

notes DIGEST

Online University Hub to Offer Engaging E-courses to Stakeholders



The New Jersey School Boards Association has forged a partnership with the New Jersey Association of School Administrators in its official rebranding and launch of the new Online University Hub, a professional development academy for educators available at www.njlearninghub.org.

The Online University Hub, formerly known as NJSBA Online University, will offer engaging and interactive e-learning courses to all K-12 public school district stakeholders.

In a joint statement, the executive directors of the NJSBA, Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, and

of the NJASA, Dr. Richard Bozza, expressed their commitment and enthusiasm for this new collective endeavor.

“Our two organizations are pleased to work together to provide this enhanced digital training platform to support the New Jersey education community as it continues to strive for educational excellence and to help every student reach his or her potential,” according to the statement.

The Online University Hub is part of NJSBA’s state-approved cooperative pricing system, meaning school districts can save money and bypass the often lengthy formal bidding process.

Most of the online assessment-driven courses, which allow participants to determine

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NJSBA’s Virtual Workshop 2021 Provides Forum to Promote Student Learning, Network and More

More than 5,000 school officials, administrators, educators and others from New Jersey school districts had the opportunity to glean strategies and insights to promote student learning, leverage technology, and capitalize on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic at the New Jersey School Boards Association’s Virtual Workshop 2021.

For the second consecutive year, Workshop was held virtually, allowing school district officials to participate in more than 100 training sessions, listen to keynote speakers, network

with each other, and visit some 100 exhibitors in five virtual exhibit halls.

Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, NJSBA executive director, praised school officials, administrators and the entire education community for coming together to make Virtual Workshop a tremendous success.

“While we wish we could have met in person, our keynote speakers, trainers, sponsors and exhibitors, Association staff and thousands of participants stepped up and demonstrated

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Lieutenant Governor, Other High-Profile Figures Attend Essex County Meeting



Sheila Oliver, New Jersey’s lieutenant governor, with Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, NJSBA executive director.

The Essex County School Boards Association welcomed numerous high-profile educators and public officials at its Nov. 10 meeting highlighting the theme of “Equity, Diversity and Equality.”

Meeting attendees included Sheila Oliver, New Jersey’s lieutenant governor; Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, acting commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education; Josephine Garcia, president of the Essex County School Boards Association; Catherine Connors, a teacher at West Orange High School; Maura Baker of West Orange High School, who is the student representative to the State Board of Education, and was a speaker at 2021 Virtual Workshop; Terry Tucker, president of the East Orange Board of Education; and Theresa Maughan, a teacher at East Orange STEM Academy and the 2021-2022 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year.

The county school boards association meetings are opportunities for board members to get professional development and up-to-date information on current education initiatives, legislation and regulations affecting public schools. The meetings enable board members to stay connected and work together to advance the achievement of all public-school students in New Jersey.

Governor Acts on Education Measures

On Monday, Nov. 8, Gov. Phil Murphy acted on approximately 90 bills that the Legislature sent to his desk before going into recess this summer, including over a dozen school-related proposals. The following is a rundown of those measures.

New Enactments

The governor approved the following bills. Unless otherwise indicated, they took effect immediately.

Addressing School Nurse Shortage

A-4544/S-3150 permits a certified school nurse who is retired from the teachers pension system to return to work full time as a certified school nurse with a board of education without being reenrolled in the system. Such nurses would be permitted to return to work under a contract for one year, which may be renewed for one additional year. Employment beyond two years would require the approval of the commissioner of education. NJSBA supported the bill, which aims to alleviate the statewide shortage of school nurses.

Suicide Prevention/Student ID Cards

S-550/A-1616 would require that identification cards for students in grades seven through 12 have the telephone number for a suicide prevention hotline printed on the back of the card. The bill takes effect at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

School Bus Driver Safety

A-5817/S-3852 amends current law to hold a board of education or school bus contractor responsible if they approve or assign an individual, as a driver or substitute driver of a school bus, without first complying with existing provisions of law concerning the training, certification, and criminal history record checks of school bus drivers.

