

The Bridge

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New Jersey Department of Education



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- The New Jersey Department of Education honored its 2014-15 county teachers of the year at a ceremony July 31. Read about the program and see the list of this year's honorees.
- No matter what subject you teach, there will be revised standards that have been re-adopted in 2014 by the New Jersey State Board of Education. They are all contained here: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/>
- PARCC online assessments are coming in the spring of 2015. Read about some tips that will help districts, students, and teachers be prepared.
- Check out the latest on evaluation and professional development in the AchieveNJ Update.
- Have you spotted an outstanding junior or senior who would be a perfect delegate to the annual United States Senate Youth Program representing New Jersey? Check out the selection criteria here <http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/ss/syp/> and nominate someone by the Oct. 10 deadline.
- The NJ Legislature was busy this year passing several new requirements for schools. Districts must have an automated external defibrillator (AED) on site in a place that is accessible and easy to locate. A second law requires that students be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). A third law requires districts to have in place a policy concerning the proper use of electronic communication between school employees and students.
- Now is the time to plan character education and anti-violence awareness activities around the Oct. 6-10 Week of Respect and the School Violence Awareness Week Oct. 20-24. Check out the resources that are available in the article on the October requirements.

New Jersey's County Teachers of the Year for 2014-15 Recognized

By recognizing the 21 county and one state facility teachers of the year for their success in their schools and classrooms, the New Jersey Department of Education has the opportunity to acknowledge some of the state's most dynamic educators, while gaining valuable input on current Department initiatives.

The County Teachers of the Year were honored at an orientation ceremony on July 31 at the Department of Education in Trenton. Teachers had the opportunity to attend short presentations and interact in Q&A sessions with Department of Education personnel about educational initiatives, including New Jersey's Common Core State Standards.

Acting Commissioner David Hespe offered his congratulations by saying, "These are model teachers who represent diverse content areas and grade levels. This award is a tribute to their talent, dedication, professionalism, and success with our students. Each year they serve as part of a valuable corps of teacher-leaders who can inspire all of us."

County Teachers of the Year are selected at the county level by panels representing a cross-section of administrators, teachers, parents, and county education representatives convened by the Executive County Superintendents of Schools.

A state-level panel of educators will select New Jersey's State Teacher of the Year based on a written application, video submission, and interviews with the top five finalists. The State Teacher of the Year will be announced at the State Board of Education's October meeting, and he or she will go on to represent New Jersey at the National Teacher of the Year competition.

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New Jersey's County Teachers of the Year for 2014-15 Recognized *(continued from p. 1)*

The National Teacher of the Year Program that includes the County Teacher of the Year selection began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. It is implemented by the Chief Council of State School Officers (CCSSO). New Jersey

signed on with CCSSO to implement the New Jersey Teacher of the Year program in 1969.

Additional information can be found on the Department's [Teacher of the Year web page](#).

New Jersey's 2014-2015 County Teachers of the Year and State Facility Teacher of the Year are as follows:

