

# New Jersey Schools to Watch

Growing, Learning, and  
Succeeding!



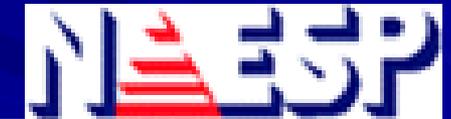
# WHAT IS NJSTW?

- NJSTW is a middle grades improvement program sponsored by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform.
- New Jersey is one of 19 Schools to Watch states.

# WHAT IS THE NATIONAL FORUM?

- The Forum is a group of educators, researchers, state and regional school leaders, and national associations and foundations dedicated to improving education for middle-grades students.

W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

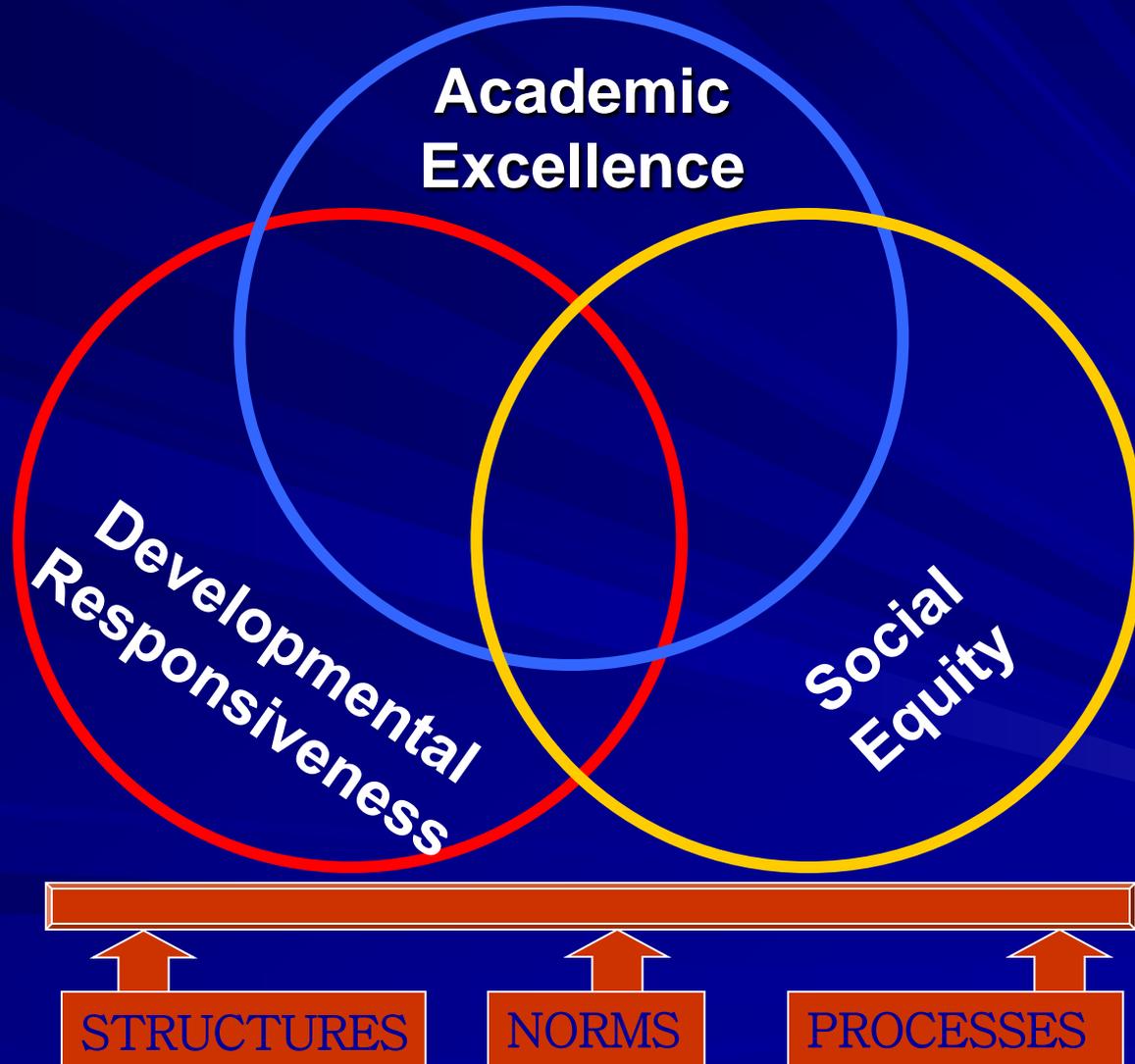


# New Jersey Schools To Watch

- Schools to Watch is grounded in research
  - Turning Points
  - This We Believe
  - Breaking Ranks in the Middle



# SCHOOLS TO WATCH



# Academic Excellence

## Vision Statement

The school challenges all students to use their minds well, providing them with the curriculum, instruction, assessment, support and time they need to meet rigorous academic standards.

