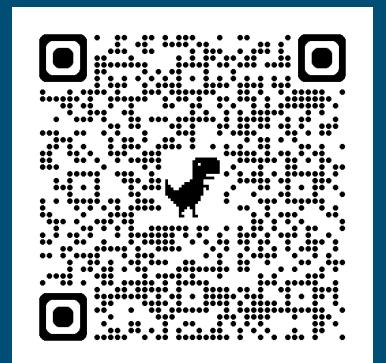


From SPDG to Statewide Impact: Scaling Literacy Initiatives

New Jersey Department of Education

Office of Learning Equity and Academic Recovery
January 8, 2026

nj.gov/education



Introductory Activity

In a chat message:

- Introduce yourself.
- Share the name or grade/subject of a teacher who had an impact on you.
- Include a brief statement on their impact.

Allyson Bullock (NJ)

Mr. Collins made a great impact on me. He knew my favorite genres and introduced me to Harry Potter, which reignited my love of reading.



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Introduction



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Literacy Legislation is Signed into Law

August 2024



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Awarded Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant

New Jersey Department of Education Receives \$50 Million Grant from U.S. Department of Education to Support Literacy

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has been awarded \$50 million over a five-year period in a new Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant will support New Jersey school communities in advancing literacy skills — including pre-literacy skills, reading, and writing — for children throughout their academic careers, with an emphasis on closing achievement and opportunity gaps.

As one of 23 state educational agencies receiving funding, New Jersey has been awarded the largest Year 1 grant in the largest-ever round of CLSD grant awards. This grant will significantly expand the development and implementation of evidence-based literacy programs to ensure students achieve key milestones, such as reading on grade level by third grade — a critical predictor of future academic success.

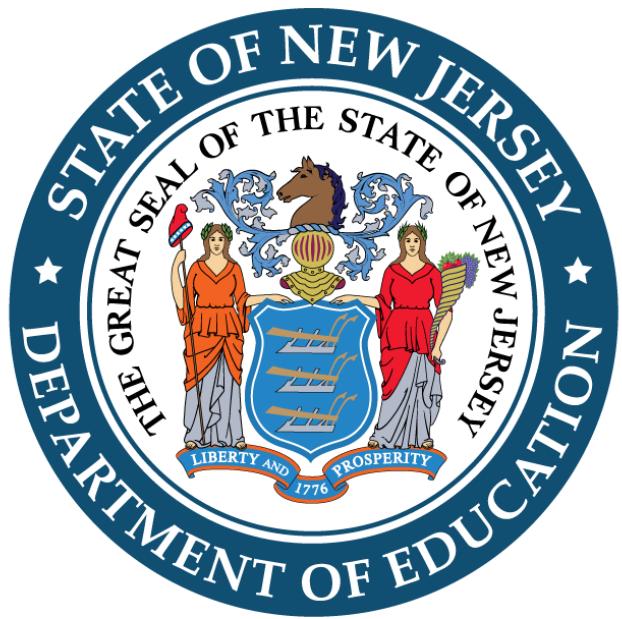


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Creation of the Office of Learning Equity & Academic Recovery Legislation in Action



