



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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New Jersey Department of Education Announces Five Local Educational Agencies to Receive Lighthouse Awards

Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) today announced five local educational agencies are recipients of Lighthouse Awards for substantial improvement in advancing educational equity. The award recipients were recognized at the September meeting of the State Board of Education.

“The Lighthouse Awards reflect the work of the entire school community, from school teachers and administrators to parents and students,” said **Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education**. “To that end, each school community receiving this award should be commended for their part in change that improves equity and opportunity for every student.”

“It is my pleasure to congratulate the recipients of this year’s Lighthouse Awards,” said **Kathy Goldenberg, President of the State Board of Education**. “The positive changes that we see occurring in the Lighthouse schools are shining examples of the kinds of success that is taking place in school districts throughout all of New Jersey. This program truly shines a spotlight on our efforts to improve educational opportunities for every student in each school.”

The NJDOE launched the Lighthouse Award initiative in 2017 to recognize the advances made by New Jersey school districts and charter schools. The Lighthouse Award initiative for 2023 continues to focus on schools that provide equitable outcomes that support the Murphy Administration’s vision for a stronger, fairer New Jersey for all students. The NJDOE’s selection of the five local educational agencies were based on improvement in:

- Increasing equity in course enrollment of Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate (AP/IB) programs;
- Increasing equity in dual enrollment programs allowing students to earn college credit while still in high school; or
- Increasing diversity in the teacher workforce.

During the award term, which runs until 2025, officials from Lighthouse Districts will have the opportunity to participate in professional learning and networking opportunities between Lighthouse districts and charter schools, lead professional learning events for educators throughout the state, and provide insight to the NJDOE through policy discussions.

The 2023 [Lighthouse Award](#) recipients, and their award category, are as follows:

County	District/Charter	Category
Burlington	Palmyra Public School District	Increasing Equity in AP/IB Enrollment
Essex	Philip’s Academy Charter School	Diversifying the Teacher Workforce
Middlesex	Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School District	Increasing Equity in Dual Enrollment
Morris	Morris County Vocational School District	Increasing Equity in Dual Enrollment
Union	Union County Vocational-Technical School District	Increasing Equity in AP/IB Enrollment

