



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

For Immediate Release

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Contact: [Shaheed M. Morris](#)

(609) 376-9072

NJ Department of Education Podcast Highlights Special Education Week

Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will highlight innovations in special education during its “DOE Digest” podcast on Thursday, May 13. The episode is titled, “Thinking Outside the Box – Parent Collaboration and Special Education.”

“Special education provides children with disabilities the tools they need to perform to the best of their ability in a supportive environment,” said Acting Assistant Commissioner of Student Services Kathleen Ehling. “The DOE Digest raises awareness around special education and how the supports and services can benefit students. Students with disabilities who receive the supports and services they need through special education achieve success both in and outside of the classroom.”

The podcast comes during Special Education Week, an opportunity to honor and recognize students with learning challenges, and the teachers who help them realize their full potential. As part of the ongoing discussion, a statewide live Twitter chat will be held on Tuesday, May 18, at 8:30 p.m.

“At the New Jersey Department of Education, we believe that educational partnerships with parents and guardians are vital to student success,” said Kenneth Bond, Acting Director of the NJDOE’s Office of the Professional Learning Network and the program moderator. “As our state celebrates Special Education Week, I was thrilled to talk with educators and parents about how they collaborate to strengthen education for students receiving special education services.”

The guests on the podcast are Dr. Paul Barbato, director of Special Services in Dumont Public Schools in Middlesex County; Kasey Dudley, a project director of SPAN Parent Advocacy Network and Healthy Schools in Essex County; Ginny Bryant, a Mercer County resident who is active with the Boggs Center; and Jodi Mahoney, a principal in South Brunswick in Middlesex County.

Visit the [DOE Digest](#) to tune in to the May podcast on special education. The DOE Digest podcast with transcripts is also available on the [NJDOE’s website](#).

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