Bus Contractor Blacklist

A-5818/S-3849 provides that a list be posted on the New Jersey Department of Education's website of people who, because of a variety of illegal acts, are not allowed to bid on pupil transportation contracts. This list would be distributed to each school district and board of education in the state by March 1 of each year. Under the bill, the NJDOE is required to blacklist any person who fails to comply with rules pertaining to the qualification of school bus drivers and school bus inspections. While the governor signed this measure into law, it will not become effective until the enactment of separate legislation (S-3851/A-5814) that

would create a school bus safety ombudsman position in the state Department of Education. That measure has passed the full Assembly and is pending Senate approval. In addition, it will only apply to future pupil transportation contracts.

Expedited Alternative Route Certification

S-3253/A-2619 would require the state Board of Education to authorize an alternate route to expedite the certification of job candidates to teach grades seven through 12 at an early college high school. The alternate route will consist of a three-tiered certificate program, similar to the alternate route provided for charter school teachers. This certification would be used only for employment at an early college high school, not in any other public school.

Impact Aid

S-3948/A-5896 establishes an additional category of school aid known as "military impact aid" and authorizes supplemental state aid to certain districts receiving federal impact aid. The Federal Impact Aid Program provides financial assistance to school districts that include within their boundaries parcels of land owned by the federal government or that are exempt from local taxation.

Committees Take Action in Nov. 15 Sessions

On Monday, Nov. 15, various legislative committees convened either remotely or at the State House. The following is a summary of legislation affecting public-school districts.

Senate Environment and Energy Committee

Electric School Bus Pilot Program

S-4077 creates a three-year pilot program to determine the operational reliability and cost effectiveness of replacing diesel-powered school buses with electric school buses for daily transportation of students. The New Jersey Economic Development Authority will award \$15 million annually (\$45 million total) to six school districts per year (18 total) to participate. At least one of the districts or bus contractors annually selected is to be located in a "low-income, urban, or environmental justice community." The NJEDA may use available monies to provide grants from the following three sources: the societal benefits charge revenues, the Plug-in Electric Vehicle Incentive Fund, or the Global Warming Solutions Fund. NJSBA supports the bill.

Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee

Reviewing and Reporting of Tax Exemptions

S-2546 requires cost-benefit analyses for long-term tax exemptions and creates a state database of these exemptions. Both the applicant and the mayor or chief executive officer of the municipality will produce independent cost-benefit analyses. These analyses would be posted on the municipality's website and would be part of the public record. Further, municipalities that grant new long-term property tax exemptions are to provide pertinent information about each approved project to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, which will then post this information on its website. Unfortunately, a provision requiring the sharing of payments in lieu of taxes to be proportionally shared with school districts, among others, was removed at committee. NJSBA supports the bill but will continue to advocate for the sharing of PILOT funds to be returned to the bill.

Assembly Appropriations Committee

Reporting Discipline Data

A-1184/A-4414/S-1020 requires the School Report Card to include a demographic breakdown of students who receive disciplinary actions and requires the commissioner of education to establish a statewide database concerning various disciplinary actions. This consolidated bill would require that there be a demographic breakdown by race, gender, disability and grade level of the students who receive discipline, as well as the types of discipline imposed. The bill now heads to the full Assembly for consideration.

Electric Bus Loans

S-228/A-1626 would have the New Jersey Economic Development Authority administer a loan program for school districts and school bus contractors to acquire electric powered school buses. NJEDA will provide loans for the cost differential of purchasing an electric-powered school bus instead of a diesel or gasoline-powered school bus. NJEDA is given broad discretion as to the terms and conditions of the loans. The bill passed the Senate in March 2020 by a 38-1 vote. NJSBA supports the legislation.

Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee

Lead Testing Reporting

A-1977 requires the state to establish an online reporting system for lead testing results. The system will be established one year after the enactment of this bill. School districts and child care centers will then have 90 days to submit or resubmit their test results to the

online system. This information would then be publicly accessible on the NJDOE's website. Two years following this bill's enactment, the state will generate a report outlining the extent of lead contamination in the drinking water of schools and child care centers and recommendations for further course of action. NJSBA continues to monitor this legislation.

Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

Enrolling Students of Military Families

S-3783 permits dependents of a military member to enroll in a school district in advance of a military member's relocation to the district. The bill would permit dependents to enroll in the district even if their parent has not yet relocated. NJSBA sought and received an amendment requiring a copy of the relocation orders be presented to the district prior to enrollment. NJSBA supports this bill, which now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

Purple Star Schools

S-3785 establishes "Purple Star Schools Program" in the New Jersey Department of Education to recognize public and nonpublic schools that emphasize the importance of assisting children of military families. Under the bill, the commissioner of education will annually recognize as Purple Star Schools those schools that provide for, or have made significant progress to respond to, the educational and social-emotional challenges military-connected students encounter during the transition to a new school when the student's parent or guardian is an active-duty member of the United States Armed Forces and is relocated due to the member's continued military service. This bill establishes a working group to develop criteria to be used in the designation of public and nonpublic schools as Purple Star Schools. NJSBA successfully sought an amendment to include a school board member as part of the working group. NJSBA supports this bill, which now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

Remote Voting for Active-Duty Military BOE Members

S-3758 provides that a board of education may, by resolution, allow a school board member who is serving on active duty to participate remotely in meetings of the board of education. Furthermore, a school board member who is serving on active duty who participates remotely is required to be included in the quorum of that school board meeting. The bill now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

Read more: See Legislative Updates in online *School Board Notes*, Numbers 13 and 14.

Voters Decide School Board Seats, Ballot Questions

New Jersey voters went to the polls Nov. 2, and, in addition to voting for the governor, state legislative and local officials, most had the opportunity to elect members of their local boards of education.

This year, 1,594 board of education positions were on the ballot statewide. Incumbents made up about 47% of candidates and 684 seats were uncontested.

In addition, voters in nine school districts acted on ballot proposals, ranging from construction bond issues, and requests to increase the local tax levy above the state's 2% cap, to proposed changes in the local school board composition.

In Montclair and Port Republic, voters approved proposals to reclassify the school districts from a Type I district, with members of the board of education appointed by the mayor, to a Type II school district, with members of the board of education elected.

Starting in 2012, communities were permitted to change the date of their annual school board elections from April to November. Over 90% of school districts now conduct November elections. Only 13 school districts hold their annual elections in April, according to the New Jersey School Boards Association's records. (In addition, there are more than 40 districts in which school board members are appointed by the mayor or the county board of commissioners.)

Rate of Candidacy This year's 2,174 candidates represented a ratio of 1.36 candidates per open seat. This was an increase in the number of candidates over 2020, when 1,915 candidates vied for 1,519 positions, for a ratio of 1.26 candidates per open seat, according to data gathered from the state's 21 county clerks.

Ballot Questions School boards may place special questions on the November election ballot, and this year at least nine districts did so. One district asked voters to approve spending outside of the state's 2% tax levy cap.

- Four school boards conducted bond referendums asking voters to approve borrowing for school construction or renovation projects. Construction proposals totaled \$118,703,688 million statewide.
- Four boards of education had other ques-

tions, including proposals to change from an appointed to an elected board; to reduce the size of the board of education or to expand the size of their board.

Tax Levy Questions School boards may place questions on the November ballot, asking voters to approve spending outside of the state's 2% tax levy cap. There was one district with a tax levy question:

Greenwich (Warren County) — REJECTED The Greenwich Township Board of Education wanted to raise an additional \$600,000 in tax levy funds to hire six teachers to maintain class sizes. Current class sizes and student programs are in jeopardy because the district needs six teachers to meet the needs of its current K-8 student population. Six teachers equate to approximately \$100 per \$100,000 assessed valuation (not market value).

Construction Proposals The annual school election also serves as one of five dates during the year when school boards may ask voters to approve school construction proposals. On Nov. 2, voters in four school districts decided on proposed school construction referendums. Under the Educational Facilities and Construction and Financing Act of 2000, the state will fund at least 40% of eligible school construction costs through annual debt service aid.

