



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 15, 2024
 To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
 Route To: District Directors of Special Education and Pupil Services Administrators, District Supervisors of Special Education, Principals, Teachers, Child Study Team, Related Service Providers, Board Certified Behavior Analysts
 From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
 Division of Educational Services
 Deadline: August 2, 2024

Community of Practice Opportunities for the 2024-2025 School Year

Background

A community of practice (CoP) is a group of people who share a common interest in something they do, meet regularly, and seek to improve their practice. The goal of the CoP is to bring New Jersey public school personnel into a working relationship around a common interest in working with students with disabilities.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), Office of Special Education (OSE), invites school personnel to review the diverse CoP offerings (see below table) for the 2024-2025 school year and register to be a member of one of the CoPs. Members of each CoP will be invited to attend all meetings outlined in the table below for their chosen CoP. To ensure the CoPs are effective participation is limited. Please review each offering and register for the one that best fits your current role within the district.

Community of Practice Offerings and Details

Community of Practice Title	Audience and Brief CoP Overview	Location	Meeting Dates	Registration Link
Autism Spectrum Disorder	Teachers, related services providers, and CST members from grades K-12 who support students with autism in self-contained and inclusive classrooms.	In-Person Learning Resource Center– Central (Trenton)	Oct. 2, 2024 Dec. 5, 2024 Feb. 5, 2025 Apr. 2, 2025	Click here to register for the CoP for Autism
Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs)	Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) in New Jersey public schools from grades K-12 who support students with disabilities. Individuals must currently be in the role of a school-based BCBA and delivering services under their certification.	In-Person Learning Resource Center – North (East Orange)	Oct. 23, 2024 Dec. 18, 2024 Feb. 12, 2025 Apr. 16, 2025	Click here to register for the CoP for BCBAs
Early Literacy	General and Special education teachers K-3, Reading teachers K-3, Literacy Coaches K-3. The CoP is designed to increase participants’ knowledge of evidence-based	In-Person Learning Resource Center – Central	Oct. 7, 2024 Dec. 9, 2024 Feb. 10, 2025 May 5, 2025	Click here to register for the CoP for Early Literacy

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	practices in reading instruction. Sessions will provide an opportunity to design lessons incorporating evidence-based practices and discuss implementation.	<i>(Trenton)</i>		
Educators Who Work in Programs for 18-21-year-olds	Teachers, transition coordinators, administrators, and other school professionals that are stakeholders in an 18-21-year-old program. The CoP will come together to learn how to start or improve this critically important programming.	Virtual* and In-Person Learning Resource Center – Central <i>(Trenton)</i>	Oct. 3, 2024 Dec. 5, 2024 Mar. 6, 2025 May 2025* (specific day to be determined depending on members' schedules)	Click here to register for the CoP for Educators Who Work in Programs for 18-21-year-olds
		Virtual* and In-Person Learning Resource Center – North <i>(East Orange)</i>	Oct. 1, 2024 Dec. 3, 2024 Mar. 4, 2025 May 2025* (specific day to be determined depending on members' schedules)	
		Virtual* (Indicated in Parentheses) and In-Person Learning Resource Center – North Satellite) <i>(Wayne)</i>	Oct.2, 2024 Dec. 4, 2024 Mar. 5, 2025 May 2025* (specific day to be determined depending on members' schedules)	
		Virtual* and In-Person Learning Resource Center – South	Oct.4, 2024 Dec. 6, 2024 Mar. 7, 2025 May 2025* (specific day to be	