OFFICE OF **LEARNING, EQUITY AND ACADEMIC RECOVERY (LEAR)**

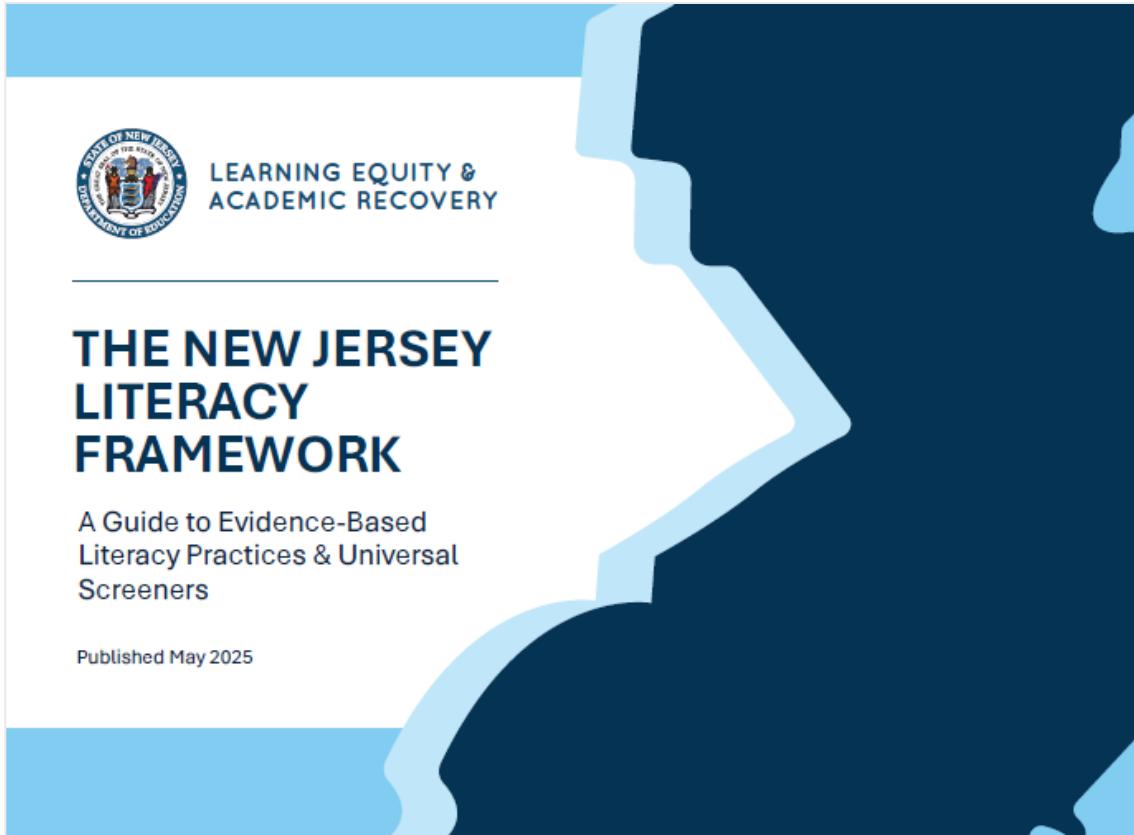


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Working Group on Literacy: Engaging our Experts Legislation in Action



Release of New Jersey's Literacy Framework Scaling SPDG Resources



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To learn more about the use of these in kindergarten through grade 12, watch the below videos, created in partnership by Rutgers University and the NJDOE through the NJTSS-ER project:

- [Elements of Effective Instruction: Word Recognition](#)
- [Elements of Effective Instruction: Language Comprehension](#)

When implemented with fidelity, Tier 1 core instruction aligned to evidence-based literacy instruction should address the learning needs of the majority of students (e.g., approximately 80% or greater), enabling them to meet or exceed benchmark performance expectations for foundational early reading skills (see Connection to New Jersey Tiered System of Supports section for more information). If Tier 1 is not meeting the majority of students' learning needs, it is important to use information on student performance and implemented instruction to guide changes to core instruction to reduce the strain on limited intervention resources.

Watch this brief video, created in partnership by Rutgers University and the NJDOE through the NJTSS-ER project, [Analyzing Tier 1 Core Instruction](#) to learn more.

State Grant Opportunities Incentivizing & Accelerating Universal Screeners



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

For Immediate Release

Date: May 7, 2025

Contact: [Laura Fredrick](#)

