



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: December 4, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Directors of Career and Technical Education, Perkins Program Directors, Middle School Principals, Teachers
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning
Deadline: February 13, 2025, no later than 4:00 PM

Esports Industry Career Exploration Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO)

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is excited to announce the release of the Esports Industry Career Exploration NGO. This grant opportunity intends to harness the popularity of esports to increase middle school student awareness of high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand career pathways within the esports industry, and to increase equity, access, and engagement of special population groups to career and technical education (CTE) programming. Studies indicate that students involved in esports tend to have higher school attendance, fewer absences, and a reduced risk of suspension. Esports has also been instrumental in reducing chronic absenteeism and improving friendships, often serving as the first co-curricular activity for many students.

The NJDOE intends to award five districts up to \$50,000 each to create new esports programming at the middle grades level. This opportunity is being offered to local education agencies that serve students in grades 5-8 and sends students to a local high school or County Vocational School District that has one or more CTE programs of study in Computer Programming, Game and Interactive Media Design, Marketing, Meeting and Event Planning or Radio and Television Broadcasting. Priority consideration will be given to districts that serve a high population of students who are multilingual learners or other special populations, as identified by Perkins V legislation.

The Esports Industry Career Exploration NGO is now available on the Office of Grant Management [webpage](#). Grant applications will be completed using the Electronic Web Enabled Grants (EWEG) System, which can be accessed through the NJDOE's [Homeroom](#) web portal. The grant application must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2025. A technical assistance workshop will be held via webinar at 10 a.m. on January 14, 2025. [Preregistration](#) is required by January 10, 2025.

For more information regarding the Esports Industry Career Exploration NGO, please direct questions to the [Office of Career Readiness](#). For technical assistance regarding access to EWEG, please direct questions to the [EWEG help](#) email account.

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