



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 19, 2026
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals and Educators
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to support districts as they commemorate the 25th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. This memo serves as a reminder to districts of the required instruction on 9/11 and provides instructional and professional learning resources. The anniversary provides an important opportunity for students to examine a defining event in American history and consider its lasting impact on local communities, the nation, and the world. New Jersey is home to more than 150 [9/11 memorials](#) that honor the nearly 750 New Jersey lives lost and the enduring effects of the attacks on communities across the state.

Instruction about 9/11 offers opportunities to explore themes of resilience, service, unity, civic responsibility, and cross-cultural understanding. It also encourages students to reflect on how individuals and communities respond to tragedy, support one another during times of crisis, and work toward healing and recovery. Educators play a critical role in helping students understand the significance and legacy of 9/11 while fostering empathy, informed citizenship, and meaningful civic engagement.

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Social Studies require instruction on the events of 9/11. The NJDOE encourages educators to approach this topic in ways that are both age-appropriate and responsive to the unique experiences and perspectives of their students and communities.

To support educators in teaching this sensitive subject, the NJDOE has compiled the following free instructional and professional learning resources:

- [25th Anniversary Professional Development Sessions](#)
 - August 26, 2026, and September 3, 2026
 - These professional learning sessions will help educators effectively use the 9/11 Anniversary Digital Learning Experience and provide classroom-ready instructional resources.
- [9/11 Memorial & Museum: Anniversary Digital Learning Experience](#)
 - Join students and teachers from around the world to commemorate the 25th anniversary of 9/11 by registering for the free 9/11 Memorial & Museum Anniversary

Digital Learning Experience. This year’s program includes a 30-minute film, available on-demand, highlighting first-person accounts of the attacks and their aftermath, and a live chat with Museum staff throughout the day.

- [The 9/11 Day Education Library](#)
 - Free, educator-created K–12 lesson plans, activities, and service-learning resources that help students learn about 9/11 through age-appropriate lessons focused on remembrance, gratitude, civic responsibility, and community service.
- [Library of Congress: September 11, 2001, Documentary Project](#)
 - The Library of Congress September 11, 2001, Documentary Project provides educators and students with a rich collection of eyewitness interviews, personal narratives, photographs, and historical records that document the diverse experiences, reactions, and reflections of Americans in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.
- [National Park Service: Flight 93 National Memorial “Teach to Remember”](#)
 - Professional development: September 3–4, 2026, and September 8, 9, and 11, 2026
 - This free virtual program supports educators in teaching about 9/11 through the story of Flight 93 and offers resources, including pre-recorded videos, interactive live distance learning sessions from the 9/11 Memorial on September 11, 2026, digital resources, and lesson suggestions designed to engage and inspire students in grades 5-12.
- [The Tunnel to Towers 9/11 Curriculum](#)
 - Free, standards-aligned K–12 instructional units and lesson plans based on nonfiction first-person accounts that help students learn about the events of 9/11, heroism, service, and civic responsibility through age-appropriate activities and educator-developed resources.

Contact information

For questions regarding 9/11 instructional resources, please contact the Office of Standards at socialstudies@doe.nj.gov.