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

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

SUBJECT: Adoption of the revised 2014 New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standard 8 / Current Technology Resources and Initiatives

We are pleased to inform you that the revised New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standard (NJCCCS) 8, Technology, was adopted by the State Board of Education on October 1, 2014. The 2014 standard is available at http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/2014/tech/. LEAs are required to implement the revised Standard 8 by September 2015.

Standard 8 is composed of two sections, Educational Technology (8.1) and Technology Education (8.2). Following is a brief summary of the 2014 Standard 8 revisions:

- Grade bands were changed throughout Standard 8 to align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
- Standard 8.1 (Education Technology)
  - Updates technology skills sets and terminologies
  - Allows greater cross curricular applications
  - Addresses Legislation (A3292 Sca (1R) ) that requires schools to provide instruction on the responsible use of social media for middle school students
  - Aligns more closely with the most recent International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards
- Standard 8.2 (Technology Education)
  - Adds a new strand entitled “Computational Thinking: Programming”
  - Aligns more closely with International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) Standards
  - Correlates where possible with the NGSS

Professional development opportunities and resources that will support educators in integrating Standard 8 into the instructional process will be available by spring 2015 to support implementation for the 2015 – 2016 school year. More information will be forthcoming in winter 2014. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding Standard 8, please contact Sue Sullivan at sue.sullivan@doe.state.nj.us. We look forward to working with you in implementing this updated Technology Standard.
Current Technology Resources and Initiatives

We would like to make you aware of some opportunities that are currently available to educators seeking to refresh and update their technology skills, leading to the increased use of technology in classroom instruction:

**Connected Educator Month (CEM)**
Originally developed by the U.S. Department of Education and its partners as part of the Connected Educators initiative, CEM is offering over **500 diverse professional development activities throughout this October** for educators at all levels. The goals of CEM include:
- Getting more educators proficient with social media to improve their practice
- Deepening and sustaining learning among those already enjoying connected learning benefits
- Helping schools credential/integrate connected learning into their formal professional development efforts
- Stimulating and supporting innovation in the field

If interested, please go to [http://connectededucators.org/](http://connectededucators.org/) in order to search the calendar for events you may be interested in attending online.

**Hour of Code**
Especially relevant to New Jersey educators in light of the addition of the Computational Thinking: Programming strand for NJCCCS 8.2, Hour of Code is an opportunity for every student to try computer science for one hour during the week of December 8–14, 2014 in celebration of [Computer Science Education Week](http://hourofcode.com/us). You can do the Hour of Code anytime during the week. Please go to [http://hourofcode.com/us](http://hourofcode.com/us) for more information.

Hour of Code can also be taught year-round. Over 43 million students have already done the Hour of Code and written over 2 billion lines of code. Please go to [www.code.org](http://www.code.org) for additional free computer science tutorials that are designed to work on browsers, tablets, smartphones, or "unplugged." Free professional development for teachers (including stipends) is also available.

**Digital Learning Day**
This school year’s date for the Alliance for Excellent Education’s Digital Learning Day (DLD) is March 13, 2015. DLD was started as a way to celebrate new ways of teaching and learning. It's an opportunity for teachers, librarians, informal educators and others working with youth to try out new digital tools and innovative instructional practices. For more information, please go to [http://www.digitallearningday.org/](http://www.digitallearningday.org/). Video profiles of previously featured school districts are now available along with many free online educational resources. You can also sign up to receive email alerts about upcoming webinars, news and updates regarding Digital Learning Day.

As the school year progresses, we will continue to release information regarding upcoming professional development opportunities and resources that will support the implementation and assessment of NJCCCS Standard 8 and LEA initiatives to further the educational shift to a digital learning environment. We are committed to assisting LEAs in preparing all students for college and careers.

With that goal in mind, we ask that LEAs that have previously participated in Hour of Code or Digital Learning Day events and have compelling stories that illustrate how digital learning practices can increase learning for students, to please consider sending us a short summary of that experience. We would like to post such experiences on the NJDOE Web site as examples of successful shifts to digital learning. Please send an email to edtech@doe.state.nj.us if you would like to submit your story, or have any questions.