(640) 202-0308

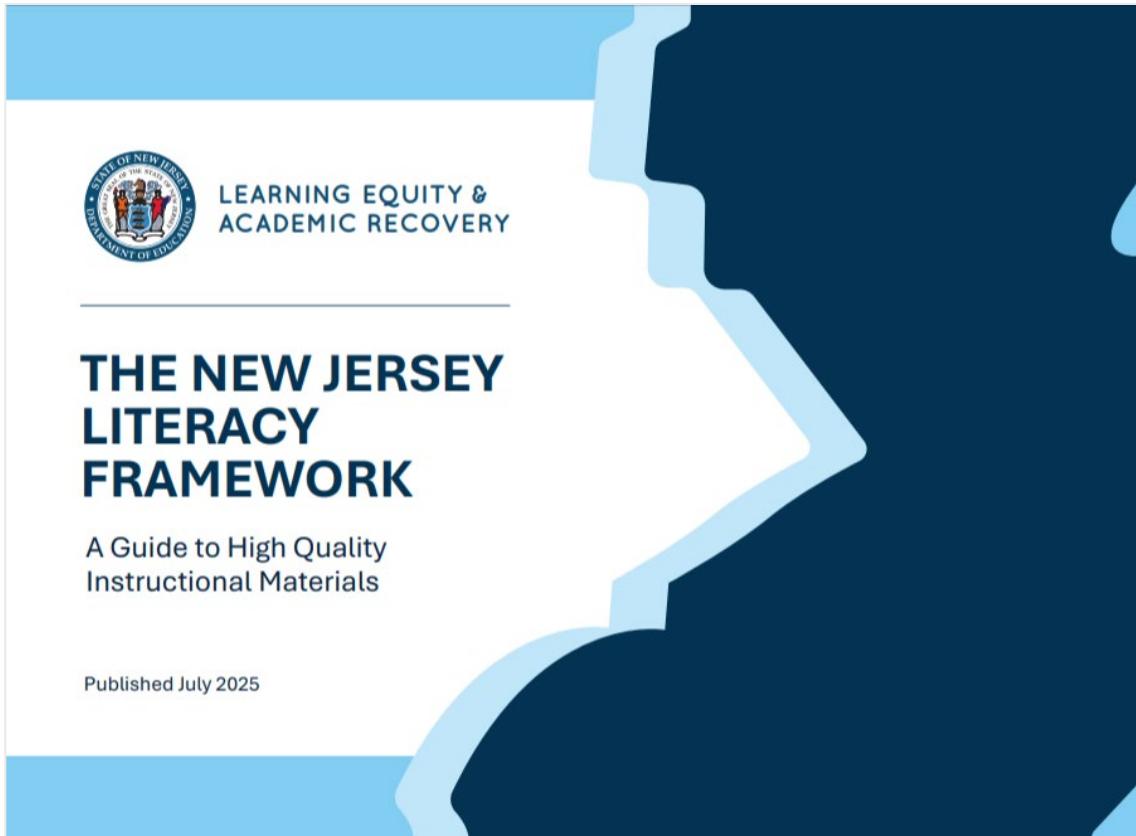
Governor Murphy and Education Commissioner Dehmer Advance Literacy Education Initiatives: Grants and Guidance Now Available to School Districts

Trenton, NJ – Continuing the Murphy Administration’s efforts to strengthen foundational literacy skills among students, Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Department of Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer today announced a series of coordinated actions to advance the implementation of legislation signed in August ensuring young learners have access to the tools and resources needed to become strong, confident readers:



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Release of New Jersey's Literacy Framework: A Guide to HQIM Scaling SPDG Resources



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Operationalizing HQIM

To promote consistency in instruction delivery, the use of HQIM is operationalized by developing grade-level guidelines that articulate expected materials and assessments, practices, and pacing requirements. These guidelines, for both whole group and small group settings, provide clear and specific expectations on HQIM implementation, leading to consistent classroom delivery. Watch this brief video, created in partnership by Rutgers University and the NJDOE through the NJTSS-ER project, titled [NJTSS-ER Mapping Tier 1 Instructional Guidelines video](#) to learn more.

CLSD Grant Awards

Incentivizing & Accelerating Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction



ICYMI: New Jersey Department of Education Announces Grant Awards to Support Student Literacy

Posted on - 10/22/2025

TRENTON – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) today announced it has awarded almost \$13.6 million for the first year of federally funded Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grants to improve student literacy throughout the state.

"My Administration has made it a priority to equip our children with the skills and support necessary to set them up for lifelong success. This includes our work to bolster literacy education and improve literacy rates among New Jersey students, ensuring our young learners can thrive in the classroom and throughout their academic careers," **said Governor Phil Murphy**. "Literacy is the tool that unlocks the opportunities education creates for our students. These grant awards will help sustain our efforts to infuse best practices into classrooms across our state, uplifting our school communities with crucial tools and resources."



