



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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February 16, 2011

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Suzanne Ochse, Director
Office of Student Achievement and Accountability

RE: Title I Schoolwide Programs

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to advise you of the process for schools to apply for Title I schoolwide status. In the past, the NJDOE conducted a review of the required Unified Plan and Application to Operate a Schoolwide Program prior to granting a Title I school approval to implement a Title I schoolwide program. The school had to demonstrate compliance with the federal requirements prior to submitting the application to the NJDOE.

In order to ensure timely implementation at the start of the school year, the new process will begin during the prior school year. Any school that wishes to implement a Title I schoolwide program beginning in the 2011-2012 school year must notify the NJDOE by completing the 2011-2012 Intent to Operate A Title I Schoolwide Program (attached) and faxing to the Office of Student Achievement and Accountability at 609-633-6874 by March 1, 2011.

Eligible schools may choose to operate a Title I schoolwide program as a means to upgrade the educational program of the entire school. The Title I schoolwide process encourages schools to make *significant, even radical, changes* in how they do business and provides them with a comprehensive process for doing so. Attached is the "Title I Schoolwide Program Guidance" for more information.

The United States Department of Education's (USDE) rules for Title I schoolwide programs are as follows:

- Schools must have a student poverty rate of 40 percent or higher;
- Conduct one-year of planning;
- Consultation with the school's stakeholders; and
- Completion of a Title I Unified Plan which includes the required federal schoolwide components.

The USDE has issued guidance regarding Title I schoolwide programs as follows:

- “Designing Schoolwide Programs” specifically addresses the program requirements:
<http://www.nj.gov/education/title1/leg/>
- “Title I Fiscal Issues” addresses consolidating funds in schoolwide programs:
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/fiscalguid.pdf>

The USDE has provided some flexibility to Title I schools who wish to operate a schoolwide program. The district may apply directly to the USDE to waive the 40 percent poverty rate for the school. Additionally, the one year of planning may be waived with sufficient justification that a school improvement plan is currently being implemented.

Upon receipt of the intent, the NJDOE will then work with the school to assist in the planning as well as to facilitate any of the federal flexibility provisions. This may include an on-site visit to provide the school with the necessary support and guidance for full schoolwide implementation in the 2011-2012 school year. Further, the process will help to ensure that the school’s existing program meets the legislative and statutory requirements of a Title I targeted assistance program. The NJDOE will assist to facilitate the school’s transition to a schoolwide program to use the Title I funds for federal supplemental educational opportunities.

If you have any questions about transitioning to a Title I schoolwide program, you may contact the Office of Student Achievement and Accountability by e-mail at titleone@doe.state.nj.us.

SO\title i schoolwide\2010-2011\csa memo-modified process2.doc

Attachment

c: Members, State Board of Education
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