



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 18, 2021
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Route To: Directors of Special Education, Child Study Team Members
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services
Register by: September 10, 2021

Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conferences

As [announced](#) in June 2021, the New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Special Education is sponsoring three virtual Dare to Dream Student Leadership conferences on October 8, 15, and 29, 2021, which will highlight strategies to promote self-advocacy skills for middle and high school students with disabilities.

Each virtual conference features keynote presentations from accomplished students representing various districts, as well as young adults with disabilities who have demonstrated exemplary self-advocacy and leadership skills. Additionally, the conference program includes a variety of concurrent workshop sessions that provide conference attendees opportunities to learn more about self-advocacy and self-determination. The conference engages students in workshops led by their peers on topics such as: self-discovery, person-centered planning, student self-advocacy, preparing to lead your IEP meeting, and understanding your rights and responsibilities as a student both now and when in college. Dare to Dream is a positive and empowering experience for New Jersey's students.

Please encourage staff, students, and parents to participate in this worthwhile virtual conference. Due to the popularity of these events, registration priority is given to districts that have students presenting a breakout session, musical performance, or keynote presentation. Please visit this website to view some [exemplary student keynote presentations](#).

Registration is due by September 10, 2021. There is no charge for students or staff to attend this virtual conference. Professional staff from your district must provide adequate supervision of your students throughout the event. Parents are welcome to participate in this event. If you have questions regarding the virtual conference, please contact Brian Berry at brian.berry@doe.nj.gov. Visit the [Events Registration Webpage](#) for more information.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
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