County	Teacher	Subject - Grade	School District	School
Atlantic	Peter Davis	Technology Education – Grade 5-8	Linwood Public School District	Belhaven Avenue Middle School
Bergen	Daniel Frare	Science – Grade 6	Tenaflly School District	Tenaflly Middle School
Burlington	David Knecht	English – Grade 9-12	Lenape Regional High School District	Seneca High School
Camden	Natalie Franco	Elementary – Grade 5	Gloucester Twp School District	Gloucester Twp Elementary School
Cape May	Cynthia Leatherwood	English – Grade 8	Dennis Twp School District	Dennis Twp Middle School
Cumberland	Lisa Frassetto	Elementary – Grade 1	Upper Deerfield Twp School District	Charles F. Seabrook School
Essex	Salvatore Lima	Science – Grade 9-11	Essex County Voc School District	West Caldwell Tech
Gloucester	Monica Marino	Special Education – Grade 4	Deptford Twp School District	Shady Lane Elementary School
Hudson	Mark Mautone	Special Education – Preschool	Hoboken Public School District	Wallace Elementary School
Hunterdon	Adrienne Harley	Kindergarten & Student Support – Grade K-2	Flemington Raritan Regional School District	Francis A. Desmares Elementary School
Mercer	Ismat Shari	Mathematics – Grade 9-12	Hamilton Twp School District	Hamilton High School West
Middlesex	Stephanie Cardoso	Elementary – Grade 5	Edison Twp School District	Martin Luther King Elementary School
Monmouth	Melissa Murphy	Special Education – Grade 6-8	Belmar School District	Belmar Elementary School
Morris	Geraldine Restivo	Elementary – Grade 5	Randolph Twp School District	Fernbrook Elementary School
Ocean	Carolyn Defino	Special Education – Grade 6-7	Manchester Twp School District	Manchester Middle School
Passaic	Coleen Weiss-Magasic	Science – Grade 10-12	West Milford Twp School District	West Milford Twp High School
Salem	Susan Dyer	Preschool	Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District	Early Childhood Learning Center
Somerset	Kathryn Tricarico	Elementary – Kindergarten	Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District	Adamsville Primary School
State Facility	Deborah Wood	Elementary – Grade 4-7	NJ Dept. of Children & Families – Office of Ed.	Cherry Hill Regional School Campus
Sussex	Yvonne Mortello	Elementary – Kindergarten	Hopatcong Borough School District	Hudson Maxim Elementary School
Union	Drew Krumholz	Spanish – Grade 9-12	Springfield Public School District	Jonathan Dayton High School
Warren	Ann Marie Ball	Gifted & Talented, & Math Coach – Grade K-5	Phillipsburg School District	Freeman School and Green Street School

Technology and 21st Century Life and Careers Standards to be Re-Adopted in October

Every five years, the State Board of Education is required by law to review and re-adopt the Core Curriculum Content Standards. The State Board of Education originally adopted the Core Curriculum Content Standards in 1996. 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 2014 re-adoption process was conducted in two parts. The first set of revised standards was re-adopted by the State Board of Education on July 9, 2014 and included the following: Visual & Performing Arts, Comprehensive Health & Physical Education, Science, World Languages, Social Studies, Mathematics and English Language Arts and Preschool. The revised Technology and 21st Century Life and Careers standards are scheduled for re-adoption at the October State Board meeting.

You can access the re-adopted standards in all subject areas here: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/>

Standard	Content Area	Link to Proposed Standards Document	Email Address
8	Technology	Proposed 2014 Technology Standards	techstandards@doe.state.nj.us
9	21st Century Life and Careers Standards	Proposed 2014 21st Century Life and Careers Standards	standard9@doe.state.nj.us

PARCC Online Assessments are Coming Next Spring

In the spring of 2015, NJ schools with grades 3 to 11 will participate in PARCC assessments via an online testing platform. Now is the time to make sure that your district is “tech” ready.

The more familiar teachers are with the test administration requirements, the more comfortable you will be. While your principal and technology coordinator will focus on bandwidth and devices, you can help ensure a smooth test administration by making sure that your students are prepared with content knowledge and familiarity with the technology.

How can the district help students and teachers feel comfortable with the online assessments?

- 1) **Know the process.** Teachers and students can become familiar with the testing process so that all know the expectations on how the administration of the assessments will be facilitated. The testing website is prepared to house modules to assist school staff with the online assessment process. Stay tuned.

<http://www.pearsonaccess.com/cs/Satellite?pagenam e=Pearson/QuickLink/pcPEMTraining>

- 2) **Know the format of the test questions.** PARCC has many practice tests online. Review the test samples with the understanding that the navigation and look of

the test may be different during the actual performance-based and/or end-of-year assessments. The test developer has a site prepared for school staff and students. Review the information on the following sites and practice with the sample tests - individually and with the whole class.

