



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, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Route To: Directors of Special Education, Administrators of Programs for Students Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Transition Coordinators, Child Study Team Members, Special Education Teachers
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services
Register by: April 8, 2024

Orientation Session for CBI Cohort: Enrollment in the 2024-2025 Community-Based Instruction Project Cohort

The New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) Office of Special Education (OSE), in partnership with The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, invites local educational agencies (LEAs) to apply for participation in the Community-Based Instruction (CBI) Project 2024-2025 Cohort. The CBI Project is focused on improving transition across the educational lifespan and postschool outcomes for students with disabilities. CBI is an evidence-based practice that supports successful transition from school to adult life and full inclusion of students with disabilities in their communities. Annually, cohort LEAs receive intensive, collaborative training on CBI implementation via the *Foundations of CBI* training series, develop a site-based CBI Action Plan, and receive ongoing technical assistance to support planning and implementation.

Regularly utilizing the community as a learning environment provides practical and meaningful opportunities for students to develop skills through authentic experiences. This promotes greater self-determination, healthy interdependence, and enhanced quality of life in adulthood through the acquisition, application, and generalization of skills developed. Domains addressed in CBI include career awareness and exploration, recreation and leisure, and community living that aligns with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals.

As administrative support is vital to the success of CBI, LEAs may not apply for the 2024-2025 CBI Cohort unless a LEA administrator has participated in one of the *Orientation Sessions for CBI Cohort Enrollment*. Participants will receive information about the structure of the cohort, eligibility criteria and commitments, technical assistance, and the administrative and organizational supports needed to guide practices. To accommodate diverse schedules, *Orientation Sessions for CBI Cohort Enrollment* will be offered on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024**, and **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**.

Registration for Orientation

Registration links for the *Orientation Session for CBI Cohort Enrollment* offerings may be found below. Capacity is limited, early registration is recommended.

- **Tuesday, April 9, 2024**
[9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Session Zoom Registration](#)
- **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**
[12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Session Zoom Registration](#)

Contact Information

For any questions about the *Orientation Session for CBI Cohort Enrollment* or the CBI Project training opportunities, contact Nikkilee Pedersen at Nikkilee.Pedersen@rutgers.edu, Jessica DiPane at Jessica.DiPane@rutgers.edu, or Jocelyn Muse-Taylor at Jocelyn.MuseTaylor@rutgers.edu.

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