



For Immediate Release

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New Jersey Department of Education Awards Grants to Help Schools Improve Climate Change Instruction in the Classroom

Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education today announced awards for two grant opportunities to help schools implement, improve, and expand climate-change instruction in the classroom.

The grants will approach climate-change instruction through two avenues:

- An interdisciplinary learning and community projects grant will provide funds directly to school districts to help them partner with local organizations or their municipality to establish Interdisciplinary Learning Units and Community Resilience Projects. These projects will help schools impact their community through projects such as planting rain gardens with plants that will ease flooding; growing food using aquaponics to combat food insecurity; restoring native plant species; and planting dune grass to restore and protect native habitats.
- The Climate Change Learning Collaboratives grant will fund programs in which colleges and universities will create Climate Change Learning Collaboratives to provide training to teachers on how to infuse climate change into the curriculum.

The grant programs, funded through Governor Phil Murphy’s Fiscal Year 2024 budget, are part of an overarching effort spearheaded by First Lady Tammy Murphy to effectively incorporate climate-change instruction into classroom instruction. When the New Jersey Student Learning Standards ([NJSLs](#)) were updated in 2020, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to integrate the teaching of climate change across multiple content areas, ranging from science and social studies to world languages and the arts.

“Our nation-leading climate change education standards are setting New Jersey students up for a successful future as climate literate leaders of tomorrow,” **said First Lady Tammy Murphy**. “These grants will ensure our state’s climate change instruction remains at the highest academic standard and that our educators are supported as they prepare new and innovative lessons. I am eager to see the creative approach each school will take to continue the successful rollout of this critical instruction across all learning standards.”

“It has become evident that climate change is an issue of such significance that it touches the lives of everyone and, in turn, our learning standards reflect the importance of ensuring students receive accurate, relevant instruction on this topic,” **said Acting Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer**. “Building climate literacy today will help to prepare students to participate fully in our future workforce. These grants will help schools meet the challenge of infusing climate change across multiple subjects while making the content relevant and important to students.”

Climate Change Learning Collaboratives: Colleges and Universities

The *Expanding Access to Climate Change Education and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards through Climate Change Learning Collaboratives* funding will establish regional Climate Change Learning Collaboratives (CCLCs) at four New Jersey colleges and universities. The CCLCs will provide training, technical assistance, and experiential learning opportunities to support local educators in implementing climate change education initiatives in the classroom and their local community. The CCLCs will also increase the number of K-12 educators who are prepared to teach high quality, standards-aligned climate change education.

The four institutions of higher education that have been selected to receive funding through the grants are:

Region	Recipient	Award
Northern Region	Ramapo College of New Jersey	\$650,000
Central Region	Rutgers University-New Brunswick	\$324,699
Central Region	Monmouth University	\$311,276
Southern Region	Stockton University	\$650,000
Total:		\$1,935,975

Interdisciplinary Learning and Community Projects: School Districts

The Expanding Access to Climate Change Education and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards through Interdisciplinary Learning and Community Resilience Projects grant funding will allow school districts to partner with local organizations or municipalities to implement a student-led community project at one or more of their schools to further their standards-based climate change education initiatives.

These activities are designed to foster a greater understanding of local climate challenges and engage students and school staff in thoughtful action to develop and implement solutions that align with their community’s needs. Projects from this grant cycle will serve as model projects for other school districts and charter schools across the state, and their outcomes will be shared at Climate Change Learning Collaborative events throughout spring 2025.

School districts were invited to apply for awards up to \$31,875. The 34 districts that have been identified to receive funding through the Expanding Access to Climate Change Education and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards through Interdisciplinary Learning and Community Resilience Projects and initial award amounts are:

County	Recipient	Initial Award
Atlantic	Atlantic City Community Charter School	\$31,875
Atlantic	Egg Harbor Township	\$29,431
Atlantic	Hamilton Township	\$31,875
Bergen	Leonia	\$31,875
Bergen	Pascack Valley Regional High School District	\$31,609
Bergen	Ridgewood Village	\$31,875
Burlington	Burlington City	\$31,875
Camden	Cherry Hill Township	\$31,875
Cape May	Cape May County Vocational School District	\$31,875
Cape May	Dennis Township	\$28,770
Cape May	Lower Cape May Regional	\$31,875
Cape May	Upper Township	\$31,875
Cape May	Wildwood City	\$31,875
Cumberland	Compass Academy Charter School	\$31,550
Cumberland	Cumberland Regional District	\$31,875
Essex	Bloomfield Township	\$31,875
Essex	Nutley	\$31,863
Gloucester	Logan Township	\$31,868
Hudson	Hoboken	\$31,733
Hudson	Secaucus	\$31,875
Mercer	Princeton	\$31,875
Middlesex	Dunellen	\$31,825
Middlesex	Sayreville	\$31,875
Monmouth	Hazlet Township	\$31,875
Monmouth	Keyport	\$31,875
Morris	Mount Olive Township	\$31,719
Morris	Unity Charter School	\$22,960
Ocean	Pinelands Regional	\$31,875
Ocean	Point Pleasant Borough	\$31,875
Passaic	Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology	\$31,875
Passaic	Ringwood	\$31,163
Somerset	Somerville Borough	\$26,935
Sussex	Stillwater Township	\$27,648
Union	Morris-Union Jointure Commission	\$31,875
Total:		\$1,058,449

The Department is currently working to redistribute remaining funds to these awardees.

The Climate Change Learning Collaborative grant with colleges and universities runs until March 31, 2025 and the Interdisciplinary Learning and Community Resilience Projects grant program runs through May 31, 2025.



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