



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 23, 2021  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Nonpublic Schools and Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities  
Route To: All New Jersey Educators  
From: Lisa J. Gleason, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Academics and Performance  
Deadline: July 16, 2021



### Registration Open for NJDOE's Statewide Equity Virtual Conference on August 3

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is excited to announce the third annual Statewide Equity Conference, "Critical Conversations for a More Equitable Future." This virtual event will be held August 3, 2021. We are excited to offer the conference using a virtual event platform that will enhance attendee engagement via integrated live streaming, mainstage and breakouts, as well as live attendee engagement via drop-in lounges, interactive chats, and other engagement features.

The event will feature practicing educators from New Jersey who will present engaging and interactive one-hour breakout sessions during the conference. Sessions will focus on sharing promising practices and leading critical conversations about equity at the classroom, school and district levels, to address learning and the social emotional needs of students since the pandemic. To achieve this, presenters will lead one-hour sessions that promote:

- Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Practices
- Educational Equity at the Classroom Level
- Building Equitable School-Level Programs
- Building Equitable District-Level Programs

In addition, this virtual conference will feature keynote speaker [Dr. Edward Fergus](#). Dr. Fergus is an associate professor at Temple University and is a former high school teacher, evaluator, and community school program director. His work explores the effects of education policy and practice on the lives of populations living in vulnerable conditions, with a specific focus on Black and Latino boys' academic and social engagement outcomes, disproportionality in special education and suspensions, and school climate conditions. His publications also include data workbooks focused on monitoring policy and practice changes.

The event is free to attend; however, space is limited and we anticipate this event will fill quickly. We will be hosting more than 20 presentations per session with each presentation being delivered twice during the day. Please note that sessions will be capped at the first 50 registrants to allow for smaller discussions to take place. Register on the [2021 New Jersey Statewide Equity Conference](#) webpage by July 16, 2021. Registration will remain open until the deadline or until the conference reaches capacity.

If you have questions, please contact us at [StatewideConference@doe.nj.gov](mailto:StatewideConference@doe.nj.gov). We look forward to seeing you on August 3!

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group