districts were cited for having programs that demonstrate exemplary practices in standards-driven second-language instruction and assessment. All programs that were recognized met the criteria for the designation of regional model second-language programs.

The model programs will serve as resource centers for other districts. Educators visiting the centers will have the opportunity to observe exemplary practices in second-language teaching, learning and assessment. Administrators and teachers will also be able to discuss issues of mutual concern with staff from the centers, as well as the potential for collaboration on their second-language programs.



*Englewood Public Schools - Elementary World Languages Immersion Programs - Dual immersion in Spanish; partial immersion in Mandarin Chinese (left to right: Dina Carvajal (4th Grade Dual Language Spanish Teacher), Ysoris Pazymino (1st grade Dual Language Spanish Teacher) Mercedes Tellez-Gil (Bilingual/ ESL & World Languages Supervisor), Abraham Alacon (Vice Principal), Zishan Huang (Mandarin Teacher).*

The five districts receiving awards for world languages are:

- **Englewood Public Schools**, Bergen County -- Elementary Immersion World Languages Programs
- **Fair Haven School District**, Monmouth County -- World Languages Program
- **Hoboken Dual Language Charter School**, Hudson County – Dual Language Program
- **Princeton Public Schools**, Mercer County -- K-12 World Languages Program
- **West Windsor-Plainsboro Public Schools**, Mercer County -- K-12 World Languages Program



*Clifton School District recognized for their ESL K-8 model program. From left to right: Maria Jaume, Jory Samkoff, Alicja Banning, Liliana Habedank, and Ana DiGiacomo.*

The five districts receiving awards for bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) include:

- **Atlantic City High School**, Atlantic County -- Newcomer Center
- **Clifton Public Schools**, Passaic County -- K-8 ESL Program with Bilingual Support Program
- **Howell Township Public Schools**, Monmouth County -- K-8 ESL Program
- **Linden Public Schools**, Union County -- K-12 ESL Program
- **New Brunswick Public Schools**, Middlesex County -- Bilingual-ESL Placement Center

The program descriptions can be found here:

- World languages – [www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/wl/resource.htm](http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/wl/resource.htm)
- Bilingual/ESL – [www.nj.gov/education/bilingual/resources/ModelProgram.htm](http://www.nj.gov/education/bilingual/resources/ModelProgram.htm)