Statewide amount proposed: \$118,703,688

Statewide amount passed: \$85,290,744 with the rest pending

State funding of proposed questions: \$38,601,249

State funding approved: \$31,897,256 with the rest pending

Lenape Regional High School District (Burlington County) — APPROVED

Various improvements, alterations, renovations and upgrades at Lenape High School, Shawnee High School, Cherokee High School, Seneca High School, the Administration Building, the warehouse building and the transportation building, including acquisition and installation of fixtures, furniture, equipment and any related site work.

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NJSBA Hits Milestone, Delivering 100 Facebook Live Sessions

The New Jersey School Boards Association marked an impressive achievement Nov. 4 in presenting its 100th Facebook Live episode since the COVID-19 pandemic washed over the globe.

In a concerted effort to boost outreach, the NJSBA launched a weekly — sometimes, up to three times a week — online series of informative sessions to compensate for the lack of in-person programming available at that time.

Now, 20 months later and after a monumental 100,000 views, the Association continues the online series as a supplement to its multitude of services available to members.

“We have served so many board members and others within the education community in a variety of creative ways. These NJSBA Facebook Live sessions have unexpectedly become a remarkable service that we continue to offer using a free online communication tool showcasing collaboration, partnerships and important industry information to the New Jersey K-12 public education community,” said NJSBA Executive Director Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod. “It is one of the silver linings that have come out of the COVID-19 world that forced so many of us to work from home and come up with new ways of connecting with each other.”

NJSBA is open to ideas for upcoming Facebook Live sessions and would like to connect with experts interested in sharing their knowledge on the public platform. Contact Michael Kvidahl, manager of digital communications and marketing, for consideration at mkvidahl@njsba.org.

Check out some of the most popular NJSBA Facebook Live sessions by visiting its business page on Facebook:

- Celebrate International SEL Day: March 27, 2020.
- NJSBA I-STEAM and Sustainability Lessons, with John Henry: April 8, 2020.
- Announcing the “Future” of FRS-NJ: Sustainable Jersey Digital Schools, June 2, 2020.
- The Road Back to School: A Conversation about Equity: July 9, 2020.
- A Conversation with ARTSEDNJ: Feb. 10, 2021.
- Governor’s Educator of the Year Program: Jan. 28, 2021.
- Sustainability Principles in a School District: March 31, 2021.

Ballot Questions

continued

Total amount: \$66,628,944

State funds: \$24,432,536

South Hunterdon Regional School District (Hunterdon County) — PENDING

The board is seeking to construct a new middle school to house grades 5 to 8 and to make comprehensive improvements to Lambertville Elementary School to provide upgraded facilities for its pre-K to grade four school building, including but not limited to HVAC, electric, plumbing, improvements to ancillary areas and construction of a new entry.

The vote is extremely close, with results showing Lambertville overwhelmingly wants the project to be approved, but voters in Stockton and West Amwell are against it.

TAPinto.net, a network of more than 90 franchised online local and subject matter news sites in New Jersey, New York and Florida, reported that with all votes counted — including provisional ballots and mail-in votes, the tally stands at 1,773 yes votes, and 1,771 no votes.

The article quoted Superintendent Anthony Suozzo thanking voters who supported the proposal. West Amwell resident Mike Spille, head of the township’s environmental committee, has filed an ethics violation in court against the board of education, challenging election results, Tapinto.net reported.

Total amount if approved: \$33,412,944

State funds if approved: \$6,703,993

Freehold Regional High School District (Monmouth County) — APPROVED

The district was seeking approval to repair and to replace selected roofs and to repave and to repair selected drives and parking lots at Colts Neck High School, Freehold Borough High School, Freehold Township High School, Howell High School, Manalapan High School and Marlboro High School, including any related site work. The final eligible costs for the projects approved by the New Jersey commissioner of education are \$14,460,000 (consisting of \$4,352,000 for Colts Neck High School, \$588,000 for Freehold Borough High School, \$3,296,000 for Freehold Township High School, \$2,055,000 for Howell High School,

\$1,631,000 for Manalapan High School, and \$2,538,000 for Marlboro High School). The board of education is authorized to transfer funds among the projects.

