



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 1, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, Anti-Bullying Specialists
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Opportunity for Districts: New Jersey School Climate Improvement (NJ SCI) Coaching and Consultative Support Cohort

New Jersey local educational agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply to participate in the [NJ SCI Coaching and Consultative Support Cohort](#) to receive individualized support and services for improving school climate and culture from consultants at the School Climate Transformation Project (SCTP) at the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers University for three school years (2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028).

The NJ SCI Coaching and Consultative Cohort is a three-year project designed to assist school districts in building a positive school climate and culture that is inclusive of all students through the utilization of the [New Jersey School Climate Improvement \(NJ SCI\) Survey and Platform](#). The NJ SCI Survey and Platform is a no-cost resource that provides school districts with access to high-quality school climate data and strategic planning tools.

Districts selected to participate in the coaching and consultation support cohort will benefit from:

- Virtual communities of practice during the 2025-2026 school year and 2-3 events each subsequent year.
- On-demand technical assistance and direct coaching support for up to 2 pilot schools in the district. Consultations will be conducted via videoconferencing with the option to schedule up to 2 on-site visits each year.
- Access to eLearning modules that support school teams in data collection, data analysis, goal setting, strategic planning, and implementation monitoring.

Additional information about this opportunity is detailed on the [NJ SCI Coaching and Consultative Support Cohort Overview and Supports flyer](#). To learn more about this opportunity, school officials are invited to take part in an informational webinar and live question-and-answer session on Wednesday, October 8 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Click [here](#) to register via Zoom.

With support from the district superintendent, personnel with knowledge of district practices around school climate and culture should complete the [NJ SCI Coaching and Consultative Support Cohort application](#) by November 11, 2025 and email it to njscisupport@rutgers.edu. Applications may be followed by interviews with district staff, with notifications of acceptance issued in December and project activities beginning in January 2026. Priority in selection will be given to LEAs demonstrating extenuating need and the capacity to meet program requirements.

Key Steps/Actions

- [Register](#) and attend an informational webinar on October 8, 2025 from 11:00 am -12:00 pm.
- Email completed [application](#) by November 11, 2025 to njscisupport@rutgers.edu.

Contact Information

For questions, contact the School Climate Transformation Project at njscisupport@rutgers.edu.

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

