



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 4, 2024  
 To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities  
 Route To: District Directors of Special Education and Pupil Services Administrators, District Supervisors of Special Education, Principals, Teachers, Child Study Team, Related Service Providers, Board Certified Behavior Analysts  
 From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
 Division of Educational Services  
 Deadline: September 13, 2024

**Community of Practice Opportunities for the 2024-2025 School Year**

**Background**

A community of practice (CoP) is a group of people who share a common interest in something they do, meet regularly, and seek to improve their practice (Wenger & Traynor, 2015). The goal of the CoP is to bring New Jersey public school personnel into a working relationship around a common interest in working with students with disabilities.

The New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education, is pleased to announce the expansion of our CoP offerings for the 2024-2025 school year. In addition to our existing programs, we are introducing two new CoPs to better serve the diverse needs of our education professionals. We invite school personnel to review the expanded CoP offerings (see table below) for the 2024-2025 school year and register to be a member of one of the CoPs. Members of each CoP will be invited to attend all meetings outlined in the “dates” column in the table below for their chosen CoP. To be effective with the CoPs, a limited number of members can sign up. Please review each offering and register for the one that best fits your current role within the district.

**Community of Practice Offerings and Details**

Community of Practice Title	Audience and Brief CoP Overview	Location	Dates	Registration Link
Teachers Supporting Emotional and Behavioral Programs	<b>Audience:</b> Teachers from grades K-12 who provide instruction and support for students in self-contained emotional and behavioral programs. <b>Overview:</b> The CoP will increase knowledge and collaboration aligned to the upcoming release of the <i>Quality Indicators for Emotional and Behavioral Programs</i> resource (see <a href="#">4/19/2023 broadcast</a> for additional information on this resource)	<b>In-Person</b> Learning Resource Center – Central (Trenton)	Oct. 29, 2024 Dec. 3, 2024 Mar. 5, 2025 May 6, 2025	<a href="#">Click here to register</a>
Strengthening Tier One Instruction: UDL Implementation	This community of practice addresses the challenge of creating inclusive instructional environments through Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Participants will gain knowledge and tools	<b>Virtual</b>	Oct. 18, 2024* Jan. 15, 2025* Mar 11, 2025* May 9, 2025*	<a href="#">Click here to register</a>

for School Leaders	to integrate UDL principles in their schools, focusing on flexible and accessible learning environments for all students. They will also explore strategies to build teacher capacity in UDL, ensuring equitable and inclusive education. This workshop is tailored for district administrators committed to supporting teachers in these efforts.		*Virtual sessions	
High Leverage Practices for School Leaders	This CoP will introduce school leaders to High-Leverage Practices (HLPs) and provide practical implementation strategies. Participants will gain an understanding of HLPs and explore tailored strategies for integrating them into instruction. They will also explore how to build teacher capacity in HLP implementation, ensuring teachers are well-supported in delivering high-quality education. This workshop is designed for district administrators, school leaders, instructional coaches, and special education leaders committed to supporting teachers in providing effective and equitable education for all students.	<b>Virtual</b>	Oct 15, 2024* Jan 13, 2025* Mar 10, 2025* May 6, 2025*  *Virtual sessions	<a href="#">Click here to register</a>
Evidence-Driven Leadership: Preparing Schools for the Successful and Sustainable Implementation of EBPs	This CoP addresses a key challenge in many districts: selecting and implementing evidence-based practices (EBPs) for students with disabilities. Beyond choosing effective practices, the CoP will explore the complexities of integrating these practices within each school's unique context. Participants will explore factors that support or inhibit successful implementation. This CoP is tailored for district administrators who are instrumental in shaping educational strategies and ensuring their effective execution.	<b>Virtual and In Person</b> Learning Resource Center – Central (Trenton)	Oct. 10, 2024 Dec. 10, 2024 Feb. 6, 2025* April 7, 2025*  *Virtual sessions	<a href="#">Click here to register for EBPs</a>

**Contact information**

For additional information, please email [OSEInfo@doe.nj.gov](mailto:OSEInfo@doe.nj.gov) . For additional resources on educating and supporting students with disabilities, please visit the [NJDOE Offices of Special Education](#), the [Learning Resource Center Network](#), and the [Office of Special Education Engagement](#) websites.

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