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		<i>(Galloway)</i>	determined depending on members' schedules)	
Enhancing Leadership Practices to Support Special Education Programs and Services	Administrators (e.g., Principals/Vice Principals, Directors of Special Education, Supervisors of Special Education) who support students with disabilities from PreK through 21. This CoP will inform district leadership of current OSE priorities and resources while also leveraging shared experiences as a vessel for learning and support.	In-Person Learning Resource Center – Central <i>(Trenton)</i>	Oct. 16, 2024 Jan. 22, 2025 Mar 26, 2025 May 28, 2025	Click here to register for the CoP for Special Education Leaders
Family Engagement and Family-School Partnerships	Teachers (general ed, special education) will examine and gain knowledge, skills, and dispositions to work collaboratively with diverse families to support the development and education of students with disabilities. Teachers will understand families within a broad sociocultural context and focus on issues of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, and family structure to learn how these intersect with professional-family relationships and with student outcomes in education.	In-Person Learning Resource Center – Central <i>(Trenton)</i>	Oct. 21, 2024 Jan. 27, 2025 Mar. 10, 2025 May 19, 2025	Click here to register for Family Engagement and Family-School Partnerships
Empowering All Learners: Strategies for Inclusive Instructional Practices Across Content Areas	This CoP confronts a fundamental challenge many districts face: fostering inclusive instructional environments that cater to the diverse needs of all students. The session will go beyond basic instructional methods, delving into how inclusive practices can be effectively tailored and integrated across various content areas like History, Math, English, and Science. Participants will gain insights into creating a classroom atmosphere that promotes a sense of belonging, employing Universal Design for Learning (UDL), differentiation techniques, and High-Leverage Practices	Virtual* and In-Person Learning Resource Center – Central <i>(Trenton)</i>	Oct. 15, 2024 Dec. 12, 2024 Feb. 11, 2025* Apr. 8, 2025*	Click here to register for Inclusive Instructional Practices Across Content Areas

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	(HLPs) for inclusivity. This workshop is designed for district administrators committed to enhancing their skills to better support teachers in delivering accessible and equitable education to every student.			
Evidence-Driven Leadership: Preparing Schools for the Successful and Sustainable Implementation of EBPs	This CoP addresses a key challenge in many districts: selecting and implementing evidence-based practices (EBPs) for students with disabilities. Beyond choosing effective practices, the CoP will explore the complexities of integrating these practices within each school's unique context. Participants will explore factors that support or inhibit successful implementation. This CoP is tailored for district administrators who are instrumental in shaping educational strategies and ensuring their effective execution.	Virtual* and In-Person Learning Resource Center – Central (Trenton)	Oct. 10, 2024 Dec. 10, 2024 Feb. 6, 2025* April 7, 2025*	Click here to register for Inclusive Instructional Practices Across Content Areas
Preschool Special Education	All professionals who currently work in or oversee programming and services for preschoolers ages 3-5 in any preschool setting. The CoP is designed to include educators, providers, coaches, and administrators in all disciplines and settings, including special education, general education, and inclusion preschool programs, who may bring invaluable experience and insights into highly effective preschool programming and positive learning outcomes.	Virtual* and In-Person Learning Resource Center-Central (Trenton)	Oct. 1, 2024* Dec. 3, 2024* Feb. 4, 2025* Apr. 1, 2025* Jun. 3, 2025	Click Here to Register for CoP Preschool Special Education
Speech and Language	Speech Language Pathologists and other school professionals who support students with speech and language disorders should consider applying.	Virtual* and In-Person Learning Resource Center-Central (Trenton)	Oct. 9, 2024 Dec. 18, 2024* Feb. 26, 2025* May 7, 2025	Click here to register for the CoP for Speech and Language
Teachers Supporting Emotional and Behavioral Programs	Teachers from grades K-12 who provide instruction and support for students in an emotional and behavioral program. The CoP will increase knowledge and collaboration aligned to NJDOE's	In-Person Learning Resource Center – Central (Trenton)	Oct. 8, 2024 Dec. 3, 2024 Mar. 5, 2025 May 6, 2025	Click here to register for the CoP for Teachers Supporting Emotional and

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	forthcoming Quality Indicators for Emotional and Behavioral Programs resource (see 4/19/2023 broadcast for additional information on that resource)			Behavioral Programs

Contact information

For additional information, please email OSEInfo@doe.nj.gov . For additional resources on educating and supporting students with disabilities, please visit the [NJDOE Offices of Special Education](#), the [Learning Resource Center Network](#), and the [Office of Special Education Engagement](#) websites.

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