



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 20, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: School Counselors, Before/Afterschool Coordinators
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services
Deadline: April 10, 2024

United States Department of Education: Engage Every Student Recognition Program

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is excited to share this year's launch of the United States Department of Education's (USED) [Engage Every Student Recognition Program](#). The Engage Every Student initiative was introduced by USED in 2022 with the mission to ensure that every student who wants a spot in a high-quality out-of-school time program has access to one.

USED has begun accepting applications seeking to recognize nonprofit organizations, local educational agencies (LEAs), and municipalities or local government entities working together to expand access to high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs. Eligible organizations can find the program details on the [Engage Every Student webpage](#), and complete an [application](#) by the close of business on **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**.

To be eligible for the **Engage Every Student Recognition Program**, the interested entity must:

- Be an afterschool and/or summer learning program that has increased, from its total enrollment in School Year 2022-2023, the enrollment number of K-12 students during the 2023-2024 school year by 20%;
- Serve a group of K-12 students that include at least a portion of students who attend schools with 40% or more students who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program at the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic school year;
- Provide high-quality afterschool or summer learning programming with a physical location in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity, or Tribal Nations schools;
- Leverage American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER Funds and other state and local funds to expand access to afterschool and summer learning programs for students; and
- Employ evidence-based approaches, including but not limited to: targeting students needing additional support; having certified teachers delivering the academic instruction and tutoring; and engaging students in using experiential learning that could include project-based learning, enrichment, career pathways, and field trips.

Contact Information

For more information regarding the Engage Every Student Recognition Program, please direct questions to acceleratingnj@doe.nj.gov.

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