



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 22, 2026

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

Route To: Principals, School Business Administrators, Parent-Teacher Organizations, School Counselors, Community Outreach Coordinators

From: Dr. Lily Laux, Commissioner
Department of Education

Launch of SimpleFile Portal: Expanding Access to the State's Refundable Child Tax Credit

Governor Mkie Sherrill recently announced the launch of [SimpleFile](#), a free, mobile-friendly website designed to help thousands of lower-income New Jersey families quickly apply for the state's refundable Child Tax Credit.

SimpleFile was developed through a strategic partnership between the New Jersey Innovation Authority, the New Jersey Department of the Treasury's Division of Taxation, and Code for America. The portal specifically serves families who qualify for financial credits but frequently miss out because they are not required to file annual taxes. This allows eligible families to safely claim the Child Tax Credit in under 15 minutes. For this filing cycle, eligible filers who had a child aged five or under in 2025 can apply in either English or Spanish to receive up to \$1,000 per child. Building on this commitment, the FY2027 budget expands the Child Tax Credit up to \$1,250 next year.

With over 200,000 New Jersey families already claiming this credit annually, the NJDOE is assisting in statewide outreach encouraging school districts to help connect the remaining eligible, non-filing families within their communities to this resource.

To assist school districts, community partners, and local organizations in amplifying this resource, the Administration will host an informational outreach webinar. Representatives will walk through the portal's features, distribute promotional toolkits, and discuss best practices for community deployment:

Event: SimpleFile Community Outreach Webinar

Date: Thursday, July 23, 2026, 1 p.m.

Local organizations and educational leads are highly encouraged to join. Please visit the [registration portal](#) for the webinar session and access the [digital outreach toolkit](#). Additionally, visit the official [SimpleFile](#) portal to access promotional materials, learn more about eligibility requirements, and share this free tool with your school communities.