Total amount: \$14,460,000

State funds: \$5,784,000

Hamburg Borough Board of Education (Sussex County) — APPROVED

The board of education was seeking to provide for renovations, alterations and improvements at Hamburg Borough Elementary School, including acquisition and installation of fixtures and equipment, site work and related costs. The board is authorized to transfer funds among the purposes approved at this annual election.

Total amount: \$4,201,800

State funds: \$1,680,720

Other Ballot Questions In four districts, voters acted on questions related to school board composition and board type.

Greenwich Township (Cumberland County) — APPROVED

The Greenwich Township Board of Education asked voters if it should decrease the number of its membership from the current nine-member board of education to a seven-member board.

Port Republic (Atlantic County) — APPROVED

The board asked voters if it should change to a Type II elected board with five members from being a Type I district with members of the board of education appointed by the mayor, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:9-4.

Edgewater Borough (Bergen County) — APPROVED

The Edgewater School District Board of Education asked if it should increase the size of its board from five members to seven members to better serve the community by having a greater and more diverse group of representatives.

Montclair (Essex County) — APPROVED

The Montclair Township School District had a question on the ballot asking voters if it should be reclassified from a Type I School District, with members of the board of education appointed by the mayor, to a Type II school district, with members of the board of education elected by township voters during regularly-scheduled annual November elections, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:9-4. 🍎



(l-r) New Jersey Department of Education Acting Commissioner Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan; NJSBA Executive Director Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod; and a Workshop Wind Down student performance, which showcased Scarlet Sound A Cappella from Neptune High School, led by choral director Mr. J. Fryer.



Virtual Workshop 2021 continued

for a second year in a row how essential it is for Workshop to go on — and how meaningful it can be in a virtual format. We hope to meet in person next year, and we will certainly be using many of the lessons we learned at our Virtual Workshops to make our next conference even more meaningful and productive.”

Virtual Workshop was cosponsored by the New Jersey Association of School Administrators and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials.

Irene M. LeFebvre, president of the NJSBA, greeted and networked with Virtual Workshop attendees throughout the event — and presented the NJSBA’s Board Member of the Year honor to Kerri Wright, a Chester trustee who she called “truly a champion for all local taxpayers in Chester by focusing on fiscal discipline and responsibility.”

Keynotes Deliver In addition to networking opportunities, exhibit halls, and scores of training sessions that registrants can continue to watch on demand. Virtual Workshop included three keynote speakers.

Maura Baker, a student at West Orange High School and the student representative to the New Jersey Board of Education, kicked off Virtual Workshop on Tuesday, Oct. 26, focusing on the challenges students face navigating the pandemic — as well as the hurdles she’s overcome as a student with dyslexia.

Baker, who calls the condition a learning difference and not a disability, founded a blog, website and Twitter account called Smart Kid — Mad Myths, where she provides students with an array of tips to succeed in school.

Alisha De Lorenzo, a former educator and a licensed professional counselor, provided public school officials with practical tips for maintaining their well-being while serving during an intense time and preventing burnout.

Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, acting commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education, who has spent a 25-year career in education, spoke about her desire to strengthen teaching, accelerate learning, and to increase educational equity for New Jersey’s 1.4 million public school students.

Legislative Panel Highlights a Variety of Topics Virtual Workshop attendees also had the chance to listen to a panel of New Jersey legislators address a variety of educational challenges — and outlined their agenda to bolster education moving forward.

Jonathan Pushman, director of governmental relations at NJSBA, moderated the panel in a program co-hosted by the Garden State Coalition of Schools.

The panel included Sen. M. Teresa Ruiz, chair of the Senate Education Committee; Sen. Steven V. Oroho, Republican budget officer; and Assemblywoman Pamela R. Lampitt, chair of the Assembly Education Committee.

Wind Down A new feature this year was the Workshop Wind Down, which began daily at 7 p.m. as part of the three-day conference. Inspired by the popular County Café chat from the previously held in-person conferences, the sessions provided the opportunity for members to network and attend training programs through smaller meet-and-greet gatherings. For the first hour, there were presentations on timely topics; in the second hour, NJSBA staff breakout rooms gave members the chance to

ask questions and talk about topics with NJSBA experts in policy, school law, labor relations, communications and boardmanship.

