

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

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF Acting Commissioner

July 14, 2011

Dear District Superintendents and Charter School Leaders:

On June 15, the New Jersey Department of Education posted a Notice of Grant Opportunity for LEAs to apply for a new teacher evaluation pilot program. I hope that by now you are aware of this program, <u>Excellent Educators for New Jersey</u> (EE4NJ), and that you are planning to apply.

I am writing today to remind you that two weeks remain before the application deadline of 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 28. The NJ DOE has held two technical assistance sessions about the program, and has posted additional resources and information on the EE4NJ website.

Specifically, I call your attention to the following updates:

- On the <u>NGO Application page</u>, you will find a Sample Communications Plan and Resources to assist in developing the LEA communication plan for the application. You will also find an Alternate Assurance Form for districts that are unable to certify that they have secured a commitment from key stakeholder groups to support the pilot program prior to July 28.
- On the <u>Webinar/Technical Assistance page</u>, you will find the PowerPoint presentation used at both TA sessions (held on June 20 and July 11).
- On the <u>FAQ page</u>, you will find several updated FAQs based on questions received during the TA sessions and via email. These are indicated as new.

If you are planning to apply and have not submitted a Letter of Intent, please send an email to <u>EE4NJ@doe.state.nj.us</u> to indicate the intention of your LEA to apply. This allows the NJDOE to adequately prepare for the selection process.

I am excited to be a member of the NJDOE team working to implement this pilot, and eager to work with those of you who are selected for the program. If you have any questions about the program or application, please contact <u>EE4NJ@doe.state.nj.us</u>.

Sincerely, *Robert L. Bumpus* Robert L. Bumpus Executive County Superintendent Liaison to Commissioner

CHRIS CHRISTIE Governor KIM GUADAGNO

Lt. Governor