



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 28, 2026  
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: February 25, 2026

## Orientation Session for CBI Cohort: Enrollment in the 2026-2027 Community-Based Instruction Project Cohort

The New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) Office of Special Education (OSE), 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 2026–2027 Cohort. The CBI Project focuses on strengthening transition services across the educational lifespan and improving postschool outcomes for students with disabilities. Participating cohort LEAs receive intensive, collaborative training on CBI implementation through the Foundations of CBI training series, develop a site-based CBI Action Plan, and receive ongoing technical assistance to support effective planning and implementation.

Community-Based Instruction is an evidence-based practice that supports successful transitions from school to adult life and promotes the full inclusion of students with disabilities in their communities. 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 2026-2027 CBI Cohort unless an 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. *Orientation Sessions for CBI Cohort Enrollment* will be offered on **February 26, 2026**, and **March 5, 2026**.

### Registration for Orientation

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

**February 26, 2026:** [9:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Session Zoom Registration](#)  
**March 5, 2026:** [9:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Session Zoom Registration](#)

### Contact Information

Please direct questions about the *Orientation Session for CBI Cohort Enrollment* or CBI Project training opportunities, to Nikkilee Pedersen at [Nikkilee.Pedersen@rutgers.edu](mailto:Nikkilee.Pedersen@rutgers.edu), Jessica DiPane at [Jessica.DiPane@rutgers.edu](mailto:Jessica.DiPane@rutgers.edu), or Jocelyn Muse-Taylor at [Jocelyn.MuseTaylor@rutgers.edu](mailto:Jocelyn.MuseTaylor@rutgers.edu).

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