



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 7, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Directors of Curriculum and Instruction, School Administrators, District Administrators, Supervisors of Literacy, School Counselors, Reading Specialists, Interventionists and Intervention and Referral Services Team Members
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

New Jersey Tiered System of Supports for Early Reading: Data-Based Decision Making to Improve Early Reading Instruction

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to extend an opportunity for leadership teams and educators serving students in grades Kindergarten through three to participate in a virtual Community of Practice learning opportunity. The focus of this professional development is to provide educators and administrators the opportunity to learn more about establishing and implementing a multi-tiered system of support designed to provide science-based early literacy instruction and intervention. This Community of Practice is made possible through the Federal State Personnel Development Grant Initiative, New Jersey Tiered System of Supports-Early Reading (NJTSS-ER), which was awarded to the NJDOE by the United States Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs in June of 2021.

Key steps/actions

District and school-level team members are encouraged to participate together. Participants are encouraged to attend all three virtual professional development sessions to learn the concepts and then implement components of the framework between sessions. [Registration](#) will close March 1, 2024. Once registration is completed, participants will be registered for all three session dates listed below. In addition, participants will be offered Office Hours on an as-needed basis to support participants in applying what is learned during sessions. In advance of the first session, please complete the following to take full advantage of the content presented that day:

- View "[Planning and Implementation Resources](#)" video.
- Review the "[Planning and Implementation User Guide](#)."
- Download and review the "[NJTSS-ER Comprehensive Action Plan & Resources](#)."
- Complete (1) Online Learning Module, "[Team Based Early-Prevention Model](#)."

Topic 1: Building Foundational Knowledge and Establishing an Infrastructure to Support NJTSS-ER Integration

Session Date: March 6, 2024 (12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.) (60 minutes learning, 30 minutes application)

Training Objective

- Improve implementation knowledge and self-efficacy for leadership team members, coaches, and instructional staff. Resource inventory.

Topic 2: Universal Screening

Session Date: April 24, 2024 (12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.) (60 minutes learning, 30 minutes application)

Training Objective

- Assist in building a multi-tiered, data-driven decision-making system that increases early reading proficiency for all students in grades kindergarten through third grade, including those with or at risk for reading disabilities.

Office Hours: to be held during the first week of June.

Topic 3: *Analyzing Universal Screening Data and the Connection to Core Instruction*

Session Date: September 18, 2024 (12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.) (60 minutes learning, 30 minutes application)

Training Objective

- Increase fidelity of school/district implementation of NJTSS-ER to support all students through sustainable practices and processes by using screening data to drive adjustments to core instruction.

Contact information

For any additional questions, please contact the Office of Student Support Services via NJTSS@doe.nj.gov. Space is limited and [registration](#) is now open.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group