



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 2, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Early Learning and Elementary Principals and Teachers, PreK to Grade 3
From: Cary A. Booker, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Early Childhood Services
Deadline: November 15, 2024

Preschool through Third Grade Video Exemplars Submission Project Application

The New Jersey Professional Standards for Teachers encourage teachers to seek leadership roles to advance the teaching profession. To accomplish this, teachers are encouraged to model effective practices for colleagues at the school, district, state, and/or national level.

Key steps/actions

To support early learning best practices, the Division of Early Childhood Services (DECS) is searching for preschool through third grade teachers to model best practices through authentic classroom videos. These brief (no more than 10 minute) video presentations of model practices will be shared during professional learning sessions for colleagues across the state. These videos will become part of the [DECS P–3 Educator Exemplars and Early Learning Experts Video Library](#) which will continually be added to as submissions are reviewed.

The following are practices teachers can volunteer to model and video. In addition to the practices below there are lists of criteria which may be evident when modeling each practice.

Practice: **Flexible Small Group Instruction in a P–3 classroom**

Criteria:

- Children are grouped according to common needs.
- Mathematics, Literacy, Science, or Social Studies lessons may be submitted.
- Teachers are actively assessing students through questioning, prompting, and observations.
- Children are engaged in meaningful discourse.
- Teachers make available any hands- on tools for active participation in the lesson.
- Teachers are actively recording student data to inform instructional plans.
- Developmentally appropriate practices are evident.
- Lessons should integrate social and emotional competencies.

Practice: **Differentiated Centers/Workstations in a P–3 classroom**

Criteria:

- Students are engaged in standards based, differentiated practice, sometimes individually, but usually in pairs or groups.
- Centers/workstations focus on clearly defined learning goals and have clear directions.
- Centers/workstations are aligned to standards (i.e., NJ Preschool Standards, NJSL-S, or NJSL-SS).
- Center/Workstation activities contain materials promoting engagement and individualized student growth by addressing a wide range of readiness levels. For example, some students are working with concrete materials to model concept(s), while others are using pictures and representations to model the concept(s).

- Management tools are in place which assist students to work productively in centers.
- Developmentally appropriate practices are evident.

If interested in modeling any of the aforementioned teaching practices for colleagues across the state, **please complete the application and video submission form** found [HERE](#) by November 15, 2024. Once submitted, the application and video submission will be reviewed. Please ensure that any students being videotaped have a district photo release form completed by their parent or guardian.

If your application and video submission is, or is not, selected, you and your supervisor will be notified via email. We hope you embrace this opportunity to foster ongoing improvement and continuous change in early learning classrooms across the state. Please view our new [DECS P–3 Educator Exemplars and Early Learning Experts Video Library](#).

For and questions, please contact K-3Office@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
 NJDOE Staff
 Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
 Garden State Coalition of Schools
 NJ LEE Group