



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Acting Commissioner

December 19, 2011

TO: District Superintendents
Charter School Leaders

FROM: Penny MacCormack
Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Model Curriculum

The New Jersey Department of Education believes that quality instruction aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) is fundamental to prepare all students for college and career. In order to most effectively support school and district level implementation of the CCSS, the NJDOE will develop a “model” curriculum (1.0) beginning with unit-based student learning objectives and formative unit assessments. This “model” curriculum will serve as an exemplar for districts and schools as they work to design the curriculum that will best meet the needs of the students they serve.

The plan for developing a quality “model” curriculum involves the engagement of state-wide experts as well as the national expertise available as a result of the adoption of CCSS by 46 states and the District of Columbia. In order to have the curriculum available for the 2012-2013 school year, we will need to begin work as soon as possible. Therefore, we are asking for your assistance in helping us to identify our best and brightest curriculum/assessment developers across the state to create teams for building this curriculum. These representatives will:

- Meet between January and June to identify outstanding curricular resources across the country
- Where necessary, develop a “model curriculum” for specific grades and subjects
- Solicit and incorporate feedback from educators across the state by posting the curriculum components on the NJDOE website as they are developed.

The “model” curriculum will be developed for: ELA (K-12), Mathematics (K-12), Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), Social Studies (High School), Health/Physical Education (K-8), Visual/Performing Arts (K-12) and World Languages (Novice-Mid, Novice-High). In addition, work will be done to effectively integrate Technology Standards and 21st Century Skills.

We are asking you to send the name(s) of anyone you might recommend for this work, recognizing that the work will potentially benefit students, teachers, administrators, parents and

community members state wide. Please include a brief explanation of their experience in curriculum development and their content area of expertise. All recommendations will need to be sent (email listed below) by the end of the first week of January in order to meet the tight timelines we have set for the work.

It is important to note that we are not expecting or mandating the adoption of this “model” curriculum, but rather hoping that educators find the documents useful to develop and inform their own work. We will, in turn, inform the improvement of the “model” curriculum through a web site system that allows teachers, curriculum specialists, and administrators to send feedback on all components of the curriculum, thus supporting the continuous improvement of the model and resulting in version 2.0.

Please send all recommendations to: evan.linhardt@doe.state.nj.us or call 609-633-2766 by January 6, 2012. We will connect with all recommended parties in the beginning of January and finalize the groups in the middle of January.

c: State Board Members
Executive County Superintendents
NJLEE Group
Garden State Coalition