



For Immediate Release

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Murphy Administration Awards ExPAND Pre-Apprenticeship Grants

Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education announced today the award of nearly \$600,000 in grants to create pre-apprenticeship programs in six New Jersey school districts.

The six districts receiving the Expanding Pre-Apprenticeship in a New Direction (ExPAND) grants will partner with an employer, business/industry association, or a labor/trade organization to create pre-apprenticeship programs in a high-demand industry. In addition, each of the districts will partner with postsecondary institutions to provide college credits for related technical instruction or the on-the-job training component of the pre-apprenticeship program.

Each of the districts will create pre-apprenticeships in one of the career and technical education (CTE) programs or programs of study they currently offer that have been identified by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development as an “industry of focus”: Construction and Energy; Finance; Health Care; Leisure and Hospitality; Life Sciences; Manufacturing; Retail Trade; Technology; or Transportation, Distribution and Logistics.

Ultimately, the pre-apprenticeship program will prepare high-school students, after graduation, to transition to an apprenticeship program that is registered by the United States Department of Labor. In some cases, the pre-apprenticeship grant may credit the student with time toward an apprenticeship program, such as a year toward a four-year apprenticeship.

On January 15, Governor Murphy unveiled [Jobs NJ](#), a statewide strategy designed by key state agencies to better align the state’s workforce to high-growth job opportunities. The ExPAND grant supports a key element of the Jobs NJ initiative: To provide more opportunities for residents to gain the skills they need for high-quality jobs.

“The goal of Jobs NJ is to close the gap between the needs of employers and the skills of prospective employees,” **said Governor Murphy**. “The ExPAND grant aligns with that vision, providing young people with the training and education they need for high-demand jobs.”

“We often talk about providing options and opportunities that allow high-school graduates to move on to successful careers, even if they choose not to go to college,” **said Dr. Lamont Repollet, Commissioner of Education**. “These kinds of partnerships with school districts, industry and higher education can give young people the real-world experience they need for success after high school.”

The [Notice of Grant Opportunity](#) provides additional information on the ExPAND grant.

Districts that received ExpAND grants include:

School District	CTE Program(s)/Program(s) of Study	Pre-Apprenticeship Career Focus	Partners
Somerset County Vocational and Technical Schools	Mechatronics, Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing	Operating Engineer and Advanced Manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825 • Raritan Valley Community College
West Orange Public Schools	Culinary Arts	Culinary Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Culinary Federation Education Foundation • Hudson County Community College
Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District	Culinary Arts	Cook Apprenticeship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic Cape Community College • Unite Here Local 54
Hudson County Schools of Technology	Design and Fabrication	Advanced Manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hudson County Community College • New Jersey Institute of Technology • Eastern Millworks • Drape Kings
Salem County Vocational Technical Schools	Allied Health	Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salem Community College • New Jersey Department of Health • Friends Village and Woodstown • Southgate Healthcare Center
Wildwood City School District	Culinary Arts	Culinary Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic Cape Community College • Chartwells

All districts were awarded \$100,000 except Greater Egg Harbor (\$99,978) and Salem County Vo-Tech (\$88,013)

