



NJDOE News

For More Information Contact the Public Information Office:

**Beth Auerswald
Richard Vespucci
Kathryn Forsyth, Director
609-292-1126**

For Immediate Release: June 9, 2009

Commissioner Davy Selects 16 Schools for Pilot Program To Implement Personalized Student Learning Plans

Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy today announced that 16 schools have been selected to participate in the department's Personalized Student Learning Plan (PSLP) pilot program, which will be launched during the 2009-2010 school year.

The selected middle and high schools - including a charter school and a vocational school - will participate in a two-year trial to implement PSLPs at the 6th- and 9th-grade levels. The six middle schools and 10 high schools chosen for the pilot represent urban, suburban and rural districts from 12 counties throughout the state. In three districts, both a middle school and a high school are part of the program.

Participants were chosen from among 90 applicant schools in 66 districts through a competitive process.

PSLPs are one facet of Governor Corzine's and DOE's effort to transform secondary education to better prepare students for the workforce and college. The plans utilize adult mentors, including parents, teachers and counselors, to help students recognize and achieve their education goals.

"It is imperative that we increase the rigor of our high schools to better prepare children for work and college, but it is equally important to help students get a better grasp on where they are headed," said Commissioner Davy. "The interest we received from schools wanting to take part in this pilot shows that this initiative has the potential to have a tremendous effect on the quality of each and every child's education and future."

During the two-year pilot, PSLPs will be studied to determine how to best use the plans to help students focus on their individual personal, academic and career development needs and goals.

Plans will be utilized during the first year for all 6th and 9th graders in the pilot schools. The same students will continue using the plans as 7th and 10th graders throughout the 2010-2011 school year -- the same year that new plans will be created for the incoming students in the two lower grades at each participating school.

DOE will decide after reviewing the pilot program's outcomes whether to recommend that learning plans will be infused as part of the high school redesign and utilized for all students from 6th grade to graduation from high school. The pilot will allow DOE to identify sample formats for PSLPs and the process to guide their implementation in other districts throughout the state.

"PSLPs offer students a framework for setting goals and mapping out their future," said Commissioner Davy. "They are like global positioning systems for students' futures. Like GPS, the plans will be able to offer a clear path to their goals but also will be able to change course if students want to go in a different direction at some point in their academic careers."

The learning plan formats developed by the pilot districts will include at least the following three areas of development: personal, academic and career. In addition to goal setting, examples of activities that students may engage in while creating and carrying out the plans include:

- Personal Development: survey learning styles; inventory personality and interests.
- Academic Development: select courses for graduation as they relate to interests and skills; discern individual student learning opportunities (internships, and service or independent learning); utilize support services and referrals as needed.
- Career Development: Survey career interests and skills; Engage in career awareness and exploration to heighten understanding of opportunities available and generate interest (6th grade); Carry out career

planning and preparation activities while developing academic knowledge and skill readiness (9th grade).

Participating school districts will take part in an orientation scheduled for June 25. Participating districts will be eligible to receive up to \$7,500 for each year of the program to assist with related costs, including curriculum materials, Web-based programs and related evaluation costs.

Twenty states - including Delaware - plus the District of Columbia require individual learning plans for all students; another five states encourage their use and provide state support but do not have mandates in place for every student.

County	District	School(s)
Bergen(2)	Emerson	Villano Elementary and Emerson Jr./Sr. High School
Burlington	Northern Burlington County Regional	Northern Burlington County Regional High School
Camden	Camden County Technical Schools	Camden County Technical Schools
Essex	Bloomfield	Bloomfield High School
Gloucester	Delsea Regional	Delsea Regional High School
Hudson(2)	North Bergen	Horace Mann School and North Bergen High School
Mercer	West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District	Thomas R. Grover Middle School
Middlesex (3)	North Brunswick	Linwood Middle School and North Brunswick Township High School
	Greater Brunswick Charter School	Greater Brunswick Charter School
Monmouth	Asbury Park	Asbury Park High School
Passaic	Passaic City	Passaic High School
Sussex	Sparta	Sparta Middle School
Union	Roselle Borough	Abraham Clark High School