<http://www.pearsonaccess.com/cs/Satellite?pagenam e=Pearson/QuickLink/pcPEMTraining>

<http://www.parcconline.org/practice-tests>

<http://www.parcconline.org/computer-based-samples>

<http://www.parcconline.org/practice-test-answers>

- 3) **Know the technology.** Teachers should facilitate the use of the technology across all content areas, which is the same technology and use of technology that is utilized for the assessments. The testing environment should not be the first time the students touch the device or use technology to perform certain tasks.

The NJDOE has a one-stop shop for PARCC questions. Contact PARCCTRT@doe.state.nj.us to have questions or concerns addressed. We are excited about this move toward a new mode of testing delivery. We welcome your comments. With your input, the testing program can continually improve.

AchieveNJ UPDATE

The Department has announced changes to the weights of teacher evaluation components this year as follows:

- Non-SGP teachers; 80% teacher practice, 20% SGO
- SGP teachers: 70% teacher practice, 20% SGO, 10% mSGP

For a detailed description of these proposed changes, please see this [August 12 Broadcast Memo](#), as well as all of the updated materials on the [AchieveNJ website](#). Please note that due to the weights, materials for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are listed separately.

In addition, please see the following new resources to support teacher evaluation in 2014-15:

- [2014-15 Teacher Evaluation Requirements and Resources Chart](#)
- Updated [Student Growth Objective \(SGO\) Guidebook and SGO Examples](#)
- [School Improvement Panel Guidance](#)

Professional Development and Mentoring Update

The Office of Professional Development has an updated website with several helpful resources to aid PD and mentoring plans and activities. Please also note the following:

- The new [State Committee on Professional Learning](#) (which replaces the former Professional Teaching Standards Board and the Professional Development Advisory Committee for School Leaders) will have its first meeting at the end of September and will meet monthly for the remainder of the school year.
- The Department is in the process of updating the [New Jersey Mentoring and Induction Toolkit](#) and developing an optional district mentoring plan template to align with the new regulations and to reflect the latest research.
- The NJDOE will be working with the U.S. Department of Education's Mid-Atlantic Regional Assistance Center to collect examples of high-quality professional development implementation in districts around the state in order to provide more concrete examples and guidance.

Several New Legal Requirements for Districts this School Year

New Law Requires High School Students to Receive Hands-On CPR and AED Training



High Schools must provide students with hands-on training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) under a new law that takes effect in September. The law requires the training to be based on instructional programs established by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross or other nationally-recognized associations. This training is to be included as part of the existing health education curriculum for public and charter school students in grades nine through 12.

According to the American Heart Association, nearly 424,000 people suffer cardiac arrest outside of the hospital each year and less than 11% of them survive. CPR and defibrillation are the only way to revive a cardiac arrest victim, and survival rates can double or triple if CPR is administered in the first few minutes after cardiac arrest. With every minute that passes, there is a 10% reduction in survival rates.

Janet's Law Requires Schools to Have AED's

A new law designed to save cardiac arrest victims on school property takes effect this school year. "Janet's Law," was established in memory of Janet Zilinski, an 11-year old who died of sudden cardiac arrest following a cheerleading squad practice. It requires public school districts to place an automated external defibrillator (AED), identified with appropriate signage, in an unlocked location on school property. It must be accessible during the school day and at any other time in which a school-sponsored event or team practice includes the participation of pupils in the district. It also requires that a team coach, or other designated staff member if there is no coach, who is present during the athletic event or team practice, be trained in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an AED in accordance with the provisions of state law.

In addition, the law requires that a public school district establish and implement an emergency action plan for responding to sudden cardiac events, and that no less than five school faculty members successfully complete and hold a current certification from training programs recognized by the Department of Health and Senior Services in CPR and use of an AED.

Janet's Law requires the following items:

- All public and private schools K-12 to have an AED on site;
- At least five school employees to be certified in CPR/AED;
- An emergency action plan for a sudden cardiac event;
- The AED to be located in an accessible, unlocked location (such as outside the school gym) with appropriate signage above the unit;
- Signs throughout the school directing people to the AED; and
- The AED must be accessible after school hours for school athletic events and practices.

