

PHILIP D. MURPHY Governor TAHESHA L. WAY Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

KEVIN DEHMER Commissioner

December 4, 2025

Ms. Gabrielle M. Casieri, President New Jersey Association of School Librarians PO Box 1460 Springfield, NJ 07081

Approval of Overnight Travel Waiver for 2026 Annual Conference Re:

Dear Ms. Casieri:

The New Jersey Department of Education has reviewed your request submitted on behalf of the Joint Conference sponsored by the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) and the New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) seeking a waiver of the in-state overnight travel restriction to support the Annual Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, scheduled for February 17 - 19, 2026.

Under N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.11 and the State Department of Treasury OMB Circular 16-11, reimbursement for in-state overnight travel is generally prohibited. However, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.11(c), exceptions may be granted for events that are broad and multidisciplinary in scope, comprised of content-rich educational programming, and offer important professional development opportunities or required training. After carefully reviewing your submission, it has been determined that the conference meets these criteria and is hereby approved.

## **Waiver Approval Details:**

- Overnight lodging reimbursement is approved for February 17 & 18, 2026 only.
- Reimbursement is limited to attendees whose one-way commute exceeds 50 miles.
- Registration fees, mileage, and meals may be reimbursed per the OMB Circulars 20-04 and 16-11.
- Districts must ensure attendance is limited to staff whose roles align with the conference's purpose or continuing education requirements.

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We appreciate NJASL and NJLA's commitment to advancing public education and wish you a successful event.

Sincerely,

Kevin Dehmer Commissioner

KD/DC/mp

c: Senior Staff

**Executive County Superintendent**