



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 6, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Supervisors, Directors of School Counseling, Directors of Student Services, Student Safety Specialists, School Nurses, Teachers
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services
Deadline: March 13, 2024

2024-2025 DREAMS Program Application Deadline Extended

The Developing Resiliency with Engaging Approaches to Maximize Success (DREAMS) Program, offered by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), is a **no-cost** program that focuses on providing trauma-informed and healing-centered supports to assist staff and students in building positive relationships and emotional self-regulation. This program aims to promote healthy and healing school environments and to provide educators with supports to aid in job satisfaction and in building classrooms conducive to student learning.

Participating DREAMS district, charter, and renaissance school projects (hereafter referred to as districts):

- Receive training in The Nurtured Heart Approach[®] (NHA). NHA is a method for creating a supportive and positive school culture that prioritizes the building of healthy relationships, recognizes every student's greatness, and promotes the development of self-regulation strategies for both staff and students;
- Participate in training on trauma related topics such as *Adverse Childhood Experiences*, *Trauma Informed Practice for Educators*, *Understanding the Impact of Toxic Stress and Developmental Trauma on the Brain*, and others;
- Have access to online evidence based and best practice related resources and training materials;
- Identify two staff members from your district to become NHA certified trainers; and,
- Be connected to the NHA Community through a NHA mentor who will aid in the implementation planning of NHA within the school/district.

All public, charter, and renaissance school districts are eligible to participate in this program.

Key Steps/Actions

- Districts interested in applying, must complete the 2024-2025 Letter of Intent posted on the [NJDOE DREAMS website](#) and obtain necessary signatures.
- Districts must submit their Letter of Intent to the SafeSupportiveSchools@doe.nj.gov mailbox by **Wednesday, March 13, 2024**.

Contact Information

For any questions or support with completing the application, please contact the Office of Student Support Services via email at SafeSupportiveSchools@doe.nj.gov or by phone at (609) 396-9109.

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