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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.

Time to Consider Nominations for the 53rd Annual UNITED STATES SENATE ★YOUTH PROGRAM★



The New Jersey Department of Education will participate in the 53rd Annual United States Senate Youth Program to be held March 7-14, 2015. Each year, two high school juniors or seniors are selected as delegates to represent New Jersey during an intensive week-long educational program held in Washington, D.C. and receive a one-time \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship. The Hearst Foundation is the sponsor of this prestigious merit-based program.

During Washington Week, delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense and directors of federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Each session with elected officials includes an in-depth question-and-answer period. The military services will provide specially selected men and women officers to serve as mentors for the student delegates while in Washington, D.C.

Selection Process

The United States Senate Youth Program is designed for students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities in their school and community and a strong commitment to public service. Every principal of a New Jersey public or nonpublic high school is invited to nominate one junior or senior to submit an application to this highly competitive program. To be eligible, students must be currently serving in an elected or appointed capacity in an approved student government, civic or educational organization and also be a New Jersey resident. A Blue Ribbon panel should be convened to select two delegates and two alternates. Students who attend this program are encouraged to pursue coursework in history and political science and careers in public service. For more information about the program and the selection criteria, please go to <http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/ss/syp/>. The deadline to submit an application packet is Oct. 10, 2014.

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October Features School Violence Awareness Week and Week of Respect

Since 2003, schools and districts have been observing School Violence Awareness Week during the week beginning with the third Monday in October as required by law, which is Oct. 20-24 in 2014. We know that many districts have traditionally planned activities around this week to highlight violence awareness. To help school districts comply with the requirements for School Violence Awareness Week, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has provided guidance that is available online at: <http://www.nj.gov/education/students/safety/behavior/violence.shtml>.

Additionally, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.L.2010, c.122) requires that the week beginning with the first Monday in October of each year, which is Oct. 6-10 in 2014, be designated as a Week of Respect. School districts, in order to recognize the importance of character education, are required to observe the week by providing age-appropriate instruction focusing on preventing harassment, intimidation or bullying (HIB). To facilitate your planning, the following resources are available on the NJDOE's website:

- The Keeping Our Kids Safe, Healthy and in School website, under the Safe and Positive Learning Environment tab, <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/sandp/>

includes resources about positive learning environments, as well as those specific to character and social development and student behavior.

- The Core Curriculum Content Standards website <http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs> provides information on integrating concepts into curricular areas and specific Cumulative Progress Indicators in the Health and Physical Education, Social Studies and Technology Standards, as well as links to other resources.
- The 911 curriculum, "Learning from the Challenges of Our Times," and the K-4 Holocaust Genocide Curriculum are available on the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education website <http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/>. Both guides emphasize the importance of respecting diversity and an appreciation of others, and they also provide lesson plans that stress the importance of respect for others and ways to deal with issues of prejudice and bias in the classroom.

- The HIB web page <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/hib> includes all of the NJDOE's resources in support of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and the prevention of HIB.

Several New Legal Requirements for Districts this School Year

Social Media Policy Must Be in Place for this School Year



On April 24, 2014, the New Jersey Legislature passed a law that requires school districts to adopt policies concerning electronic communications between employees and students. Districts had 120 days from the passage date to comply which means the policy would be adopted by the beginning of the new school year.

Specifically, the newly enacted legislation requires school districts to adopt a written policy concerning electronic communications between school employees and students enrolled in the district. The policy must include provisions designed to prevent improper communications between school employees and students made via e-mail, cellular phones, social networking websites, and other Internet-based social media.

The law defines "electronic communication" as "a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone, computer, computer network, personal data assistant, or pager. Electronic communications include, but are not limited to, e-mails, text messages, instant messages, and communications made by means of an Internet website, including social media and social networking websites."