



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 1, 2023  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: District Directors of Special Education, Principals, Supervisors, Special Education Teachers, Transition Coordinators, Child Study Team Members  
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services  
Deadline: March 3, 2023

## Community of Practice for Educators Who Work in Programs for 18-21 Year Olds

A community of practice (CoP) is a group of people who share a common interest in something they do, meet on a regular basis, and seek to improve their practice (Wenger & Traynor, 2015). The goal of the Community of Practice for Educators Who Work in Programs for 18-21-year-olds is to bring diverse educators together in a working relationship around a common interest in the development and implementation of high-quality programming for students with disabilities ages 18-21. This will be an opportunity to improve instructional practices that lead to positive postschool outcomes for students with disabilities. The CoP will meet four or more times a year at the Learning Resource Center-Central in Trenton, beginning in the summer of 2023. The CoP will develop members' professional skills by learning about evidence-based and other best practices, engaging in collaborative problem solving, hearing speakers from other agencies and organizations, and learning about and utilizing implementation science.

### Key steps/actions

Teachers, transition coordinators, administrators, and other school professionals that are stakeholders in an 18-21-year-old program should apply to be members of the CoP.

Interested professionals should apply no later than March 3, 2023. Applicants will be notified of their status in April. Membership to this initial Cop will be limited to fifty (50) individuals due to capacity limits of the meeting space.

### Membership application

Please click on this link to access the [online CoP application](#) for membership.

### Contact information

For additional information please email Jo-Ann Johnson [joann.johnson@doe.nj.gov](mailto:joann.johnson@doe.nj.gov).

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