



NJDOE News

For More Information Contact the Public Information Office:

Jon Zlock
Kathryn Forsyth, Director
609-292-1126

For Release: July 15, 2004

Collaborative Assessment and Planning for Achievement (CAPA) Team Members Sought

As part of continued efforts to close the achievement gap in the state's lowest performing districts, the Department of Education (DOE) is seeking active and retired educators and administrators to serve on school support teams for the Collaborative Assessment and Planning for Achievement (CAPA) project.

CAPA is a joint venture between the state and local educators designed to identify obstacles to student achievement in specific districts and develop customized solutions to such problems. The program is run by the DOE's Office of Title I Program Planning and Accountability and the Abbott Implementation Division.

CAPA teams visit identified schools and conduct on-site reviews, which include a thorough examination of school plans and trends in academic proficiencies. The team also visits classrooms and interviews teachers, parents, principals, and other school personnel in order to evaluate areas such as: curriculum and instruction, school leadership, and the learning environment in the school.

After the review, the team develops a comprehensive report for each school.

The teams will include active and retired teachers and administrators, faculty from institutions of higher education, technology experts, pupil service personnel, principals, and parents. Team participation provides a unique opportunity to work with other education professionals to affect change in New Jersey's low-performing schools.

The program is voluntary. School districts with active teachers participating in CAPA will be covered for substitute pay.

The next CAPA training workshops, which are required for all participants, are scheduled for August 24-26 and October 5-7. The deadline for submission of the CAPA application to be considered for participation in the August training is Friday, July 30. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis and are available by calling (973) 655-2117 or visiting the DOE Web site at www.nj.gov/njded/abbotts/capa.

Participants must commit to the following:

- o Attend a three-day CAPA training workshop in either August or October;
- o Participate in at least two CAPA reviews during the 2004-2005 school year, each lasting a total of six consecutive days, which includes a four-day review and two-day report preparation; and
- o Contribute to developing a comprehensive improvement plan that is presented to school staff.