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Reflection Activity

Poll

Which lever in your state is currently the most underutilized for scaling and sustaining professional learning initiatives?
(Choose one)

- Federal or state grant programs
- Policy or guidance alignment
- Cross-office or cross-agency collaboration
- Professional learning infrastructure
- Data systems and continuous improvement supports
- Community partnerships
- Other



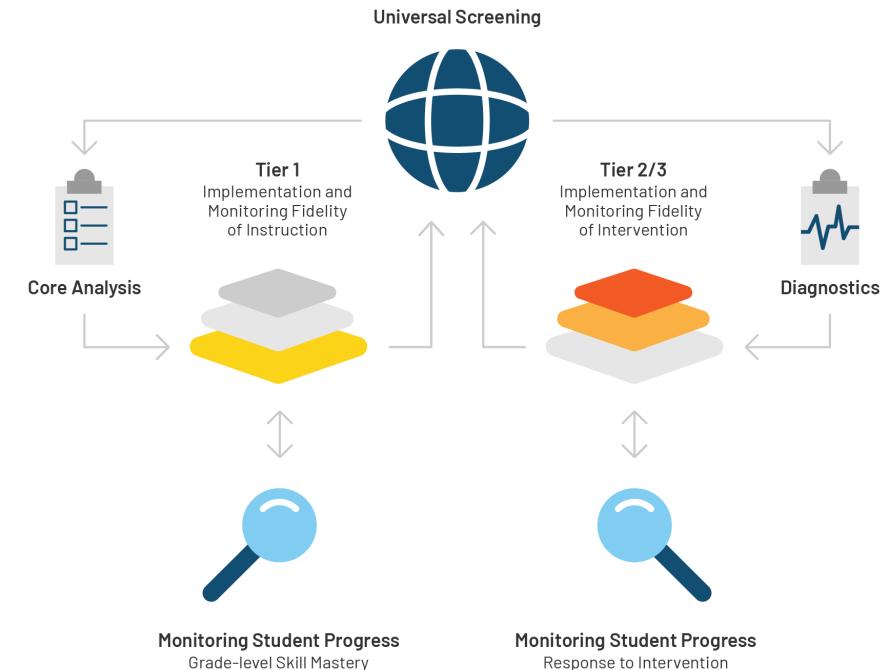
Scaling up SPDG



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Scaling SPDG

- Guidance grounded in NJTSS-ER Framework to promote systems-level changes
- Professional Learning Videos embedded throughout guidance documents
- NJTSS-ER Modules utilized for required Administrator Training
- Creation of data-driven coaching protocols embedded in NJTSS-ER Framework that will be used to train Regional Consultants, NJDOE staff, and CLSD Coaches



