



New Jersey Department of Education Announces Statewide Charter School Outreach

The Department tour aims to understand the role of charter schools in the landscape of our public school system

For Immediate Release

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Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) kicked off a multi-county listening tour this week, with visits scheduled to over a dozen charter schools in North, Central, and South Jersey. The goal of the tour, which coincides with the 20-year anniversary of the first charter school opening in New Jersey, is to engage with students, parents, administrators and other stakeholders to inform the State’s mission of assuring the best educational opportunities for all students.

The outreach tour will include nearly a dozen charter school visits, community focus groups, organized stakeholder collaboratives, webinars, and the opportunity to submit written feedback. NJDOE will publish a report after the outreach concludes, detailing what the Department learned while on the tour.

“Charter schools are a valuable part of the existing educational landscape of New Jersey, and it is critical that we engage with the public to hear possible concerns and collect important data,” **said Education Commissioner Lamont O. Repollet.** “We are looking forward to hearing from diverse voices about their perspectives and experiences regarding charter schools for the benefit of all New Jersey students, families, and communities.”

The NJDOE conducted a similar multi-county listening tour earlier this year to evaluate State assessments and high school graduation requirements. These outreach initiatives are conducted using the Commissioner’s A.C.E. (Assess, Create, and Execute) approach, underscoring the Department’s commitment to engaging with the public to ensure that families and school districts are involved in the educational process.

The charter school tour began on October 10 with a visit to Ridge and Valley Charter School in Blairstown and will conclude on November 19. Commissioner Repollet and NJDOE officials will visit the following schools: Teaneck Community Charter in Teaneck, Paterson Charter School for School for Science and Technology in Paterson, Greater Brunswick Charter School in New Brunswick, Chartertech High School for the Performing Arts in Somers Point, Foundation Academy Charter School in Trenton, Benjamin Banneker Preparatory Charter School in Willingboro, Hoboken Charter School in Hoboken, Camden’s Promise Charter School in Camden, LEAP Academy University Charter School in Camden, and People’s Preparatory Charter School in Newark. School visits are not open to the public.

Community focus groups:

(Interested media should RSVP to Michael.Yaple@doe.nj.gov)

October 16, 2018	5:30-7:30	Paterson Free Public Library, 250 Broadway	Paterson, NJ
October 18, 2018	5:00-7:00	New Jersey Department of Education 100 Riverview Plaza, 1st Floor	Trenton, NJ
October 29, 2018	5:00-7:00	Camden County Library, Riletta L. Cream Ferry Avenue Branch, 852 Ferry Avenue	Camden, NJ
October 30, 2018	5:00-7:00	Plainfield Public Library, 800 Park Ave.	Plainfield, NJ

November 2, 2018	5:00-7:00	TBD	Jersey City, NJ
November 19, 2018	5:00-7:00	Essex County Office of Education, Leroy F. Smith Jr. Public Safety Building, 60 Nelson Place (14th Floor Conference Rm.)	Newark, NJ

Stakeholder collaborative sessions:

October 11, 2018	New Jersey Charter School Association Conference (NJCSA)	Newark, NJ
October 23, 2018	NJ Association of School Administrators and Garden State Coalition of Schools	Atlantic City, NJ
October 24, 2018	NJ School Boards Association 2018 Workshop	Atlantic City, NJ
November 7, 2018	Newark Charter Fund Collaborative	Newark, NJ
November 13, 2018	Save Our Schools-NJ	Highland Park, NJ

For a full itinerary, please visit the NJDOE's [Charter School Outreach](#) webpage.