



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

**Date:** June 3, 2026

**To:** Local Educational Agency Leads

**Route To:** District Directors of Curriculum and Instruction, District Directors of Special Education and Pupil Services, District Supervisors of Special Education, All District Principals, Assistant/Vice Principals, Child Study Teams, Related Service Providers, Interventionists, School Counselors

**From:** Kimberly A. Murray, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

**Deadline:** June 30, 2026

## Team Application for the NJTSS-Chronic Absenteeism (CA) Cohort 2026-2027

Chronic absenteeism (CA) continues to present a significant barrier to student success across New Jersey. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce the launch of an exclusive nine-month long professional learning opportunity focused on reducing chronic absenteeism utilizing the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS) via the PD4Me New Jersey learning pathway. PD4Me New Jersey is the NJDOE's new virtual Technical Assistance (TA) Center, developed in partnership with Rutgers University's Center for Comprehensive School Mental Health (Rutgers-CCSMH).

The PD4Me TA Center is designed to provide targeted evidence-based professional development pathways to reduce chronic absenteeism, improve student engagement, and expand inclusive practices for all New Jersey educators and other school personnel. Interactive asynchronous learning modules are the cornerstones of each pathway with opportunities to collaborate and engage with your peers scheduled throughout the year during live community of practice sessions.

### What does a learning pathway offer?

Local educational agency (LEA) teams will gain practical strategies to build cohesive, schoolwide approaches to improving attendance through NJTSS. Running from **October 2026 through June 2027**, each learning pathway consists of the following components:

- **Asynchronous Modules:** On-demand, online asynchronous learning modules for K–12 educators and school staff, providing a comprehensive understanding of the critical role attendance plays in student success. Modules will introduce chronic absenteeism, its legal foundations, team building and governance, and data-informed decision making.
- **Live Expert Sessions:** Expert sessions will feature case-based learning focused on real-world application and collaborative problem-solving.
- **Virtual Office Hours:** Implementation coaching specifically for LEA school teams to provide additional, targeted support.
- **Community of Practice (CoP):** CoP will facilitate peer-to-peer learning, reflection, and strategy development.

### **Who Should Apply?**

School-based teams are encouraged to apply, including I&RS, MTSS, NJTSS, ASP, SciP, or similar attendance-focused structures. Teams typically include a school administrator, general and special educators, student support staff, a school nurse, and an attendance designee, where applicable.

LEAs may register **three to five representatives from the team**. When selecting representatives, please consider that the majority must be able to attend all live professional development sessions. Space is limited to ensure meaningful opportunities for participation.

### **Application Information:**

- Participation is free.
- Accepted applicants will receive a full schedule and next steps for the upcoming school year.
- Participants will earn a certificate of attendance for each session completed, and LEAs that complete the full learning pathway will receive a certificate of completion.
- LEAs are permitted to submit a maximum of two school teams for participation.
- Applications will be evaluated to gauge capacity and commitment to implementing strategies for reducing chronic absenteeism and promoting regular school attendance.

**Interested LEAs should complete the [NJTSS-CA Cohort 2026-2027 Application](#) no later than **June 30, 2026**. If you are unable to access the Google Form, please email [attendance@doe.nj.gov](mailto:attendance@doe.nj.gov) for access to a Microsoft Form link.**

Please note, the NJDOE was awarded a federal Stronger Connections Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (SCTAC) grant by the U.S. Department of Education to establish a statewide Virtual TA Center. PD4Me will serve as a centralized, accessible hub offering all educators professional development and technical assistance aligned with state and federal priorities.

### **Questions?**

For more information, please contact the Office of Student Support Services at [attendance@doe.nj.gov](mailto:attendance@doe.nj.gov).