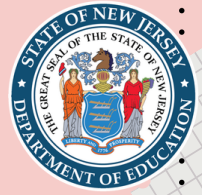


Are you a young person currently not in school?



There are real options to get your diploma or credential, on your own terms, at your own pace.

NEW JERSEY YOUTH RE-ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

Leaving school doesn't close every door. New Jersey has multiple paths to get your diploma, your GED, or job-ready credentials — and many programs offer free support, flexible schedules, and even paid training.

OPTION 1: RETURN TO YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Reenroll in your local high school (or an alternative program your district runs)

If you're under 20, you have the right to reenroll in your home school district in New Jersey. You keep your credits — you won't start from zero. Many districts also run evening schools, credit recovery programs, or alternative high school programs designed for students who need a different setting.

OPTION 2: EARN YOUR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (GED)

GED (General Educational Development)

The GED is a nationally recognized high school equivalency credential. Pass 4 subject tests (Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading & Writing) and you'll have something employers and colleges accept just like a diploma. NJ has free prep classes, and you can take it at any age.

OPTIONS 3 & 4: ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS & WORKFORCE TRAINING

YOUTHBUILD NEW JERSEY

Get paid while earning your GED and learning construction or other trade skills. YouthBuild programs combine education, job training, and leadership — and are designed specifically for young people who've left school.

ADULT EDUCATION

County-run adult education centers, like County Colleges, offer free GED prep, basic skills, and workforce training. Classes are often evenings or weekends so you can work while you learn. No pressure, no judgment.

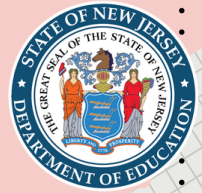
ONE STOP CAREER CENTERS

These free centers connect young people to job training, career counseling, resume help, and education programs. They have staff specifically for young adults (ages 16–24) through a program called WIOA Youth.

NJ YOUTH CORPS

A free, full-time program where you earn your GED while doing community service and job training. You also get a stipend, meals, and connections to employment. Ages 16–25.

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HOW TO GET STARTED

01

FIGURE OUT YOUR GOAL

Diploma? GED? Job skills? Knowing what you want helps you pick the right path.

02

CONTACT YOUR COUNTY

Call your local school district or adult ed center. Ask what's available for your age.

03

BRING YOUR RECORDS

Old transcripts help transfer credits — but don't worry if you can't find them.

04

SHOW UP ONCE

Most programs start with a free intake meeting. No commitment required to learn more.

KEY RESOURCES IN NEW JERSEY

RETURN TO SCHOOL

Your Local School District

[Find your district](#)

JOB TRAINING

NJ One Stop Career Centers

[Find your local center](#)

TRADE & DIPLOMA

YouthBuild USA - NJ Programs

[Find a YouthBuild program](#)

GED & SERVICE

NJ YouthCorps

[Learn about NJ YouthCorps](#)

GED INFORMATION

NJ Department of Education:
Adult Education

[Learn about getting your GED](#)

ONLINE GED PREP

GED.com - Official Site

[Learn about online prep classes](#)

Not sure where to start? That's okay.

Visit [Disconnection Prevention and Student Re-engagement](#) or email StayEngagedNJ@doe.nj.gov