Registration still open The group rate for NJSBA’s Virtual Workshop 2021 includes up to 25 team members for only \$900, including school board members, superintendents, school business administrators, educators and district staff. The individual rate is \$450 per person. Business administrators must handle registration by logging into the NJSBA member portal.

The conference, including most sessions, also is available for on-demand viewing until Dec. 28 for registrants who log into the original platform at workshop.njsba.org.

NSBA Welcomes Dr. John Heim as Executive Director

Dr. John Heim will become the new executive director of the National School Boards Association on Nov. 23, 2021.

“I am honored and humbled to be given this opportunity to lead NSBA, especially during such a pivotal period for the organization and for our membership,” Heim said. “I am dedicated to working with the board and our staff to rebuild trust with the state associations that are our members.”

Heim most recently served as executive director of the Kansas Association of School Boards, where, for the last 11 years, he worked closely with local boards of education on professional development, goal setting, financial stewardship, policy advocacy and other strategic issues to advance public education. Over his four-decade career in public education, he has worked as a teacher, principal and superintendent to improve outcomes and opportunities of Kansas students.

School Districts Get \$37M in Stabilization Aid

The New Jersey Department of Education has announced that 16 school districts will receive \$37 million in stabilization aid.

In the fiscal year 2021-2022 state budget, some \$50 million was included in stabilization aid grants to assist districts that are adjusting to new funding levels as determined by S-2, the school funding reform measure enacted in 2018.

Districts that experienced a reduction in state aid or face a structural budgetary imbalance could apply for stabilization aid. The fiscal year Appropriations Act also provides for stabilization aid to military-impacted districts if certain criteria are met.

Three Ocean County school districts were awarded \$20.2 million in combined stabilization aid — about 55% of the roughly \$37 million that was announced.

Toms River, Brick Township and Jackson, school districts will receive about \$7.6 million, \$6.5 million and \$6 million, respectively, after submitting applications to the New Jersey Department of Education.

“Toms River Regional Schools is relieved

and extremely grateful for Gov. Murphy’s announcement today that our requested \$7.6 million in stabilization aid will be provided,” said Superintendent Stephen Genco in an Oct. 28 news release. “On behalf of our students and staff, I thank our board members and community supporters who spent time and effort behind the scenes to fight for our district and for Toms River; our team here who thoroughly and successfully developed our comprehensive application for stabilization aid; and of course, Gov. Murphy, who has heard our collective voice and who has responded. This is indeed wonderful and welcome news.”

The aid will help Toms River Regional Schools develop its 2022-2023 budget. The school district added that it “will assuredly save staff positions,” noting that about 40 positions were slashed entering this year, which could have been more if not for pandemic-relief funding.

Another aid recipient was the Jackson school district, which will receive \$6 million.

“This is great news, as the district will be facing another \$4.1 million cut based on the State Bill S-2 for the 2022-2023 school budget,” said Nicole Pormilli, superintendent of Jackson schools, in a message posted on the school system’s homepage. “The district has already lost \$11 million since the onset of the S-2 bill four years ago.”

The approved funding will help with the 2022-2023 budget, Pormilli said. “It will save staff positions that support the wonderful programs available to our Jackson students. The district is thankful for this good news and for the communitywide effort to advocate that we receive this support.”

NJDOE is also making Education Rescue Grants available to any district that saw a reduction in teaching staff in 2021-2022. Those grants can be used to rehire or retrain teaching staff. Any district that meets these criteria is eligible to apply, regardless of that district’s status under S-2.

The chart at left lists the stabilization aid allocations.

\$10M for School District Consolidation and Shared Services Initiatives Now Available

On Wednesday, Oct. 27, Gov. Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services announced that applications are being accepted for the next round of Local Efficiency Achievement Program grants.

