TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Evo Popoff, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Innovation Officer

SUBJECT: District Offer: edConnectNJ – NJ’s Instructional Improvement System

Potential edConnectors,

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is proud to present an offer to you and your district.

The NJDOE has developed an online platform in partnership with Pearson Schoolnet called edConnectNJ. edConnectNJ is NJ’s Instructional Improvement System (IIS) that provides educators with a suite of tools designed to improve their practice and their students’ achievement through organization and efficiencies. By using edConnectNJ, classroom teachers will receive access to meaningful student data through easy-to-use reports and to standards aligned resources such as lesson plans, assessment forms, items, and professional development. In addition, edConnectNJ also provides teachers with a wealth of tools to assist them in planning and organizing their daily instruction, assessing student growth, and grouping students to facilitate differentiation of teaching and learning.

Administrators and central district staff who use edConnectNJ will be able to review posted lesson plans, use data to create professional learning communities, share resources with a group of, or with individual, teachers, and analyze classroom, grade, subject and school- or district-level reports. The reports will inform strategies to improve building or district wide policies that will support educators in their classroom.

In the Spring of 2014, three New Jersey districts took part in a pilot of the edConnectNJ platform and found great value in the tool with an administrator stating “edConnectNJ truly has so much great potential for all teachers' and students' benefit.” The new platform is also being implemented this fall in 34 districts serving over 200,000 students as part of our Race to the Top 3 (RTTT3) grant and our Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver. As these 34 districts prepare to use edConnectNJ in the approaching school year, the NJDOE is opening up the edConnectNJ platform for every district in the state at a greatly reduced rate for Phase 2. By leveraging our RTTT3 funding to develop and host edConnectNJ, we are able to offer the platform to your district for a price of $3.83 per student per year – a deeply discounted price compared to the system’s typical cost for the average
district. In addition to the highly subsidized price, districts that decide to use edConnectNJ will also benefit from the support of the NJDOE, Regional Achievement Centers, Pearson and a growing community of your colleagues in districts across the state who will be using edConnectNJ and sharing instructional materials and assessments across the platform.

If this sounds like something your district would like to explore further please follow the steps below:

1) Visit the edConnectNJ information website (http://www.state.nj.us/education/techno/iis/) and watch the 20-minute demo of the features of edConnectNJ.

2) Browse the selections on the left tool bar to understand more about the features and functionality of edConnectNJ. Please also review the “edConnectNJ Overview Information” on the homepage and “Phase 2” resources to get a better understanding of the process and further information about the platform.

3) If you are interested in hearing more and believe edConnectNJ will be a good fit in your district, send us the pre-registration form with your contact information by September 15, 2014. You will find this form on the edConnectNJ website located on the homepage and Phase 2 resources area.

Once we receive your pre-registration form, you will then be sent an email by the edConnectNJ Product Lead, Evan Linhardt (evan.linhardt@doe.state.nj.us) who will invite you and your district to a webinar which will provide you with pointed information on the program, implementation, and time to ask questions live.

EP/EL

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