

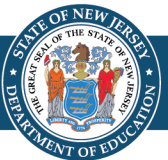
New Jersey Department of Education



Bridge Year Pilot Program State Board of Education Meeting

February 2, 2022

Office of Career Readiness





Bridge Year Purpose



Provides students in the graduating classes of 2021 and 2022 with the opportunity to defer graduation from high school for one year to offset disruptions to learning opportunities and participation in extracurricular activities that might have resulted from the closure of schools for in-person instruction in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



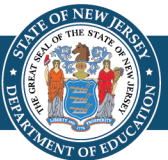


Host High School



The Host High School is the high school that a student who pursues a bridge year attended as a junior. Each Host High School must:

- Provide eligible students with the opportunity to pursue a bridge year;
- Designate a staff member as a Bridge Year Liaison; and
- Permit a student pursuing a bridge year to participate in graduation ceremonies with the graduating class of 2021 or 2022, as applicable, or at the conclusion of the student's bridge year.





Bridge Year Liaison Responsibilities



The responsibilities of the Host High School's Bridge Year Liaison include to:

- Serve as the host high school's point of contact for students who are interested in participating in a bridge year;
- Facilitate planning of academic services;
- Communicate regularly with the host high school's respective county college regarding the academic progress of students participating in a bridge year;
- Develop individual learning plans (ILPs) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-6.6; and
- Collect and report attendance according to the host high school's policy and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6.





Student Eligibility & Participation



To be eligible to participate, a student must:

- Meet all applicable State and local high school graduation requirements by the end of senior year of high school;
- Provide notice of intent to pursue a bridge year to host high school's bridge year liaison no later than February 15 of their senior year;
- Remain enrolled in the host high school while participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program;
- Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 while fulfilling the credit requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-6.7; and
- Be 19 years of age or younger and shall not turn 20 years of age by June 30 of the bridge year.
 - Exception: A student with disabilities who has satisfied State and local graduation requirements but may need an extra year of services, and will not turn 21 years old before June 30, may participate.





Individual Learning Plans (ILP)



The ILP must:

- Define the student's academic and extracurricular goals;
- Be developed by multidisciplinary team that is knowledgeable of educational, behavioral, emotional, social and health needs of the student; and
- Be completed by June 1 of the student's senior year.
It may be updated or modified during the bridge year to ensure student is progressing toward goals.



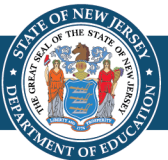


Academic & Course Requirements



A Bridge Year student must meet the following academic and course requirements:

- During the fall semester of the bridge year, students shall take between nine and 12 credits at the host high school, the county college that serves the county of the host high school, or a combination thereof;
- During the spring semester of the bridge year, students shall take between nine and 12 credits at the county college that serves the county of the host high school;
- During either semester, students may take up to three credits offered by a four-year institution of higher education at any high school in the State; and
- Credits must together form a coordinated sequence of academic content that prepares the student for high-skill, high wage, or in-demand occupations.





Athletic & Extracurricular Activities



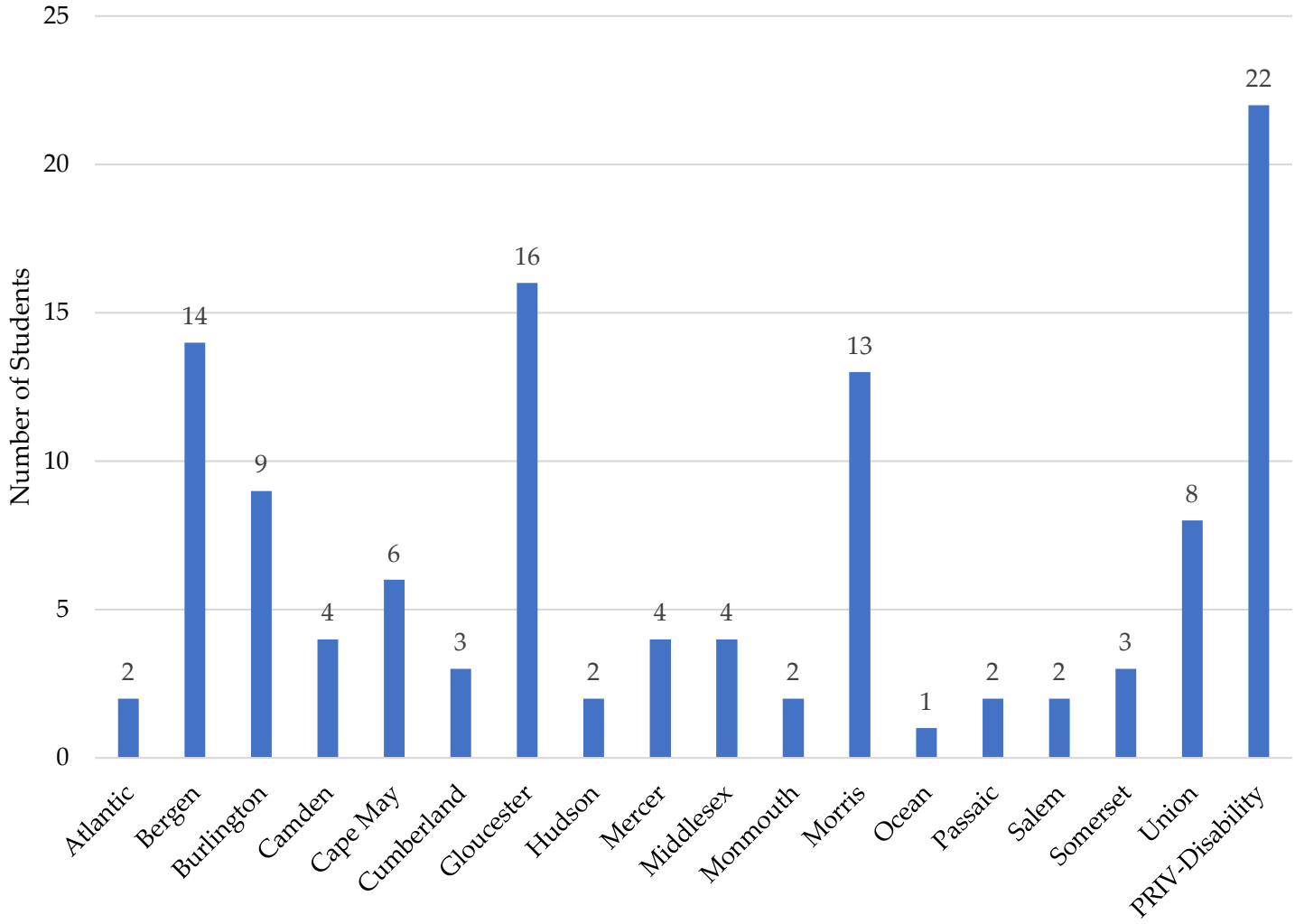
The following athletic & extracurricular options are available to Bridge Year students:

- A student in a bridge year may participate in a **spring** sport sanctioned by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) and other extracurricular activities (spring or fall) at the host high school. To participate in a spring sport during the bridge year, the student shall meet all of the NJSIAA's eligibility requirements.
 - A student participating in a spring sport or extracurricular activity during the bridge year shall be subject to the host high school's applicable codes, rules, or policies.





Bridge Year Enrollment by County



Thank You



[Office of Career Readiness Website](#)

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