



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 4, 2026
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Route To: Directors of Special Education, Child Study Team Members
From: Kim Murray, Ed.D., Director
Office of Special Education
Register by: March 16, 2026

Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conferences

This spring, the New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Special Education (OSE) will sponsor seven regional "Dare to Dream Student Leadership" conferences that highlight strategies to promote self-advocacy skills for middle and high school students with disabilities. Each conference will feature keynote presentations by accomplished students from local educational agencies (LEAs) across the state, as well as young adults with disabilities who have demonstrated exemplary self-advocacy and leadership skills. Additionally, the conference program will include a variety of student-led workshop sessions on topics such as self-discovery, student self-advocacy, preparing to lead your individualized education program (IEP) meeting, and understanding your rights and responsibilities as a high school student in college and the workplace.

The OSE is sponsoring the following conferences this spring:

- The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) in Ewing – April 20, 2026
- William Paterson University in Wayne – May 20, 2026
- Rutgers University in New Brunswick – May 26, 2026
- Rowan University in Glassboro – May 27, 2026
- Stockton University in Galloway – May 28, 2026
- Ramapo College in Mahwah – June 3, 2026
- Ocean County College in Toms River – June 4, 2026

Please encourage staff, students, and parents to participate in this worthwhile conference. **Due to the popularity of these events, registration priority will be given to LEAs that have students presenting a breakout session, musical performance, or keynote presentation.** Please visit the [Office of Special Education website](#) to view a selection of exemplary student keynote presentations.

There is no charge for students, parents, or staff attending this conference. Professional staff from LEAs must provide adequate supervision of their students throughout the event. [Register online](#) for the conference or to find further information on participating in a Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conference.

Contact Information

For questions regarding the Dare to Dream conferences, please email oseinfo@doe.nj.gov.