



For Immediate Release

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Governor Murphy and New Jersey Department of Education Announce Certification Fee Holiday to Support Educators

Trenton, NJ – In response to recommendations from the Governor’s Task Force on Public School Shortages, Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) today announced that Governor Murphy’s budget dedicates \$5 million to implement an Educator Certification Fee Holiday. Effective immediately, this initiative aims to alleviate financial burden and streamline the certification process for aspiring educators across the state.

Recognizing the vital role educators play in shaping the future of New Jersey, Governor Murphy and the NJDOE have implemented this groundbreaking program. The Teacher Certification Fee Holiday allows individuals seeking certification to waive the customary fees associated with educator certification applications, renewals, and related services from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

This fee holiday is a testament to New Jersey's commitment to fostering a supportive environment for educators, removing barriers to entry, and encouraging talented individuals to pursue teaching careers. By eliminating financial obstacles, the state aims to attract a diverse pool of qualified, passionate and dedicated individuals to the teaching profession, ensuring that New Jersey students receive a high-quality education.

“Our educators play an essential role in shaping the minds of future generations,” **said Governor Murphy.** “This initiative represents one component of my Administration’s broader efforts to grow our educational workforce. This year’s budget also includes millions of dollars for student teacher living stipends, grants to improve educator quality of life, additional funding for the Teachers Loan Redemption Program, and other initiatives to show our appreciation for all those who choose to dedicate their lives to nurturing New Jersey students. By waiving certification fees over the next year, we will further break down barriers and encourage aspiring educators to join this esteemed profession.”

“The Certification Fee Holiday represents our commitment to supporting New Jersey’s educators and growing the profession,” **said Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education.** “We understand the financial challenges that aspiring educators may face, and by eliminating certification fees, we are sending a clear message that we value their dedication and want to make the certification process more accessible. This initiative will not only benefit individuals pursuing teaching careers but also create opportunities for existing educators to seek additional endorsements, which will strengthen our state’s education system and attract talented and committed educators to our classrooms.”

The Certification Fee Holiday is a limited-time opportunity available to all individuals seeking educator certification in the state of New Jersey. The holiday period commences on July 1, 2023 and extends through June 30, 2024. During this time, aspiring educators will be exempt from paying the typical fees associated with educator certification services, including application fees, renewal fees, and other related costs.

The NJDOE encourages all aspiring teachers to take advantage of this remarkable opportunity and embark on their journey to becoming licensed educators. Aspiring teachers can visit the Department of Education's certification [website](#) or reach out to their local county offices of education for more information on the application process and the benefits of the Certification Fee Holiday.

The Certification Fee Holiday reaffirms New Jersey's commitment to bolstering the educator pipeline, recognizing the important role of educators in shaping the future of the state and society. It is a clear demonstration of New Jersey's dedication to promoting excellence in education and fostering an environment that attracts and retains top-tier teaching talent.