



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: April 2, 2025

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Directors of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: District Directors of Special Education, Supervisors of Special Education, Principals, Child Study Team Members, Teachers, Transition Coordinators, Special Education Parent Advisory Groups (SEPAOs)

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

## **Call for Applications for Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST) Training**

The New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education, in partnership with the Boggs Center on Disability and Human Development, invites school districts to apply for participation in the [Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition](#) (PCAST) 2025-2026 Cohort. Person-centered approaches are applicable to all students ages 3 through 21, and each year a select cohort of school districts receives intensive multi-year customized training and technical assistance on this practice.

PCAST staff from the Boggs Center work collaboratively with school leadership, implementation teams, and other staff to explore person-centered approaches. This may include, but is not limited to, facilitating individual person-centered plans, implementing group person-centered practices in classrooms, developing internal training capacity, and creating skills related to person-centered IEP meetings and processes when applicable. The major focus of this practice is to improve educational and post-school outcomes for students with disabilities.

The PCAST project has been built on a foundation of respect, trust, and partnership with educators, families, and students working together to provide holistic person-centered support for students in both primary and secondary education. All person-centered approaches involve a continuous process of discovery that engages educators, students, and their families with the goal of developing a deep understanding of each student and supporting their personal vision for a positive future.

### **Application Process**

Please complete the online [application](#) by May 2, 2025. For questions or issues related to the application, contact Kellyann Giudice at [kellyann.giudice@rutgers.edu](mailto:kellyann.giudice@rutgers.edu).

### **Contact Information**

For questions regarding this opportunity, please contact the OSE at (609) 376-9060 or via email at [OSEinfo@doe.nj.gov](mailto:OSEinfo@doe.nj.gov).

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