LEAP provides financial assistance to local government entities, such as counties, municipalities, school districts, authorities and fire districts across New Jersey to identify, study and implement shared services initiatives. A portion of these grants is set aside to fund school consolidation and countywide school district studies. A total of \$10 million was included in the 2022 fiscal-year state budget to fund the LEAP program.

The LEAP program is comprised of three primary components: challenge grants, implementation grants and county coordinator fellowship grants. Applications, program guidelines and detailed information about the LEAP Program is available at www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/leapgrants.html.

Online University Hub continued

their optimal learning path, are two hours each and can be accessed anytime. In addition, the Online University Hub will offer training on the platform through partners, including the Rutgers University Division of Continuing Studies and the International Society for Technology in Education, which offers the ISTE Certified Educator Program. More partners will be announced in coming months.

The Online University Hub will deliver a subscription-based, remote learning hub of more than 100 courses across 30-plus learning paths that support timely topics in education, including learning loss recovery, social-emotional learning, creative instruction, and STEAM education, which incorporates an interdisciplinary approach to science, technology, engineering, the arts and math.

More Advantages School districts may also be able to access funding for these courses under the recently-approved federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

For further information about the Online University Hub, please email SHI@njsba.org or visit njlearninghub.org.

County	District Name	Stabilization Aid Awarded
Burlington	Florence Township	\$246,341
Cape May	Lower Cape May Regional	\$2,014,568
Cape May	Lower Township	\$2,114,525
Hudson	Weehawken	\$168,675
Monmouth	Freehold Regional	\$1,922,264
Monmouth	Keansburg	\$1,441,312
Monmouth	Upper Freehold Regional	\$2,159,000
Ocean	Brick Township	\$6,527,350
Ocean	Jackson Township	\$6,000,000
Ocean	Lacey Township	\$1,322,429
Ocean	Plumsted Township	\$400,000
Ocean	Toms River Regional	\$7,641,573
Salem	Alloway Township	\$570,599
Salem	Lower Alloways Creek	\$298,405
Sussex	Vernon Township	\$4,070,000
Warren	Knowlton Township	\$93,409
Total		\$36,990,450

NJSBA's Virtual Workshop 2021: View the Most-Watched Sessions On-Demand



NJSBA's Virtual Workshop 2021 organizers have mined data from the 100 professional development programs to pull together a list of the most-watched sessions for those still interested in registering.

The entire conference, including most sessions, is available for on-demand viewing until Dec. 28 for registrants who log into the digital platform.

NJSBA's Virtual Workshop, co-sponsored by the New Jersey Association of School Administrators and the New Jersey Association of School Board Officials, showcases three keynote speakers. Each kicked off one of the three conference days at 9 a.m.

They include:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 26: Maura Baker**, a 16-year-old junior from West Orange High School, serves as the student representative to the New Jersey Board of Education. Baker provides the audience with a candid assessment concerning the social and academic challenges that she and other students face during a school year that is anything but typical.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 27: Alisha De Lorenzo**, an expert in cultivating productive and healthy school climates and cultures, is a former longtime educator and a licensed professional counselor. She shares social and emotional tips for improved student learning, leadership, relationships and overall well-being.
- **Thursday, Oct. 28: New Jersey Department of Education Acting Commissioner Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan**, is the state's chief of pre-K-12 public education, encompassing 1.4 million students. She has led schools, districts, a county education department and has even served as a college board of trustee member. Dr. Allen-McMillan provides school leaders with a detailed snapshot of new state initiatives and plans.

Check out the other most-watched training sessions from NJSBA's Virtual Workshop 2021:

Knowing Your Ethical Obligations and Avoiding Complaints School board ethics complaints cost districts time and money. These disruptions often result in attorney fees, create public relations issues and affect an entire school board and superintendent. In this seminar, learn how to avoid ethics complaints and resolve disagreements without incurring needless expenses.

Best Practices in Boardmanship The board of education's role is to ensure that a public school district is well run. In practical terms, how does a board member know the appropriate information to ask to make an informed decision? A superintendent and two board members share examples of best practices.

Understanding the Impact of Your Leadership Voice Your voice as a leader can impact and influence your school board, your district and your community. Elevate your communication style awareness and determine how it may be misperceived. Leave with a plan to better engage and connect with others.

