



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 29, 2023

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: Directors of Special Education, Administrators of Programs for Students Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Transition Coordinators, Child Study Team Members, Special Education Teachers

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Register by: April 18, 2023 (Space is limited)

Orientation Session for CBI Cohort: Enrollment in the 2023-2024 Community-Based Instruction Project Cohort

The New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) Office of Special Education (OSE), in partnership with The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, invites school districts to apply for participation in the Community-Based Instruction (CBI) Project 2023-2024 Cohort. The CBI Project is focused on improving transitions across the educational lifespan and postschool outcomes for students with disabilities. CBI is an evidence-based practice that supports successful transition from school to adult life and full inclusion of students with disabilities in their communities. Each year, a cohort of school districts receives intensive, collaborative training on CBI implementation via the *Foundations of CBI* training series, develops a site-based CBI Action Plan, and receives ongoing technical assistance to support planning and implementation.

Regularly utilizing the community as a learning environment provides practical and meaningful opportunities for students to develop skills through authentic experiences. This promotes greater self-determination, healthy interdependence, and enhanced quality of life in adulthood through the acquisition, application, and generalization of skills developed. Domains addressed in CBI include career awareness and exploration, recreation and leisure, and community living that aligns with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals.

As administrative support is vital to the success of CBI, districts may not apply for the 2023-2024 Cohort unless a district administrator has participated in one of the *Orientation Sessions for CBI Cohort*. Participants will receive information about the cohort structure, eligibility criteria and commitments, technical assistance, and the administrative and organizational supports needed to guide these practices. To accommodate diverse schedules, *Orientation Sessions for CBI Cohort* will be offered on **Wednesday, April 19, 2023**, and **Thursday, April 20, 2023**.

Registration for Orientation

Registration links for the *Orientation Session for CBI Cohort* offerings may be found below. Capacity is limited, so early registration is recommended.

- **Wednesday, April 19, 2023**
[10 a.m.-11 a.m. Session Zoom Registration](#)
- **Thursday, April 20, 2023**
[10 a.m.-11 a.m. Session Zoom Registration](#)

Contact Information

If you have questions about the *Orientation Session for CBI Cohort* or the CBI Project training opportunities, please contact Nikkilee Pedersen at Nikkilee.Pedersen@rutgers.edu or Jocelyn Muse-Taylor at Jocelyn.MuseTaylor@rutgers.edu.

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