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To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Nonpublic Schools

Route To: High School Principals

From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner

Division of Teaching and Learning

High School Voter Registration Law Resources

The New Jersey Department of Education encourages New Jersey high schools to participate in National High
School Voter Registration Week (September 23-27, 2024). This week celebrates youth civic engagement and encourages all eligible 17- and 18-year-olds to register to vote. Additionally, districts may participate in National Voter Education Week (October 7-11, 2024), which is a non-partisan voter education campaign that equips voters with the tools and information needed to cast their ballots with confidence.

The High School Voter Registration Law requires administrators to distribute voter registration materials, a summary of voter registration eligibility requirements, materials describing the role of a citizen, and materials articulating the importance of voting to all eligible high school students prior to graduation. The following resources are intended to assist districts in fulfilling their responsibilities pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:36-27.

Districts may employ the following strategies to meet the High School Voter Registration Law:

- Engage student organizations and/or clubs (i.e., Key Club/ Student Council) to facilitate student-led voter registration drives.
- Host an assembly or offer a voter simulation event (<u>Energizing Young Voters</u>).
- Require explicit instruction related to the voter registration law in a course attended by all seniors.
- Create a webpage devoted to voter registration information or conduct a mailing.
- Support school-wide participation in the NJ Mock Election to create a pipeline of civic engagement.

The following websites provide additional supports for administrators and educators to inform students of the voter registration process:

- NJ Voter Information Portal
- County Election Officials
- NJ Center for Civic Education
- Energizing Young Voters
- Jersey Civic Engage
- USED Toolkit for the Promotion of Voter Participation for Students

Thank you for helping our students become engaged citizens.

Contact Information

For any questions about High School Voter Registration Week, please contact Ashley Woolsey-Greene, Social Studies Coordinator for the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, at socialstudies@doe.nj.gov.

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