



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 28, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals and Educators
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

9/11 Memorial & Museum Offers Free Professional Development to NJ Schools

Educating students about the September 11, 2001 (9/11) attacks offers vital insights into contemporary global dynamics, shaping students' understanding of recent history and current events. Additionally, teaching about 9/11 offers an opportunity to discuss themes of resilience, unity, and the importance of cross-cultural dialogue in an increasingly interconnected world. Educators play a vital role in ensuring that students understand the significance of this historical moment while fostering compassion and informed citizenship.

The 2020 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Social Studies require instruction on the events of 9/11. We encourage educators to teach about the events and aftermath of September 11, 2001, in a manner that is sensitive to the individual and community experiences of their districts. In order to assist educators in addressing this subject, the [9/11 Memorial & Museum](#) features a variety of free resources and has designed two unique professional development experiences exclusively for New Jersey educators.

- [Onsite Professional Development for NJ District Administrators](#)
 - July 29, 2025 (8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)
 - Hosted at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum (180 Greenwich St., New York City), this program will feature an overview of the Museum's free offerings for New Jersey students and educators, a firsthand account from an individual who experienced the attacks, a guided tour of the Museum, and an exploration of classroom-ready online resources to teach 9/11. Enjoy light refreshments, engaging conversations, and more during this half-day program.
- [Virtual Professional Development for NJ Educators](#)
 - August 20, 2025 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.) or August 26, 2025 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
 - Take an interactive, virtual tour of the Museum and discover free, classroom-ready resources that explore the human impact of 9/11 and help students understand the continuing legacy of the attacks. This workshop is appropriate for 3rd-12th grade educators and will be conducted over Zoom.

Contact information

For additional information, please contact Ashley Woolsey-Greene, Social Studies Coordinator, Office of Standards at socialstudies@doe.nj.gov or reach out to pd@911memorial.org.

c: Members, State Board of Education
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