



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

**Date:** March 25, 2026  
**To:** Local Educational Agency Leads  
**Route To:** Principals, District Directors of Special Education, Child Study Team Members  
**From:** Kim Murray, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Special Education  
**Deadline:** April 30, 2026

## Call for Applications for Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST)

The New Jersey Department of Education Office of Special Education, in partnership with the Boggs Center on Disability and Human Development, invites school districts to apply for the [2026–2027 Cohort of Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition](#) (PCAST). Person-centered planning is a collaborative process that uses facilitated conversations and related methods to develop a comprehensive understanding of each student. It creates a comfortable and equitable environment for participants while keeping the student central to the process from start to finish. These approaches support students ages 3–21. Each year, a select cohort of districts receives intensive, multi-year training and technical assistance.

PCAST staff from the Boggs Center work with school leadership, implementation teams, and other staff to strengthen person-centered practices. Support may include facilitating individual plans, implementing group practices in classrooms, building internal training capacity, and enhancing skills for person-centered IEP meetings and processes. The overarching goal is to improve educational and post-school outcomes for students.

The PCAST project is grounded in respect, trust, and partnership among educators, families, and students. Person-centered approaches emphasize continuous discovery to develop a deep understanding of each student and to support their personal vision for a positive future.

### Application Process

Please complete the [online application](#) by April 30, 2026. For questions or issues related to the application, contact Kellyann Giudice at [kellyann.giudice@rutgers.edu](mailto:kellyann.giudice@rutgers.edu).

### Contact Information

For questions regarding this opportunity, please contact the OSE at (609) 376-9060 or via email at [OSEinfo@doe.nj.gov](mailto:OSEinfo@doe.nj.gov).