



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Acting Commissioner

August 22, 2011

Dear Superintendents and Early Childhood Administrators:

Enclosed you will find information concerning two professional development opportunities being offered by the Division of Early Childhood Education that are both timely and designed to strengthen early childhood programming and practice throughout the early childhood years, with a particular focus on strengthening the quality of kindergarten throughout the state. The first initiative, The Kindergarten Seminar, is being offered to all kindergarten teachers throughout the state. The seminar will provide participating teachers with developmentally appropriate and effective teaching strategies using the standards to support children's development and learning at this grade level using the new state *Kindergarten Implementation Guidelines*.

For the second initiative, The Division of Early Childhood Education in collaboration with Advocates for Children of New Jersey and The Foundation for Educational Administration will offer for the third time, The PreK-3rd Leadership Training Series for all administrators responsible for preschool through third grade classrooms (superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, assistant principals, curriculum directors, supervisors, etc.). Similar to the above seminar offered to teachers, The PreK-3rd Leadership Training Series will use the kindergarten year as a lens to understand best early childhood practices within the PreK-3rd continuum while addressing topics central to the new state *Kindergarten Implementation Guidelines*. The PreK-3rd Leadership Training Series, funded through a grant from The Foundation for Child Development, will be preceded by the third annual PreK-3rd Leadership Conference to be held on October 28, 2011 at Brookdale Community College. Starting on August 24th you may register for this year's conference, entitled *Looking Back and Looking Ahead: Developing Strong Kindergartens within the PreK-3rd Continuum*, by accessing this link http://wfc2.wiredforchange.com/o/8716/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=69859

The Division of Early Childhood Education and all collaborating groups strongly urge potential participants to sign up for the professional development opportunities in teams that consist of administrators and teachers from the same districts. Please find pertinent details and registration information for The Kindergarten Seminar as well as The PreK-3rd Leadership Training Series below.

For other opportunities offered by The Division of Early Childhood Education, please visit our calendar at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/calendar/>.

Sincerely,



Renee Whelan, Ed.D.
Education Program Development Specialist
Division of Early Childhood Education



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Education Program Development Specialist
Division of Early Childhood Education

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Enclosure

c: Members, State Board of Education
Acting Commissioner Christopher Cerf
Andrew Smarick
Senior Staff
Ellen Wolock
James McBee
Executive County Superintendents
Members, NJ LEE Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools

Kindergarten Seminar

The purpose of the course is to develop kindergarten teacher leaders and enhance the quality of kindergarten classrooms throughout the state through the use of the *Kindergarten Implementation Guidelines*. The goal is to help children reach maximum potential as learners through age-appropriate experiences in kindergarten. **Please note that participants must register for and attend all sessions within a given region.**

North

Location: Morris County Public Safety Training Academy

500 W. Hanover Avenue

Parsippany, NJ 07054

Phone: (973) 285-2979

Dates: October 21st, November 18th, December 16th, January 27th, February 24th, March 16th, and April 20th.

Directions: <http://www.morrisacademy.org/directions.asp>

Registration Link: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/month/?month=10&year=2011>

Central

Location: Hmielecki School, Perth Amboy Public Schools

925 Amboy Avenue

Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Phone: (732) 376-5460

Dates: October 19th, November 16th, December 14th, January 25th, February 15th, March 14th and April 18th

Registration Link: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/month/?month=10&year=2011>

South

Location: Camden County Educational Services Commission

225 White Horse Avenue

Clementon, NJ 08021

Phone: (856) 784-2100

Dates: October 19th, November 30th, December 14th, January 25th, February 22nd, March 13th and April 18th

Registration Link: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/month/?month=10&year=2011>

The PreK-3rd Leadership Training Series

The course will consist of two separate tracks, comprised of regionally located sessions. **Please note that participants must register for and attend all sessions within a given Track.** Each session will run from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

Leadership Training, Track I: This track is developed for administrators of preschool through third grade classrooms who have not previously attended the PreK-3rd Leadership Training Series. Administrators responsible for preschool through third grade classrooms can expect to learn how to support the PreK-3rd continuum in a way that is consistent with research and early childhood best practices while using the kindergarten year as a lens to understand best practices in early childhood as well as addressing topics central to the new state *Kindergarten Implementation Guidelines*. In addition, participants will utilize tools to assess and refine classroom practices, recognize how to use data-driven decision making to promote student achievement and family engagement and develop strategies that support teachers in differentiating instruction for all learners. Track I will occur in the following locations:

North

Location: Learning Resource Center- Morris Plains
104 The American Road
Morris Plains, NJ 07950
(973) 631-6345

*Dates: **December 6th**, **January 20th**, **March 13th** and **April 24th** (Snow Date: May 18th)*

Directions: <http://www.nj.gov/education/lrc/dir2lrcns.pdf>

Registration Link: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/month/?month=12&year=2011>

Central

Location: FEA/NJPSA
12 Centre Drive
Monroe Twp., NJ 08831
(609)860-1200

Directions: <http://www.njpsa.org/directions.cfm>

*Dates: **November 29th**, **January 18th**, **March 15th**, and **April 19th** (Snow Date: May 22nd)*

Registration Link: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/month/?month=11&year=2011>

South

Location: Pemberton Early Childhood Center
100 Arney's Mt. Road, Pemberton, NJ 08068

Directions: <http://www.pemberton.k12.nj.us/information/directions.aspx>

*Dates: **December 5th**, **January 24th**, **March 7th**, and **April 17th** (Snow Date: April 25th)*

Registration Link: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/month/?month=12&year=2011>

PreK-3rd Leadership Training Work Groups: This track is developed for administrators of preschool through third grade classrooms who attended the PreK-3rd Leadership Training Series in 2009-2010 or 2010-2011 and are interested in focusing on the kindergarten year as a catalyst for more in-depth study of PreK-3rd issues. In addition, this Track will provide participants with opportunities to discuss PreK- 3rd grade initiatives occurring within their own districts by forming PreK-3rd grade work groups collaboratively designed by participants and instructors to address issues that arise with the implementation of such initiatives. Track II will occur in the following locations:

Central

Location: FEA/NJPSA
12 Centre Drive
Monroe Twp., NJ 08831
(609)860-1200

Directions: <http://www.njpsa.org/directions.cfm>

Dates: **January 26th, March 23rd and May 24th** (*Snow Date: April 25th*)

Registration Link: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/month/?month=01&year=2012>

South

Location: EIRC/Learning Resource Center South Jersey Technology Park
107 Gilbreth Parkway, Suite 200
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
(856)-582-7000

Directions: <http://www.nj.gov/education/lrc/dir2lracs.pdf>

Dates: **January 27th, March 21st and May 16th** (*Snow Date: May 11th*)

Registration Link: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/month/?month=01&year=2012>