



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

ANGELICA ALLEN-McMILLAN, Ed.D.  
*Acting Commissioner*

May 15, 2021

Dear Class of 2021 Teacher Candidates:

It is with profound gratitude that I wish to congratulate the 2021 class of teacher candidates graduating from across the great state of New Jersey. Maintaining the highest quality education for every student can only be accomplished with a robust network of individuals committed to this noble profession. Individually, you have successfully demonstrated the flexibility and resiliency necessary to meet rigorous standards demonstrated by the completion of your own teacher preparation requirements.

An unintended consequence of the challenges you and your fellow graduates faced in pursuing your dreams is the unique preparedness you possess to advance the education ecosystem. Not only can you personally relate to the pivoting methods of instructional delivery, you have triumphed in the versatility to deliver instruction in multiple modes, all while enhancing your innate knowledge to sympathize and empathize with the complex challenges students are facing; skills that are often learned and not taught.

It is with this acknowledgement that I urge you to celebrate your personal achievements with those who have supported your journey. Please continue to use the challenges you have overcome to share mutual experiences, lift those around you, and propel each other through the future phases of your accomplishments. Know that challenges will remain, but I am confident you are prepared, ready, and will be supported overcoming any barriers that may inhibit your positive impact in the community you choose to serve. May the relationships you form buoy you throughout a career that is fulfilling, challenging, and rewarding.

The New Jersey Department of Education stands ready to amplify your educational impact, as I, as Acting Commissioner, stand ready to applaud and triumph your continued education work. The opportunity that you have as an educator, impacting the lives of the students, families and the communities you will serve, is unparalleled, and your advancement in and through the education sector limitless. I again, offer my sincerest congratulations and look forward to sharing your ongoing accolades as I see firsthand the intersection of our shared commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D.".

Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D.  
Acting Commissioner