



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 5, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Principals, Supervisors of Gifted and Talented Education Programs, Teachers
From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services
Deadline: March 27, 2020

Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Advisory Committee Seeks Members

On January 13, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law A4710, the [Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act](#). The Act establishes school district responsibilities in educating gifted and talented students and requires that a coordinator for gifted and talented services be appointed at the state level.

New Jersey's gifted and talented education services are now under the oversight of the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) [Division of Student Services](#). Leslie Franks McRae, Director of the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs, has been assigned the role of state coordinator for gifted and talented education. Assisting Leslie is Cierra Belin, Data Analyst Trainee.

To further assist in fulfilling the requirements of the Act, the NJDOE is requesting your assistance in identifying educators, students, parents and advocates to sit on the Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Advisory Committee (SGTEAC), commencing April 2020. The purpose of the SGTEAC is to:

1. Assist the NJDOE in developing and disseminating resources that will guide local efforts to implement fair and balanced selection processes for the identification of gifted and talented students;
2. Understand the intersection between Social and Emotional Learning and the needs of gifted students;
3. Build awareness around programmatic options for gifted and twice-exceptional students;
4. Identify equity issues pertaining to gifted education;
5. Integrate professional development and certification; and
6. Provide input to the NJDOE regarding the implementation of other provisions in the Act.

The NJDOE anticipates a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 21 members who have expertise, or an interest in gifted education to join the committee to ensure educational equity for gifted and twice-exceptional students.

Those who are interested in participating as an advisory member, or who would like to nominate a student, should complete the [application form](#) no later than Friday, March 27, 2020. The inaugural meeting of the SGTEAC is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2020. The first meeting will consist of structuring committees (bylaws, etc.), and establishing meeting dates.

In addition, March is Gifted and Talented Students Month in New Jersey. We hope you will look for ways to celebrate your gifted and talented students during the course of the month.

If your school district has questions or would like to receive more information regarding gifted and talented services implementation, please contact the Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator at gifted@doe.nj.gov. For further guidance, see [Federal ESEA regulations](#) and [Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act](#).

c: Members, State Board of Education
Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group