



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 18, 2026
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: School Administrators, Principals, Teachers
From: Ambrose Duckett, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Services
Deadline: Registration closes May 15, 2026

Amistad Commission Summer Institute Invitation

As part of its mission to ensure the effective implementation of educational programs that highlight the African slave trade, slavery in America, and the many contributions of Africans and African Americans to the development of the United States, the New Jersey Amistad Commission invites all New Jersey educators to the 2026 Amistad Summer Institute. The program will be offered both in person and virtually at Kean University in Union, New Jersey, from July 28-30, 2026.

Because space is limited, we encourage you to register as soon as possible. Registration closes on May 15, 2026, and in-person participation is capped at the first 150 confirmed registrants.

Please go to the [Amistad Commission's Summer Institute 2026 Registration Form](#) to register.

The goals for the 2026 Summer Institute are:

- Provide tools, resources, and training for educators in grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12.
- Support teachers in reframing historical and social studies narratives in New Jersey classrooms.
- Increase educators' understanding and awareness of the Amistad legislation.
- Equip teachers to develop lesson plans aligned with the requirements of the legislation.

The Summer Institute is a multi-day professional development program that offers Continuing Education Units (CEUs). In addition to sessions for classroom educators, there will be dedicated workshops for senior administrators and district leaders. This year's program will feature dynamic keynote speakers, expert facilitators, and a series of engaging activities designed to foster collaboration and professional growth. Our intention is for you to leave feeling reenergized, informed by current scholarship, and equipped with effective strategies for integrating the rich contributions of Africans and African Americans into instruction across history, language arts, math, science, and other subject areas.

Our goal is for every student in New Jersey to engage with high-quality curriculum resources across History, Social Studies, and other disciplines that accurately reflect these essential narratives.

We look forward to welcoming you to Kean University and continuing our shared commitment to making a difference in the lives of New Jersey students.

Contact Us

For questions or assistance, reach out to the Amistad Commission at (609) 376-3524 or email Amistad@doe.nj.gov.

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