## STW Criteria

- All students are expected to meet high academic standards.
- Curriculum, instruction, assessment, and appropriate interventions are aligned with standards and are rigorous.

# Developmental Responsiveness

## Vision Statement

The school creates small learning communities of adults and students in which stable, close, and mutually respectful relationships support all students' intellectual, ethical, and social growth.

## STW Criteria

- The school creates a personalized environment that supports each student's intellectual, ethical, social, and physical development.
- The school provides access to comprehensive services to foster healthy physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development.

# Social Equity

## Vision Statement

The school has high expectations for all students and is committed to helping each child produce work of high quality.

## STW Criteria

To the fullest extent possible, all students including English learners, students with disabilities and gifted students, participate in heterogeneous classes with high academic and behavioral expectations.

# Organizational Structures & Processes

## Vision Statement

There are norms, structures, and organizational arrangements that support and sustain the school's trajectory toward excellence in all areas.

## STW Criteria

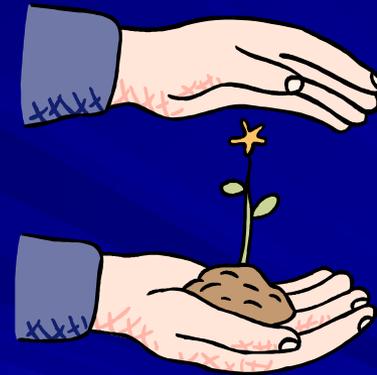
A shared vision of what a high-performing school is and does drives every facet of school change. The principal has the responsibility and authority to hold the school-improvement enterprise together, including day-to-day know-how, coordination, strategic planning, and communication.

# **New Jersey Schools to Watch**

- **Theme: Growing, Learning and Succeeding**
- **Target: Any school with grades 6, 7, and/or 8**
- **Does not have to be a “middle school”**
- **Must show steady improvement and commitment to the needs of the whole child**

# New Jersey Schools to Watch

- **Four Part Application process**
  - Principal's Checklist
  - Self-Study and Rating Rubric
  - Application and Narrative
  - Site Visits



# New Jersey Schools to Watch

- Principal's Checklist
  - 12 key elements of a STW
  - Should be completed by principal and other members of the school's administrative team
  - Indicates "readiness" to take next steps



# New Jersey Schools to Watch

## ■ Self-Study and Rating Rubric

- Should be completed by all school personnel
- Should be discussed with all personnel and ratings addressed in narrative
- Can involve parents, students, and community members in a separate rating process

# New Jersey Schools to Watch

## ■ Self-Study and Rating Rubric

- Ratings are averaged for each element
- Two options available for determining final scores
- Final scores are submitted online with the application

# Online Application

- All applications must be submitted online; paper applications will not be accepted
- District Web User Administrator must establish a school-level account to access application
- Application will be posted on NJDOE Homeroom @ <http://homeroom.state.nj.us/>

# Online Application

DocumentR - Microsoft Word

NJDOE Homeroom - Windows Internet Explorer

http://homeroom.state.nj.us/

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Windows Live Live Search What's New Profile Mail Photos Calendar MSN Sign in

NJDOE Homeroom

## Welcome to the NJDOE Homeroom

**Important Information PLEASE READ!**  
Web Administrator Account information (form that was faxed to the NJDOE) only provides access to the Web User Administrator System. To access any of the Data Collection Systems you need to have your district's Web Administrator create a user account for those systems.

