

## **Help Spread the Word: The Career-Focused Learner Ambassadors**

NJSBA is forming a committee of dedicated board members to volunteer to speak at local board of education meetings about what career-focused students need, the current opportunities available to them, and what boards of education can do to expand educational options for our students who are not planning to attend college immediately after high school.

NJSBA is seeking representatives for the committee from boards in the four major geographic areas of the state:

### **Northwest:**

Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Warren counties

### **Northeast:**

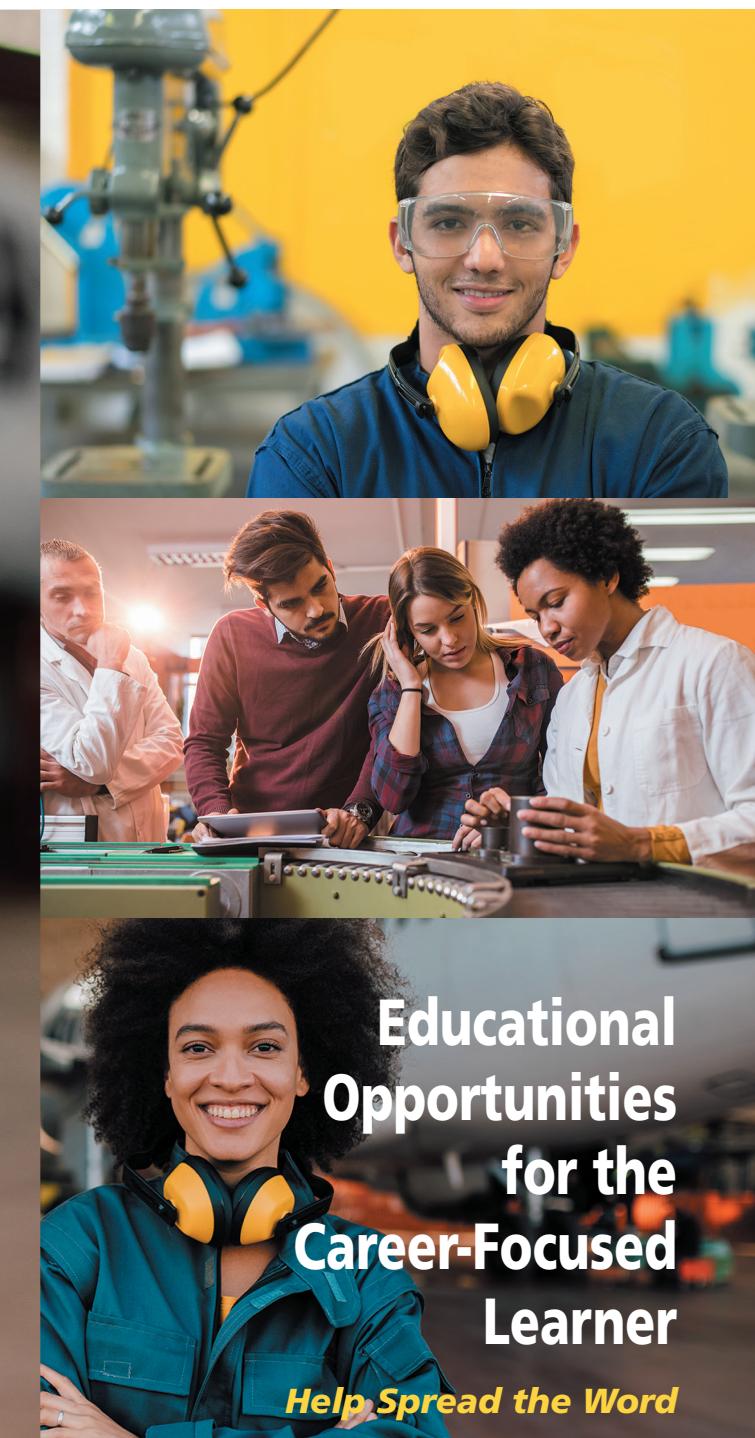
Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union counties

### **Central:**

Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties

### **South:**

Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties



# **Educational Opportunities for the Career-Focused Learner**

**Help Spread the Word**

**To volunteer, please contact Vince DeLucia, NJSBA director of training and professional development/educator-in-residence at [vdelucia@njsba.org](mailto:vdelucia@njsba.org)**



New Jersey School Boards Association  
*Serving Local Boards of Education Since 1914*

# Improving Opportunities for Non-College-Bound Students

In 2018, the New Jersey School Boards Association's Task Force on Educational Opportunities for the Non-College-Bound Learner released its final report, after studying the status of education programs and post-secondary training for students who do not plan to attend college immediately after high school graduation.

The task force identified strategies to better equip career-focused students with the skills required in a job market that is rapidly changing due to advances in artificial intelligence, automation, robotics, and other factors.

It made 69 recommendations addressing the delivery and funding of career and technical education; the roles of, and relationships among, comprehensive high schools, county vocational school districts, county colleges, and business and industry; standards and assessment for career-focused students, and teacher certification.

The NJSBA Task Force on Educational Opportunities for the Non-College-Bound Learner consisted of school board members and administrators and representatives of higher education, business and industry, and workforce development.

The full report is available at  
[www.njsba.org/Non-College-Bound-Learner](http://www.njsba.org/Non-College-Bound-Learner)



“

It is time for New Jersey to review what we are teaching in our schools and when.

We owe it to our students to redesign our high schools to respond to societal changes and employment needs.

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## Recommendations

The final report groups the Task Force's recommendations to improve opportunities for non-college-bound students into the following six categories:

- Ascertain the skills required to meet the needs of business and industry, and change the attitude toward jobs that do not require a college education.
- Maintain stronger communication and collaboration among local school districts, county vocational-technical schools, community colleges, state agencies, business and industry, and other prospective partners.
- Revisit curricula and programs so that they reflect economic realities, expose all students to the full array of post-secondary opportunities and prepare them for careers.
- Revise preparation and certification requirements to resolve a shortage of teachers in the STEM/STEAM and makerspace areas.
- Revise student assessment and graduation requirements.
- Address financial needs and concerns and explore alternative funding sources.