Everything ESSER: An Overview of the Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Program More than \$4 billion in national emergency funds have flowed to New Jersey schools over the last year. This presentation provides an overview of funds available under the federal American Rescue Plan's ESSER program, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and for homeless children and youth. Review the required application process, the allowable uses of funds and the federal reporting requirements.

Creative Approaches to Saving Energy in Schools New Jersey school leaders are implementing innovative sustainable energy practices, from student-oriented energy-saving programs to comprehensive facility improvements. This panel features impressive and inspiring efforts by school administrators, facility managers and teachers to integrate sustainable energy into the curriculum, daily district operations and beyond, resulting in tangible impacts for their students and greater communities.

An Ethics Update and Potential Minefields for Board Members Hear about recent ethics

decisions involving school board members and learn the best ways to avoid complex ethics issues. This presentation includes an interactive discussion and references other challenging matters that board members face.

What Is Critical Race Theory? While critical race theory is not taught in pre-K-12 public schools in New Jersey or across the nation, it has gained considerable public attention. Critical race theory is an academic exercise first developed in American law schools to analyze the evolution of laws adopted in our nation and their impact. In this seminar, participants learn about the three components of critical race theory and are introduced to culturally responsive teaching, which helps all students, regardless of their background, feel accepted and understood, which is necessary for effective learning.

Strategies for Capital Planning Projects Join us for the latest in our always popular capital project planning session. We cover the ins and outs of capital project planning, strategies for success, pitfalls to avoid and ever-changing priorities during these challenging times. We discuss the need to stay on track and not to lose sight of the big picture. New discussion topics include the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers' return to school guidance, the New Jersey Department of Education's updates for long-range facilities plans and related matters.

You're a New Business Administrator: What You Need to Know School district business administrators wear many hats, including the oversight of facility maintenance and upgrades. Differentiating what constitutes maintenance from capital projects is critical. This session reviews the difference between the two, the statutory requirements for governing facilities, and the history of the New Jersey Department of Education's Office of School Facilities division. Learn about obtaining the necessary local building permits and state approvals for district projects. Hear from a seasoned business administrator and those with experience in navigating the process and paperwork involved in these matters.

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NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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BRIEFLY NOTED

Attorney of the Day Program Gets Dedicated Phone Line

The New Jersey School Boards Association's Attorney of the Day program has a new dedicated phone line. The phone number is 609-278-5279.

Phone calls from school board members, school administrators and school board attorneys seeking legal or labor relations information should be directed to this new line.

Your call will be returned within 24 hours. Please remember that the NJSBA staff can only provide legal information and cannot provide official legal advice.

Workshop Most Attended *continued*

A School Board's Role as a Policy Maker: Policy Review, Development and Oversight

Effective policymakers understand the boundaries between school board oversight and the day-to-day operations of a school or district. Information and resources presented cover: identifying and establishing policy priorities; developing policy; policy oversight; ongoing manual maintenance. This session includes a slideshow presentation and case studies.

There's more! Workshop 2021 includes student performances, an interactive exhibit floor and various informative, professional devel-

opment sessions. Topics include digital and distance learning, equity, cybersecurity, cost-savings, school finance and shared services, technology, sustainability, and integrative STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and math), just to name a few.

How to view the courses Once logged into the Workshop 2021 digital platform, click "Enter" and then "Auditorium." On the main stage's big screen, click the yellow banner titled "Click Here to View and Join Sessions." You can type keywords in the white bar on top of the page, above the date, to locate the sessions that interest you.

Registration is still open The group rate includes up to 25 team members for \$900, including school board members, superintendents, school business administrators, educators and district staff. The individual rate is \$450 per person. Business administrators must handle registration.

For more information, visit Virtual Workshop at workshop.njsba.org. 

Get the Full Story Online

The print edition of *School Board Notes Digest* is published monthly, and it includes condensed versions of articles that have appeared in the weekly online version of the newsletter. The current issue is available at www.njsba.org/sbn. Follow links on that page to view archived editions.