



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 19, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Route To: Directors of Special Education, Administrators of Programs for Students Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Transition Coordinators, Child Study Team Members, Special Education Teachers
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services
Register by: April 1, 2025

**Orientation Session for CBI Cohort: Enrollment in the 2025-2026
Community-Based Instruction Project Cohort**

The New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Special Education, in partnership with The Boggs Center on Disability and Human Development, invites local educational agencies (LEAs) to apply for participation in the Community-Based Instruction (CBI) Project 2025-2026 Cohort. The CBI Project is focused on improving transition across the educational lifespan and post-school outcomes for students with disabilities. CBI is an evidence-based practice that supports the successful transition from school to adult life and the full inclusion of students with disabilities in their communities. Annually, cohort LEAs receive intensive, collaborative training on CBI implementation via the *Foundations of CBI* training series, develop a site-based CBI Action Plan, and receive ongoing technical assistance to support planning and implementation.

Regularly utilizing the community as a learning environment provides practical and meaningful opportunities for students to develop skills through authentic experiences. This promotes greater self-determination, healthy interdependence, and enhanced quality of life in adulthood through the acquisition, application, and generalization of skills developed. Domains addressed in CBI include career awareness and exploration, recreation and leisure, and community living that aligns with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals.

As administrative support is vital to the success of CBI, LEAs may not apply for the 2025-2026 CBI Cohort unless a LEA administrator has participated in one of the *Orientation Sessions for CBI Cohort Enrollment*. Participants will receive information about the structure of the cohort, eligibility criteria and commitments, technical assistance, and the administrative and organizational support needed to guide practices. To accommodate diverse schedules, *Orientation Sessions for CBI Cohort Enrollment* will be offered on **Wednesday, April 2, 2025**, and **Thursday, April 3, 2025**.

Registration for Orientation

Registration links for the *Orientation Session for CBI Cohort Enrollment* offerings may be found below. Capacity is limited; early registration is recommended.

- **Wednesday, April 2, 2025**
[9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Session Zoom Registration](#)
- **Thursday, April 3, 2025**
[12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Session Zoom Registration](#)

Contact Information

For questions about the *Orientation Session for CBI Cohort Enrollment* or the CBI Project training opportunities, contact Nikkilee Pedersen at Nikkilee.Pedersen@rutgers.edu, Jessica DiPane at Jessica.DiPane@rutgers.edu, or Jocelyn Muse-Taylor at Jocelyn.MuseTaylor@rutgers.edu.

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