



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Students' Voices Take Center Stage in NJ Department of Education Virtual Roundtables

TRENTON, NJ – In May 2021, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) conducted roundtables with students from around the State to discuss their experiences with remote learning during the Coronavirus pandemic.

“Student voices will be critical as we move forward and work to provide the academic, social, and emotional support necessary for students and staff to successfully address the challenges they faced throughout the pandemic,” said Acting Education Commissioner Dr. Angelica Allen McMillian. “These student roundtables provided us with much-needed insight as we prepare for the full reopening of schools.”

A video summary of the virtual student roundtable discussions is now available on the NJDOE’s [website](#). A total of 12 sessions were convened as a platform for students to share their experiences and offer their insights regarding the remote learning experience. Each roundtable consisted of between five and nine students with a total of 85 students participating.

School counselors were available after the virtual student roundtables for a debriefing session to ensure students’ emotional and behavioral needs were met.

“These roundtables are only the most recent reminder of what all educators know to be true. If we expect to serve our students well, we must center and elevate their voice,” said New Jersey Lieutenant Gov. Sheila Oliver, who also serves as the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

The NJDOE asked high school administrators throughout the state to recommend students for the roundtables with diverse backgrounds who could provide a wide array of insights.

“Students are the center of our work at the New Jersey Department of Education,” said Dr. Kenneth Bond, Acting Director of the NJDOE’s Office of the Professional Learning Network and student roundtable moderator. “As we release a video summary of the roundtables, we are excited for educational stakeholders to hear from students in each of New Jersey’s counties about their experiences during the pandemic.”



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