



## **Christie Administration Secures Grant to Improve Career and Technical Education for Students**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Trenton, NJ** – The New Jersey Department of Education announced today that it has secured a \$100,000 six-month grant to develop a detailed career readiness action plan aimed at enhancing Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs throughout the state. These programs will be designed to expand opportunities for students across New Jersey who want to graduate from high school ready to enter a specified field of work.

"We are excited for the opportunity to do a comprehensive review of our outstanding Career and Technical Education programs," said Commissioner of Education David C. Hesse. "New Jersey has some of the highest quality CTE programs in the nation, and this grant will allow us to improve on an already strong system by providing greater services to more students and more communities."

New Jersey is among 24 states and the District of Columbia that secured one of the \$100,000 New Skills for Youth grants, which is part of a \$75 million five-year initiative developed by JPMorgan Chase, in partnership with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and Advance CTE. After using the initial grant to perform a diagnostic assessment of their career-preparation programs, states can apply for phase two of the grant, which will help them execute the action plans developed in phase one.

New Jersey officials plan to use the grant to better align CTE programs with several key industries identified by the state Department of Labor as providing the greatest opportunities for growth, such as healthcare, bio/pharmaceuticals, and advanced manufacturing. The initiative would focus on underserved students and communities. Another key element would be to help schools identify industry-specific professional credentials that high-school students could work to obtain while involved in CTE programs.

In addition to the \$100,000 six-month grant to perform the diagnostic assessment of CTE needs, New Jersey will have access to expert technical assistance and peer support from other grantees.

For more information on the New Skills for Youth grant opportunity visit the CCSSO [website](#).