



Date: April 17, 2024

To: Local Educational Agency Leads

Route To: Principals, Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction, Supervisors, Instructional Coaches, Teachers

From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Reading Acceleration Professional Integrated Development (RAPID) Plus Initiative

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce the launch of the second of two professional learning initiatives designed to support and bolster literacy instruction. The first Reading Acceleration Professional Integrated Development (RAPID) initiative began last fall, and the second initiative, RAPID Plus, begins statewide this month. Both reading initiatives are tightly aligned with the knowledge and skills featured within the revisions to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts (NJSLS – ELA), adopted in October of 2023 by the New Jersey State Board of Education.

The RAPID Plus Initiative will provide educators with tools to support developing readers in upper elementary grades (Grades 4 through 6). The NJDOE has partnered with five institutions of higher education (IHE) to provide professional development opportunities in upper elementary literacy. The RAPID Plus initiative features four educator sessions addressing topics such as the Neurobiology of Reading, Advanced Word Study, Fluency, and Comprehension, as well as one school leader webinar that focuses on designing and supporting high-quality literacy instruction in schools.

RAPID sessions began last fall and ended in late winter, while RAPID Plus sessions will continue throughout the summer of 2024.

RAPID county partners and their respective registration links:

Counties	RAPID Plus IHE Partner
Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem	Rowan University
Bergen, Passaic, Sussex, Warren	William Paterson University
Essex, Hudson	Montclair University
Hunterdon, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset	Rutgers University
Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Union	Kean University

Contact Information

Please email the Division of Teaching and Learning Services at RAPID@doe.nj.gov if you have questions regarding either of the RAPID initiatives.

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