TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons  
School Business Administrators  
Nonpublic School Administrators  

FROM: Evo Popoff, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Charter Schools, School Choice, Technology, Turnarounds  

SUBJECT: Regional Broadband Purchasing Cooperatives Update  

In broadcast memoranda dated May 20 and September 30, 2014, we communicated to you that the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) had identified a potential cost savings opportunity in regional broadband purchasing cooperatives. NJDOE is pleased to inform you that the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission (MRESC) will soon announce the results of its wide area network and Internet cooperative purchasing initiative. On November 21, 2014, the successful service providers will be made public at a meeting of the MRESC Board of Directors. By the following week, schools should receive notifications about the selected vendors and associated pricing. 

This new arrangement should allow districts across the state to take advantage of new consortium discounts on important services for digital learning and assessment. MRESC anticipates that hundreds of districts will experience cost savings and/or service upgrades through the new contract. The New Jersey Department of Education will be working with the MRESC to communicate the results of the cooperative purchasing initiative and help schools sign up for service. Even if your district did not previously sign up for service, you may be able to participate. 

We encourage all districts to review the results of this new initiative as an important option in your selection of high speed Internet access providers for the upcoming years. The broadband purchasing cooperative initiative aims to help schools improve their technology infrastructure for vital educational applications. Working together as groups of schools is a proven method for accomplishing that goal. The NJDOE commends the work of the MRESC, Bergen County Technical Schools and the Educational Information and Resource Center, who together are creating and implementing these regional cooperatives.
If you have any immediate questions regarding the Internet cooperative purchasing initiative, please contact MRES C Business Administrator/Board Secretary Mr. Patrick M. Moran at 732-777-9848 Ext. 3120, or pmoran@mresc.k12.nj.us.

EP/LC/
c: Members, State Board of Education
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   Executive County Superintendents
   Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
   Executive County Business Officials
   Charter Schools Office
   County Test Coordinators
   District Test Coordinators
   District PARCC IT Contacts
   Directors of Approved Private Schools for the Disabled
   NJ LEE Group
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