



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Acting Commissioner

September 9, 2010

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
Middle School Principals

FROM: Rochelle Hendricks
Acting Commissioner

SUBJECT: New Jersey Schools to Watch[®] Open House and Application Deadline

I am pleased to announce that the New Jersey Department of Education in collaboration with the Garden State Partnership for Teacher Quality, which includes Kean, Rowan and William Paterson Universities, is co-sponsoring an open house at the nine schools designated as New Jersey Schools to Watch[®] (NJSTW) on **October 6, 2010**. The NJSTW have been recognized by the department for their high quality academic programs and active support of student development. This event will provide an opportunity for administrators, teachers and other faculty to visit these schools and learn more about their exemplary programs and practices for addressing the needs of young adolescents. The nine schools are located in the three regions of the state.

The attached list provides information about the schools, including their contact information. If you are interested in visiting one of these schools, please contact the building principal, or David McNair, co-director, NJSTW via email at david.mcnaair@doe.state.nj.us to schedule a visit.

I would also like to remind you that applications for the 2010-11 NJSTW middle grades improvement program are due to the department no later than 4:00 pm on **October 15, 2010**. All applications must be submitted online to the department via NJDOE Homeroom at <http://homeroom.state.nj.us/>. The application process is the first step towards designation as a NJSTW and becoming part of a state and national network of schools dedicated to educating young adolescents. NJSTW focuses on schools with students in grades six, seven and/or eight and must contain one of these grades in order to participate.

Additional information, including the Principal's Checklist, the Self-Study and Rating Rubric, a Power Point presentation which provides information about NJSTW, and information on the nine NJSTW designees, can be found on the department's website at <http://www.nj.gov/education/dsis/stw/>.

For more information on NJSTW, please call the Division for School Effectiveness and Choice at 609-777-1653, or you can email questions to NJSTWapps@doe.state.nj.us.

RH/dm/I: David/NJ Schools to Watch/stw memo final
Attachment

c: Members, State Board of Education
Senior Staff
Executive County Superintendents
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group