<b>Web User Administrator</b> <a href="#">ADDL</a> <a href="#">AMAO</a> <a href="#">AYP</a>  <a href="#">BYRD</a> <sup>new</sup> <a href="#">Ch192-193</a> <a href="#">Charter Admin</a> <a href="#">CHE</a> <a href="#">CSSD</a>  <a href="#">DSDC</a> <a href="#">EVVRS</a> <a href="#">EXAID</a> <a href="#">EWEG</a> <a href="#">FICA</a>	<b>Data Collection Information Center</b> Ch 192-193 Additional Funding AMAO Data Report Adequate Yearly Progress Data Charts Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Report of Nonpublic Auxiliary and Handicapped Services Charter School Administration System Charter School Enrollment System CSSD Tuition System Debt Service Data Collection Electronic Violence, Vandalism, Substance Abuse Reporting System Application for Special Education Extraordinary Aid Grants: IDEA, NCLB, PERKINS and Discretionary Social Security Contributions	<b>News Of The Day</b> April 22, 2009 <b>Active Systems</b> ADDL AMAO AYP  BYRD <sup>new</sup> Charter Admin CHE CSSD DSDC EVVRS EXAID EWEG FICA ISGE NPCR PARS21
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# New Jersey Schools to Watch

home | sign out

## >> Gilmore J. Fisher M.S.

**EWING TOWNSHIP**  
1325 Lower Ferry Road  
Ewing, NJ 08618-1409

**Year: 2009-10**

### Resources

- PowerPoint Presentation ([PPT](#) | [PDF](#))
- Application ([PDF](#))
- Principal's Checklist ([MS Word](#) | [PDF](#))
- NJSTW Rubric ([MS Word](#) | [PDF](#))

### Application Form

Part A:

[Contact Information](#)  
[School's Coordinating Team](#)

Completed  
20 Team Members

[Part B: Narrative](#)

Completed

Part C: State Assessment Data

[New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge \(NJASK6\)](#)  
[New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge \(NJASK7\)](#)  
[New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge \(NJASK8\)](#)

[Part D: Student Attendance](#)

2.54%

# Online Application

- Data must be entered into all fields and all questions must be answered
- Edit checks - error message will appear if data is missing and must be entered before data can be saved
- Be sure to save your response after entering data in each section

# Narrative

- Provides a snapshot of the school
- Must present and analyze assessment data and suspension data
- Each narrative response should be limited to 800 words
- Formatting of text is not available

# Narrative

- One additional file may be uploaded (optional) for questions 1(g) and 2 (a) in the narrative (.pdf, .doc and .xls files, not to exceed 1MB)
- Two step process for uploading files: upload and save

# Online Application

- Submission will include completed application, Self-Study and Rating Rubric (final scores) and narrative
- Be sure to print out a copy of your completed application for your records and fax Part G: Conditions and Agreements to (609) 984-5347
- **“Submit to DOE”** will appear at the bottom of the homepage after all sections of the application have been completed. Click this icon to submit your application

# New Jersey Schools to Watch

- Application deadline: October 14, 2011, by 4:00 pm
- Applications are reviewed by a panel of educators which include STW partners
- A number of schools are selected for site visits

# New Jersey Schools to Watch

## ■ Two Levels for Site Visits

1. Preliminary (2-3 hours)

2. Full (entire day)

# New Jersey Schools to Watch

## ■ Full Site Visit

- A team interviews parents, students, teachers, and administrators and conducts walk-throughs of all classrooms
- Schools that are visited are not guaranteed selection as a NJSTW

# New Jersey Schools to Watch

- A school's designation is a combination of:
  - Results of the rating rubric and how it is addressed in the application
  - Application and narrative
  - Site visits
  - Any significant changes in test scores, staffing, or school configuration

# New Jersey Schools to Watch

- Schools are designated for three years only
- Schools must participate in professional development (e.g., conferences)
- Schools must be willing to allow visitations from other schools
- Schools must continue to improve and focus on STW principles

# New Jersey Schools to Watch

- At the end of the 3 years, schools must reapply for designation
- Schools cannot use the NJSTW name or logo of National Forum if they are not designated

# NJSTW

## Professional Development Program

- Every school that applies will receive feedback on their application
  - Strengths, areas for improvement, and areas not addressed
- Every designated school gets recommendations for continuing improvement

# NJSTW APPLICATIONS

- If you applied last year:
  - Review the school-specific recommendations and feedback
  - Be sure you tell us how/when you are making the suggested changes
  - Conduct another self-rating and discuss the results in this year's application
  - Answer every question!

# NJSTW APPLICATIONS

- If this is your first application
  - Review the materials on the website including the FAQ
  - Analyze the results of the self-rating rubric
  - Answer every question!
  - Be clear, concise, but descriptive!

# **New Jersey Schools to Watch**

**For information contact:**

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New Jersey Schools to Watch  
New Jersey Department of Education  
Office of Career and Technical Education  
(609) 633-0665**

**<http://www.nj.gov/education/dsis/stw/>**

**[NJSTWapps@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:NJSTWapps@doe.state.nj.us)**