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 a broadcast memorandum dated May 20, 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. We would like to thank the more than 400 school districts, totaling over 1200 schools, that participated in the Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Project’s Broadband Initiative by submitting non-binding Letters of Intent to join such cooperatives if they are successfully formed. Those letters were instrumental in assuring a robust response to the broadband Request for Proposal (RFP) that was issued on July 15 by the Middlesex Regional Educational Service Commission (MRESC). Over a dozen RFP responses were received by the September 17 RFP deadline. MRESC should be able to issue preliminary RFP award results by November, with new broadband services becoming available to school districts on July 1, 2015 through the creation of regional broadband purchasing cooperatives. The goal of the cooperatives is to help LEAs, schools and nonpublic schools achieve significant gains in Internet capabilities to support emerging applications important to student academic achievement.

The NJDOE supports 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.

More information regarding the results of the RFP should be available in November. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the RFP, please contact MRESC Business Administrator/Board Secretary Mr. Patrick M. Moran at 732-777-9848 Ext. 3120, or pmoran@mresc.k12.nj.us.