



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 13, 2021
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction
From: Lisa J. Gleason, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services
Event Dates: October 16, 2021, and October 23, 2021

New Jersey “Schools to Watch” Professional Days

The New Jersey Schools to Watch® (NJSTW) is a part of the national initiative in middle grades school improvement sponsored by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. NJSTW recognizes excellence in middle level education. High-performing schools maximize student growth, support learning for all students, and prepare students for success in high school, college, and careers. Schools that meet specific criteria for academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structures and processes become part of a state and national network designed to share promising practices and success [stories](#). The New Jersey Department of Education is a partner agency in support of this initiative.

NJSTW Program is sponsoring two virtual professional development events for middle-level educators that will feature staff and administrators from the celebrated NJSTW. These events are scheduled for October 16 and 23, 2021, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The cost for each event is \$15 for new professionals (pre-service teachers and recent graduates) and \$25 for experienced professionals.

The event on October 16, 2021 will feature panel discussions and focus on pre-service teachers and recent graduates. The first session will concentrate on getting oriented to a new teaching position and the second discussion will focus on how to stand out in a pool of applicants. Each participant will then be invited to participate in a mock interview with a NJSTW administrator and receive feedback on their resume and interviewing skills. [Register](#) for the October 16, 2021 event.

Experienced educators are invited to the event on October 23, 2021, which will highlight best practices on topics such as improving student achievement with mindfulness, movement-based learning, brain-based education and many others. [Register](#) for the October 23, 2021 event.

If your district is interested in learning more about this program and how to apply for designation as a NJSTW, please visit [NJSTW](#). Applications for designation are due by November 1, 2021.

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