



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE
Acting Commissioner

October 8, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Susan Martz, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services and Career Readiness

SUBJECT: Special Education Task Force Public Testimony in October

The New Jersey Task Force on Improving Special Education for Public School Students was established by the Legislature to “study issues associated with improving the funding, delivery and effectiveness of special education programs and services for public school students.” The Task Force will be conducting meetings throughout the state to hear public testimony on October 16, 23, 27 and 29, 2014, to gather information for its report to the Governor and Legislature.

The regional meetings will be held at:

- **Learning Resource Center-South**, 107 Gilbreth Parkway, Mullica Hill, New Jersey, on Thursday, October 16, 2014 from 6 – 8 p.m. in the conference room on the second floor of the building.
- **Learning Resource Center-North**, 7 Glenwood Ave., East Orange, New Jersey, on Thursday, October 23, 2014, from 5 – 7 p.m. in the conference room on the second floor of the building.
- **N. A. Blesman Regional Day School**, 333 E. Ridgewood Ave., Paramus, New Jersey, on Monday, October 27, 2014, from 6 – 8 p.m. in the school cafeteria.
- **Learning Resource Center-Central**, 200 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey, on Wednesday, October 29, 2014, from 6 – 8 p.m. in the conference room on the first floor of the building.

Free parking is available at all four locations. Directions and parking information are available online for the [Learning Resource Centers](#) and for the [Bergen County session](#) in Paramus.

The topics for input include:

- The evaluation of practices for classifying and educating students who are eligible for special education programs and services;
- The development of best practices for education professionals working with special education students;
- Strategies to reduce the costs associated with the placement of eligible students in out-of-district public schools or private schools, including the development of in-district special education programs and services; and
- The development of standards and appropriate oversight to ensure that programs and services address the needs of students, focus on student achievement, and assess the effectiveness of programs and services.

Members of the public who would like to present oral testimony related to the task force's charge must register at <http://education.state.nj.us/events/> and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, as space is limited. Those accepted to present oral testimony will be granted three minutes each so all participants can be heard. Members of the public are asked to bring printed copies of their remarks to the meetings.

Comments and suggestions may also be provided to the task force through October 31, 2014, via email at specedtaskforce@doe.state.nj.us or by postal mail at: New Jersey Special Education Task Force, c/o Office of Special Education Programs, New Jersey Department of Education, PO Box 500, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500.

Please share this with your district staff and parents. Your input will be beneficial to the Special Education Task Force.

SM/ml:SETF Public Testimony in October 2014

c: Members, State Board of Education
Acting Commissioner David C. Hespe
Senior Staff
Peggy McDonald
Paul Fogarty
Special Education Task Force
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
Executive County Business Officials
NJ Lee Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools