NJDOE News

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DOE Seeks Applicants for First "Regional Immigrant Newcomer Center" Grant

The New Jersey Department of Education has received a federal grant as part of *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) funding to establish a regional center to help immigrant high school students with limited English language skills.

While one school district in the state will be eligible for the $300,000 grant, students from surrounding districts will be able to attend the "Regional Immigrant Newcomer Center."

The deadline for applications is July 28. Districts with large immigrant populations are encouraged to apply.

The Regional Newcomer Center will be used to educate students who have no, or very limited, English speaking and literacy skills in their native language, or who have no formal education in their native countries.

"The needs of these students are greater than what both general education, bilingual and English as a Second Language programs can offer," said Acting Gov. Richard J. Codey. "This center gives immigrant students a better opportunity to make the transition into their school communities."

"Anytime we can give an extra layer of support to students who need it, we jump at the chance," said Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "This is a good example of how we can support students, particularly those who come to this country with limited English-speaking backgrounds."

The center will assist high school students because they generally have less time than younger students to learn English and meet the required academic standards for graduation.

For more information about the grant, please visit the following Web address: www.nj.gov/njded/grants/gropps.shtml. For additional information, please call the Office of Specialized Populations at (609) 292-8777.

Reporters should call the Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126 for additional background information.