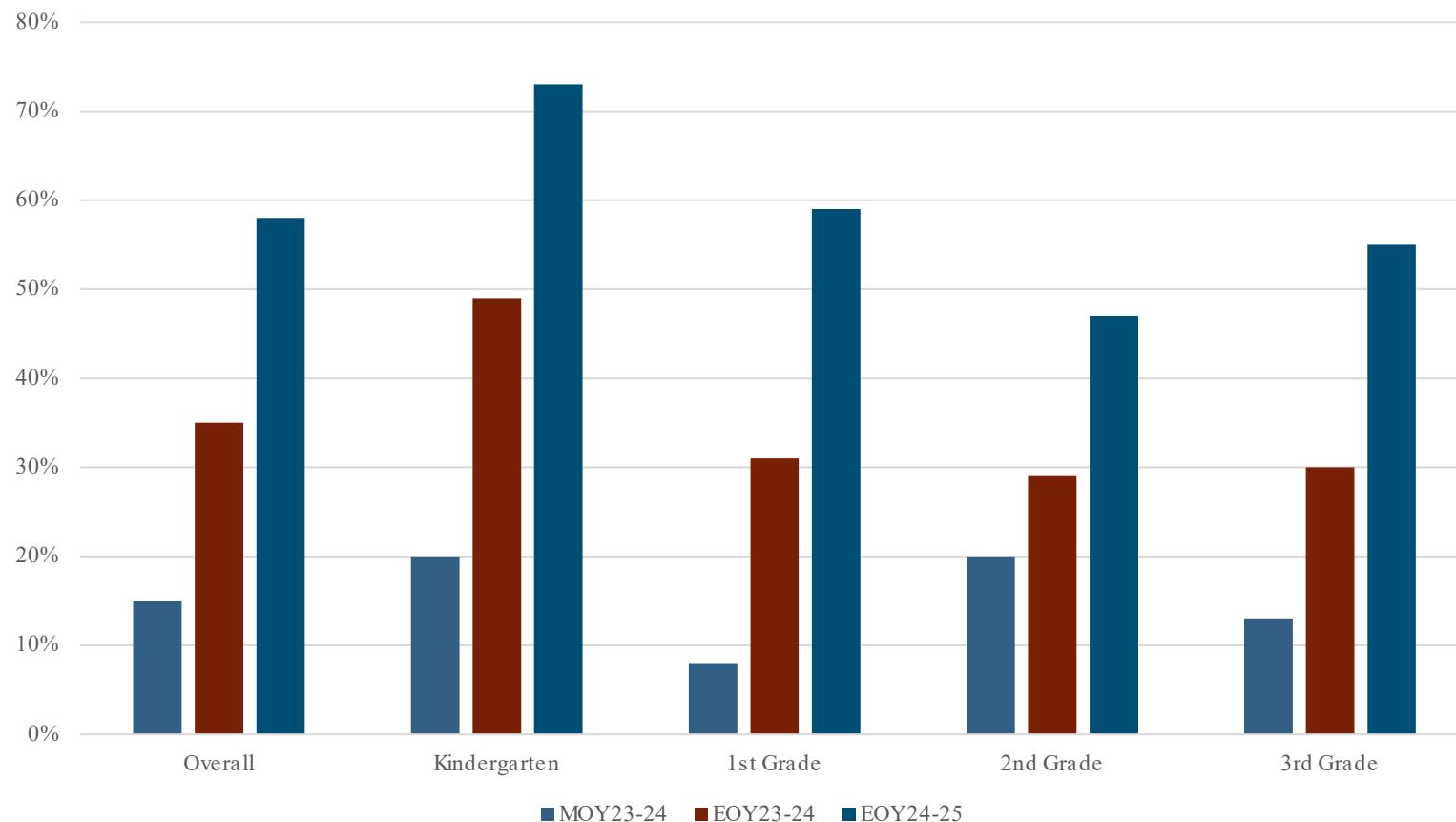
Our Story in Numbers



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Impact Data

DISTRICT1 - Universal Screening Benchmark Attainment
Phonics/Decoding (Nonsense Word Fluency – Correct Letter Sounds)



Reflection Activity

How can data and outcomes be used to tell the story of scaling evidence-based systems toward the 95% proficiency goal?



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Our Year in Numbers



- More than **\$16 million** was awarded to **298 LEAs** to support the implementation of evidence-based literacy practices.
- Approximately **65% of New Jersey's K-3 students** are supported through the FOCUS Grant, helping schools implement universal literacy screening and aligned professional learning.
- **Three literacy guidance documents** were released to support districts in implementing evidence-based literacy practices.
- **Two professional learning courses** were launched on the Learning Management System, comprising **13 total sessions** designed to support educators and administrators in evidence-based literacy instruction and leadership.



Panel



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Panelists



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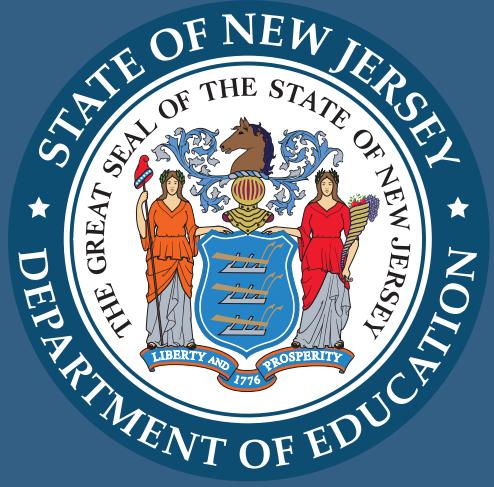
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Thank You

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