



## **NJDOE News**

**For More Information Contact the Public Information Office:**

**Jon Zlock**  
**Kathryn Forsyth, Director**  
**609-292-1126**

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### **DOE to Host First Algebra Institute for Abbott Schools**

The Department of Education next week will host an Algebra Institute for 10 Abbott school districts to improve teacher instruction and increase student achievement so pupils are better prepared to graduate high school and enter college with sound math skills.

The five-day workshop begins Monday, July 25 at the Mercer County Community College Conference Center in West Windsor. Assistant Commissioner Gordon MacInnes, who oversees the Abbott office, will open the institute with remarks at 9 a.m.

Reporters and photographers are invited to attend and cover both the Assistant Commissioner's remarks and the conference.

"Starting last year with the creation of the Math Task Force, this Administration has focused our efforts on increasing student performance in this very important subject," said Acting Gov. Richard J. Codey. "We need to help students and teachers so they are better prepared to tackle and solve math equations, formulas and problems. That is what this institute is all about."

"We stress teaching all Abbott students the core standards they're expected to learn," Assistant Commissioner MacInnes said. "We want Abbott students to take the same college-preparatory mathematics common in other districts. Algebra is the gatekeeper course to college entry. With that foundation, we know they will show results in math in high school and beyond."

The districts participating in the institute are: Asbury Park, Burlington, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Irvington, Passaic, Paterson, Perth Amboy, Trenton and Orange. More than 90 people will be attending.

The Algebra Institute is the first of a number of programs the Office of Abbott Implementation is holding as part of the Secondary Education Initiative. The basic premise of the initiative is to provide workshops and programs lead to successful classroom instruction for students in Abbott classrooms.

Next week's institute will focus on the following:

- big ideas in algebraic thinking and important mathematical relationships;
- effective student learning of challenging concepts;
- enhancing instructional practice in algebra classrooms;
- assisting teachers in the design of standards-based lesson plans for algebra instruction; and
- increasing the use of technology in mathematics instruction and learning.

For more information, please contact the Department of Education Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.