



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 24, 2020  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
Route To: County Supervisors of Child Study, Directors of Special Education, Building Principals  
From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Student Services

## **New Jersey Positive Behavior Support in Schools Enrollment Opens to a New Cohort of Schools**

New Jersey Positive Behavior Support in Schools (NJ PBSIS) is a collaboration between the New Jersey Department of Education Office of Special Education and The Boggs Center, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. NJ PBSIS provides comprehensive professional development to support the implementation of tiered interventions for a range of school intervention needs including conduct, behavior and social and emotional wellness. The NJ PBSIS project annually enrolls a cohort of schools that participate in a three-year professional development experience to design and implement a plan for their tiered intervention system. NJ PBSIS is funded by *IDEA Part B* funds. There is no cost to schools or districts to enroll or to receive the professional development. However, schools must successfully complete a competitive application process.

Annually, NJ PBSIS enrolls a new cohort of schools that participate in the multi-year professional development process. The following provides a summary of the enrollment steps:

1. The building principal must participate in one of the orientation webinars.
2. Following the webinar, the principal must complete the Request for Invitation.
3. Once the Request for Invitation is completed, the school is added to the invitation request list.
4. In March, the list is submitted to the NJ Department of Education Office of Special Education for review and approval.
5. Following NJ Department of Education approval, building principals are invited to participate in an application webinar.
6. Following the webinar, the principal must complete the Request for Application.
7. Principals are notified within six weeks the status of their application.

The orientation webinar session will provide a robust description of how tiered interventions can address a range of intervention needs within the school setting, including (a) conduct and behavior, (b) attendance, (c) culture and climate, (d) classroom management and (e) social and emotional wellness. Specific topics covered during this session will include:

- An overview of the intervention tiers, purpose and features;
- A description of the planning process and how that process applies across a range of intervention needs;
- A description of the training and coaching process;
- Priority commitments a principal makes when enrolling their school in the NJ PBSIS Network; and
- Review of the enrollment steps.

It is important to note that PBSIS offers a continuum of supports that can supplement academic tiered supports in a response to intervention (RTI) multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) framework such as the [New Jersey Tiered System of Support](#) (NJTSS).

Principals interested in enrolling their schools in the NJ PBSIS Network **must participate in one of the orientation webinars and complete the follow-up survey after the webinar** in order for their schools to be eligible to apply.

Date	Time	Registration Link
February 19, 2020	10-11:30 a.m.	<a href="#">Register online</a>
March 11, 2020	10-11:30 a.m.	<a href="#">Register online</a>

For additional information about becoming a NJ PBSIS school, please contact Dr. Sharon Lohrmann at [njpbsisinquiries@rwjms.rutgers.edu](mailto:njpbsisinquiries@rwjms.rutgers.edu).

- c: Members, State Board of Education
- Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner
- NJDOE Staff
- Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
- Garden State Coalition of Schools
- NJ LEE Group