



Christie Administration Announces the Launch of the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports

\$6.15 Million Federal Grant Will Help 60 Districts Implement the System for Early Reading

For Immediate Release

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Trenton, NJ – The Christie Administration announces that the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in collaboration with educators, higher education representatives and parents, has developed a set of resources for districts to facilitate implementation of the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS) – a multi-tiered framework for delivering instruction, academic and behavioral supports and interventions, and enrichment in a coordinated manner.

NJTSS includes the three-tiered approach to instruction, assessment and intervention found in many models of response to intervention, along with three foundational components: effective district and school leadership, positive school culture and climate, and family and community engagement. Together, these components create an efficient and effective mechanism for schools to improve achievement for all students. NJTSS builds on effective practices and initiatives already in place in schools, and maximizes the efficient use of resources to improve support for all classroom teachers and target interventions to students based on their needs.

"Districts will have a way of utilizing Department and educator-developed resources to help build a continuum of intervention and improvement for all students," said Commissioner of Education David C. Hespe.

Recently, the NJDOE, in partnership with Rutgers University, was awarded a \$6,146,922 grant from the Office of Special Education Programs, United States Department of Education, to provide intensive coaching in 60 districts to implement NJTSS for early reading.

"The grant will assist districts with implementing the Department's tiered approach to student academic intervention, along with specific supports for early reading, that addresses all underperforming students," said Commissioner of Education David C. Hespe. "We want to thank our fellow collaborators who donated so much of their time and energy in helping to secure these vital funds."

The New Jersey Department of Education staff will be working closely with faculty from Rutgers University, co-developers of the grant, to coach educators from three groups of 20 districts each over a five-year period. The New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA) will work with principals on leadership support for NJTSS and the State Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) will engage educators and families in a process to enhance family involvement. The Dumont School District, which is currently implementing a tiered system of support, will also work with the project and provide the practitioner view point as NJTSS is rolled out.

New Jersey's grant will commence on October 1, 2016. Information regarding the process for applying to participate in grant activities will be disseminated later this fall.