



## NJDOE News

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### **Governor's Initiative Leverages \$9 Million in Grants for In-District Program Options for Students with Disabilities**

New Jersey school districts now have the opportunity to apply for new grants that would allow them to develop and implement programs for students with disabilities in general education settings. A notice of grant opportunity for *The Governor's Initiative: Enhancing and Expanding In-district Program Options for Students with Disabilities*, has been posted on the Department of Education Web-site. Applications are due on March 15, 2007.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that our schools are providing the best education possible for all students," said Governor Jon S. Corzine. "These new grants will foster growth and innovation in local special education programs and provide students with additional opportunities to be educated in their own communities."

"The goals of the Governor's new grant program address the need to enhance and expand programs within local districts," said Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy. "Through these grants, more students with disabilities will be able to go to school with friends and neighbors and participate in academic as well as extracurricular activities."

The Governor's Initiative: Enhancing and Expanding In-district Program Options for Students with Disabilities, will be funded with a blend of state and federal funds, in equal amounts of \$4.5 million each. In addition to providing opportunities to fund local efforts to enhance and expand in-district programs for students with disabilities, grant funds are intended to encourage, where possible, planning across districts for a more effective and efficient approach to meet the academic needs of students with disabilities.

Grant awards will range between \$100,000 and \$500,000, dependent on the district's total enrollment of students with disabilities.

*The Governor's Initiative: Enhancing and Expanding In-district Program Options for Students with Disabilities*, is a competitive grant program, open to local school districts, charter schools and regional special education public service providers, such as special services school districts, educational services commissions, jointure commissions, and the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf, according to the eligibility criteria specified in the Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO).

A technical assistance workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to noon and repeated from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, February 2, at the Holiday Inn, National Conference Center, in East Windsor. Interested applicants can register online at:

<http://education.state.nj.us/events>

The grant program will run for 25 months, from June 1, 2007, to June 30, 2009.

The NGO is posted on the New Jersey Department of Education Web-site at:

[www.nj.gov/njded/grants/gropgs.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/njded/grants/gropgs.shtml)

For the grant application to be complete, the NGO must be used in combination with the Discretionary Grant Application, available online at:

[www.nj.gov/njded/grants/discretionary/apps](http://www.nj.gov/njded/grants/discretionary/apps)