



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 12, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Route To: Building Administrators, Directors of Guidance, Special Education Directors, Child Study Team Members, Teachers
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Release of the Educational Environment Dashboard and Statewide Information Sessions

Placement of students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment (LRE) is a key principle of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Under the IDEA, each state is required to collect and report data on placement in the LRE at the state and local levels. As part of this process, the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) Office of Special Education (OSE) is pleased to announce the release of the [Educational Environment Dashboard](#).

To drive meaningful and equitable progress in inclusive education for students with disabilities, it is crucial to prioritize data literacy, data quality, and a comprehensive understanding of current performance relating to LRE goals. The Educational Environment Dashboard is a powerful tool that enables states, counties, and local education agencies (LEAs) to drill down and disaggregate data, offering valuable insights into the inclusion of students with disabilities in the LRE, as required by 20 U.S.C. §1412(a)(5)(A) and N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.2. The dashboard empowers LEAs to identify trends and make decisions that inform funding, resource allocation, professional development, and capacity building.

The OSE is hosting virtual information sessions to provide an overview of the Educational Environment Dashboard. Attendees will have the opportunity to request one-on-one office hours for personalized guidance on leveraging the dashboard to drive meaningful change in their districts. Additionally, school leaders can apply to participate in the upcoming Leadership Action Learning Group for the 2025-2026 school year.

Information Session Date	Time	Registration
March 6, 2025	10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Register online
March 11, 2025 (as part of the Winter Learning Institute)	12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Register online

Please register for one of the information sessions using the registration links above. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with further details and access to the online session. NJDOE encourages all educators, administrators, and stakeholders to attend one of the information sessions.

Contact Information

For questions, please contact the Office of Special Education at OSEinfo@doe.nj.gov.

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