



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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Commissioner

May 12, 2015

**TO:** Chief School Administrators  
School Leaders

**ROUTE TO:** All District Principals, Assistant/Vice Principals, and Teaching Staff Members

**FROM:** Peter Shulman, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Talent Officer  
Division of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness

**SUBJECT:** AchieveNJ Update: Mandatory Survey and Optional Workshops

**IN THIS MEMO:**

**I. Mandatory 2015-16 Evaluation Rubric Reporting Survey**

- **Note: Deadline for completion: June 8, 2015**

**II. SGOs for 2015-16: Workshop Schedule**

This memo provides information on the mandatory district survey for reporting 2015-16 evaluation rubric information (due by June 8) as well as new workshop opportunities for educators. As always, we encourage you to visit the [AchieveNJ Website](#) and [FAQ page](#) and to send any questions and feedback to [educatorevaluation@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:educatorevaluation@doe.state.nj.us).

**I. Mandatory 2015-16 Evaluation Rubric Reporting Survey**

According to the *TEACHNJ Act* (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-122), all districts must submit their educator evaluation rubrics to the Commissioner for approval each year. A district's evaluation rubric is composed of its practice instruments and measures of student achievement. In order to fulfill this requirement, the Department has once again created a mandatory survey for all district leaders to complete. The survey contains questions about the district's selected practice instruments and associated ratings, plans for training, use of required district and school committees, number of Student Growth Objectives (SGOs), and input on other processes around AchieveNJ.

- **Timeline:** The survey is now open; districts must **respond by 4 pm on June 8, and we will notify all districts in the case that a rubric is not approved no later than July 31.**
- **Access:** Each district Web User Administrator may access the survey through Homeroom at <http://homeroom.state.nj.us/> by clicking on "Evaluation Survey."

## II. SGOs for 2015-16: Workshop Schedule

In the second year of AchieveNJ, many teachers have reported significant improvements to the quality of their Student Growth Objectives (SGOs) through three important actions:

1. Determining student starting points through multiple data sources,
2. Differentiating targets for their students; and
3. Improving assessments.

Heading into year three of the new evaluation and support system, and building upon lessons learned from educators in 2014-15, the Department will continue to provide high quality resources and guidance. Today, we are pleased to announce a new series of free workshops beginning in June, focused on improving the SGO process in the following areas:

- **Assessments** – continuing to improve their quality, using them to monitor progress towards goals, and developing assessment types that more authentically and accurately determine what students know and can do;
- **Collaboration** – working in effective teams to improve all aspects of the SGO process; and
- **Integration** – embedding SGOs into the typical cycle of teaching and learning to improve student achievement.

As in previous years, these regional workshops will be open to teams of up to five SGO implementation administrators and teachers, with the intention that these leaders will take the information back to their districts. Districts who wish to bring more than five participants to these workshops should contact us at [educatorevaluation@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:educatorevaluation@doe.state.nj.us). We will make allowances as space permits.

The following chart lists the schedule and logistical/registration information for each session. Please note that in response to educator feedback from last year, we are offering fewer sessions in June as educators complete the current school year and more during the summer months and at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year.

| DATE          | LOCATION   | TIMES              | REGISTRATION             |
|---------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| June 4, 2015  | <a href="#">Kean University<br/>University Center</a>                  | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|               |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| June 8, 2015  | <a href="#">EIRC/LRC South<br/>Mullica Hill</a>                        | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|               |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| July 14, 2015 | <a href="#">NJ Forensic Science<br/>Technology Center<br/>Hamilton</a> | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|               |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| July 15, 2015 | <a href="#">Raritan Valley<br/>Community College<br/>Branchburg</a>    | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|               |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |

| <b>DATE</b>        | <b>LOCATION</b>  | <b>TIMES</b>       | <b>REGISTRATION</b>      |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| July 17, 2015      | <a href="#">EIRC/LRC South<br/>Mullica Hill</a>                        | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| July 20, 2015      | <a href="#">LRC Central<br/>Trenton</a>                                | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| July 21, 2015      | <a href="#">SRI &amp; ETTC<br/>Galloway</a>                            | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| August 3, 2015     | <a href="#">Raritan Valley<br/>Community College<br/>Branchburg</a>    | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| August 4, 2015     | <a href="#">LRC Central<br/>Trenton</a>                                | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| August 6, 2015     | <a href="#">Kean University<br/>University Center</a>                  | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| August 11, 2015    | <a href="#">Long Branch High<br/>School<br/>Long Branch</a>            | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| August 12, 2015    | <a href="#">Clearview Regional High<br/>School<br/>Mullica Hill</a>    | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| August 17, 2015    | <a href="#">NJ Forensic Science<br/>Technology Center<br/>Hamilton</a> | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| August 18, 2015    | <a href="#">SRI &amp; ETTC<br/>Galloway</a>                            | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| September 16, 2015 | <a href="#">Kean University<br/>University Center</a>                  | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| September 17, 2015 | <a href="#">SRI &amp; ETTC<br/>Galloway</a>                            | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| September 21, 2015 | <a href="#">EIRC/LRC South<br/>Mullica Hill</a>                        | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| September 23, 2015 | <a href="#">LRC Central<br/>Trenton</a>                                | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm | <a href="#">Register</a> |
|                    |  | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  | <a href="#">Register</a> |

Later this spring, we will distribute another broadcast memo with links to an updated SGO Guidebook and suite of resources to further support the information provided at these workshops.

Please share this information directly with educators who might benefit from this information.

Thank you for your continued collaboration and dedication.

**PS/CB/JP/**E:\Communications\Memos\051215 AchieveNJ Update.doc

c: Members, State Board of Education  
David Hesse, Commissioner  
Senior Staff  
Diane Shoener  
Executive County Superintendents  
Executive Directors of Regional Achievement Centers  
Executive County Business Officials  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group