



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 8, 2023

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

Route To: District Directors of Special Education, District Supervisors of Special Education, Principals of Preschool or Special Education, Special Education Teachers, Child Study Team Members, Related Service Providers for Preschool

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

Deadline: April 30, 2023

## Community of Practice for Teachers & Professionals of Preschool Students with Disabilities

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 New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Office of Special Education is facilitating a CoP to bring diverse educators together in a working relationship around educating preschool students with disabilities to share information and improve instructional practices. The CoP will meet four times per year virtually and address topics such as best practices in inclusion, building language in the preschool setting, multiple methods of instruction, and improving student outcomes. Once the initial CoP is concluded in March 2024, the CoP will meet utilizing a Hybrid Model (both virtual and in-person) and include an annual in-person event.

### Who Should Apply?

Preschool Special Education Teachers, Preschool General Education Teachers, Related Service Providers, and other Professional Staff who support preschool Students with Disabilities ages 3-5. Members of the CoP will be invited to attend four (4) virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams. Membership in this first CoP will be limited to thirty (30) members. Please use the link below to register.

### Schedule of CoP Meetings

All meetings will be held virtually from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. via an invite to Microsoft Teams, unless otherwise stated.

- September 12, 2023
- November 14, 2023
- January 9, 2024
- March 12, 2024

### Registration

Fill out the online [Registration Form](#) to participate.

### Contact Information

For additional information, please email [Jennifer.Nicosia@doe.nj.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Nicosia@doe.nj.gov) and [Ilene.Goy@doe.nj.gov](mailto:Ilene.Goy@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
NJ LEE Group

NEER-National Institute for Early Education Research  
NJCIE- New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network