



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 28, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Route To: Directors of Special Education, Child Study Team Members
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Save the Date: Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conferences 2023-2024

Dare to Dream is a positive and empowering experience that highlights strategies to promote self-advocacy skills for middle and high school students with disabilities. Each conference will feature keynote presentations from accomplished students from local educational agencies (LEAs) across the state and presentations from young adults with disabilities who have demonstrated exemplary self-advocacy and leadership skills. Additionally, the conference program will include a variety of student-led workshop sessions on topics such as self-discovery, student self-advocacy, preparing to lead your individualized educational program (IEP) meeting, and understanding your rights and responsibilities as a high school student and in college and the workplace.

The New Jersey Department of Education is sponsoring Dare to Dream Student Leadership conferences during the 2023-2024 school year at the following locations and dates:

- Rowan University in Glassboro – November 2, 2023
- Stockton University in Galloway – November 3, 2023
- Ramapo College of New Jersey in Mahwah – March 24, 2024

Note: Additional dates will be released this fall for conferences later in the 2023-2024 school year.

Please save the date for the event at the location your LEA would like to attend. Registration information will be communicated through a future broadcast memo this summer. Due to the popularity of these events, registration priority will be given to LEAs that have students presenting a breakout session, musical performance, or keynote presentation. Please visit the [Office of Special Education website](#) to view a selection of exemplary student keynote presentations.

There is no charge for students, parents, or staff to attend this conference. Professional staff from LEAs must provide adequate supervision of their students throughout the event. Any questions regarding the Dare to Dream conferences, please email oseinfo@doe.nj.gov.

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