



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: December 20, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Assistant Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, Curriculum Supervisors
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed. D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Fiscal Year 2024 State Funded Programs for the Advancement of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) Supporting Climate Change Education

In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 State budget, Governor Phil Murphy allocated \$4.5 million dollars to support climate change education in New Jersey schools. As a result, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will be releasing two grant opportunities to further advance the implementation of the NJSLS supporting Climate Change Education. The first grant opportunity, mentioned below, will support the work of local education agencies (LEAs) through grants to New Jersey institutes of higher education (IHEs). The second grant opportunity, which is forthcoming, will provide grants directly to LEAs. Therefore, this broadcast is for informational purposes only.

Climate Change Learning Collaboratives (CCLCs) at New Jersey IHEs

The NJDOE intends to establish state-funded programs at eligible New Jersey IHEs through a Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO). The *Expanding Access to Climate Change Education and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards through Climate Change Learning Collaboratives* grant opportunity aims to create regional CCLCs at a minimum of three, but up to six, New Jersey IHEs to support neighboring LEAs in their implementation of climate change education. IHE applicants will be responsible for identifying at least one community-based organization that is currently engaged in place-based environmental education in their region to serve as a partner.

The focus of this grant opportunity is to deepen understanding and implementation of the NJSLS supporting Climate Change Education. The competitively funded CCLCs are anticipated to increase the knowledge and skillset of New Jersey's educators related to the NJSLS supporting Climate Change Education by:

- Providing professional development and technical assistance (including the support of experiential learning opportunities).
- Guiding educators in developing and identifying high quality instructional materials that are locally focused and culturally responsive.
- Fostering the opportunity for educators to collaborate and innovate with fellow educators at neighboring LEAs.

Information about CCLC programming availability will be provided to LEAs after awards are made to the IHEs. Interested LEAs will have the opportunity to partner with a CCLC to support existing efforts to implement climate change education as described in the NJSLS or develop new learning opportunities for students and teachers that may be supported by the additional climate change grant opportunity described below.

Forthcoming Climate Change Education Grant Opportunity for LEAs

Alongside the CCLCs grant for IHEs, the NJDOE will release an additional grant opportunity for eligible New Jersey LEAs at a later date. A broadcast announcing the availability of this opportunity, relevant deadlines, and more detailed information will be forthcoming.

Contact Information

For questions regarding climate change education, including questions regarding the FY 2024 grant opportunities, please contact climateeducation@doe.nj.gov.

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