Date: January 2, 2019
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Curriculum and Instruction Personnel, Directors of Special Education, Bilingual Supervisors
From: Carolyn Marano, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Support Services
Deadline: February 1, 2019

Applications Available for New Jersey Tiered System of Supports–Early Reading Professional Development Grants

New Jersey school districts, charter schools and renaissance school projects are eligible to apply by February 1, 2019 to participate in the third cohort of the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports for Early Reading (NJTSS-ER) grant project. The goal of the grant project is to build capacity for school personnel by providing students with disabilities or at risk for disabilities with intensive coaching to improve reading achievement through an integrated continuum of supports and interventions.

Details of the NJTSS-ER Grant
In partnership with Rutgers University, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will engage district literacy coaches in a coach-the-coach model to enhance the effectiveness of reading interventions available to all students through a multi-tiered system of support. Applicants selected to participate in the grant will receive assistance with reviewing their current intervention systems and procedures, as well as assistance in aligning current interventions to the NJTSS framework. Coaching will be provided to district literacy coaches, working in two elementary schools within the district educating students in kindergarten through third grade. Reimbursements of up to $2,000 per school are provided for allowable costs.

In addition to the NJDOE’s partnership with Rutgers, the Department has partnered with both the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA) and the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) to provide targeted support on the role of the principal within the NJTSS framework and enhancing family and community engagement within the implementation of NJTSS, respectively.

Application Process
More information about the NJTSS-ER grant and applicant requirements can be found on the online application form. Please email the complete application to Pheobie Thomas, NJTSS-ER Grant Coordinator for the NJDOE, at Pheobie.Thomas@nj.doe.gov by February 1, 2019. Applicants will be notified of the approvals once the NJDOE has had the opportunity to review all submissions. The third cohort grant project is not available to districts that have already been awarded a grant in Year 1 or Year 2.

To learn more about the grant opportunity, school officials are invited to participate in an informational phone conference on Monday, January 7, 2019, from 2 -3 p.m. The conference access number is (712) 432-1500 and the participant code is 592808#.

For questions about the application and/or the grant, please contact Tatianna McBride, NJTSS State-Level Coach, at (609) 376-3738, or Dr. Peggy McDonald, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, at (609) 376-3716. Thank you for your consideration.