



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 11, 2023  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: Directors of Curriculum and Instruction, School Administrators, Supervisors of Literacy, School Counselors, Reading Specialists, Interventionists and Intervention and Referral Services Team Members  
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services  
Deadline: Applications are due by February 17, 2023

## **New Jersey Tiered System of Supports for Early Reading: Three-Year Coaching and Professional Development Opportunity**

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is proud to release an opportunity for school districts serving students in grades kindergarten to grade three to receive three years of intensive coaching to establish and implement a multi-tiered system of support designed to provide science-based early literacy instruction and intervention. This opportunity is made possible through the Federal State Personnel Development Grant, New Jersey Tiered System of Supports-Early Reading (NJTSS-ER), which was awarded to the NJDOE by the United States Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs in June of 2021.

The goal of the NJTSS-ER project is to improve reading proficiency through technology-facilitated training and coaching to districts that will:

- (1) Improve implementation knowledge and self-efficacy for leadership team members, coaches, and instructional staff;
- (2) Assist in building a multi-tiered, data-driven decision-making system that increases early reading proficiency for students in grades kindergarten through third grade, including those with or at risk of reading disabilities and/or those who are economically disadvantaged or from underperforming racial ethnic groups; and
- (3) Increase fidelity of school/district implementation of NJTSS-ER to support all students through sustainable practices and processes.

### **Additional Project Details**

The NJTSS-ER grant project is facilitated through a partnership between NJDOE and Rutgers University. District literacy coaches and other key personnel will participate in professional development to enhance their effectiveness to deliver science-based reading instruction and interventions to serve all students. Coaching will be provided to select district personnel in up to two district schools that serve students in kindergarten through grade three. Districts selected for participation will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$2,000 applicable towards approved external trainings on evidence-based practices relevant to the implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports or Early Reading.

### **Application Process**

Additional project details and expectations of participating project schools can be found on the [online application form](#). Please email the complete application to the NJDOE, at [njtss@doe.nj.gov](mailto:njtss@doe.nj.gov) by February 17, 2023. Applicants will be notified of their advancement to the next stage of the selection process once the NJDOE has had the opportunity to review all submissions.

Following the review of all applications, districts nominated to advance in the selection process will participate in an interview with the NJTSS-ER Team.

To learn more about this opportunity, school officials are invited to take part in a [webinar and question-and-answer session](#) on January 25, 2023 from 3-3:45 p.m. EST.

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