



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: April 12, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Assistant Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Supervisors, Teachers
From: Jordan Schiff, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Earth Day 2023 Celebrations

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) invites New Jersey local education agencies (LEAs) to join in celebrating Earth Day 2023 on April 22nd and throughout the entire week of April 17- 22, 2023.

Background

Earth Day is an annual event held on April 22nd to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, Earth Day now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by [EarthDay.org](https://www.earthday.org) and countless other organizations in engaging 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The theme of Earth Day 2023 is *Invest in Our Planet*, focused on engaging governments, institutions, businesses, and individuals to do their part.

New Jersey has a [multi-faceted plan](#) to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change, which includes the implementation of educational initiatives. Through continued support and advocacy for climate change initiatives by Governor Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to incorporate climate change education across its K-12 learning standards in June 2020.

Climate change will have the greatest impact on the youngest generations, which means schools have the opportunity and the responsibility to educate the children of today about this important issue and help them become transformative climate action leaders. Schools can teach students how to reduce our impacts on the environment, and can teach the next generation how to be environmental stewards. Climate awareness education, coupled with strong civic education, will foster new job opportunities, build a green consumer market, and allow citizens to engage with governments in a meaningful way to address climate change.

Engagement and Celebrations

LEAs can join in celebrating Earth Day by:

- Sharing their Earth Day activities, events, or lessons highlighting the [2020 Climate Change Education standards](#) on social media utilizing the hashtags #climateawareNJ and #investinourplanet.
- Hosting a Community Clean Up or similar event in celebration of Earth Day. Resources are available on the [EarthDay.org](https://www.earthday.org) website.
- Completing this short [Earth Day 2023 District Activities Survey](#) with information about Earth Day events hosted in the districts.

Resources

- The New Jersey Department of Education's [Climate Change Education Resources Webpage](#)
- The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's [State Environmental Education Directory \(SEEDS\) Webpage](#)
- [Earth Day 2023 Resources](#) from EarthDay.org

Contact Information

For questions about Earth Day and Climate Awareness Education, please contact innovation@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group