



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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September 8, 2015

TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

FROM: Kimberley Harrington  
Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: NJ Standards Review Survey and Listening Tours

In May 2015, Governor Christie called on the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) to present a plan to review New Jersey's English language arts and mathematics standards, known as the Common Core State Standards (Standards). A Standards Review Committee and three content-specific Subcommittees have been formed to evaluate and recommend meaningful revisions to the existing Standards. These four groups are comprised of highly experienced educators who will meet many times over the course of the next four months to complete a thorough analysis of the Standards.

The New Jersey Standards Review Committee and Subcommittees need the benefit of input and comments from other educators, parents, business leaders and interested stakeholders who support high academic standards for New Jersey's students. To ensure a comprehensive review of the Standards, the New Jersey Standards Review process also includes an online survey offering the public an opportunity to comment on each standard, as well as three regional Listening Tours for community members.

### **Listening Tours**

The Department has scheduled three regional Listening Tours, which are integral to the Standards Review Process. Over a three-week period, staff will travel to three regions and spend a total of approximately nine hours listening to participants throughout the state to collect perspectives that will help to inform the review process.

These tours will allow for an open forum for community members, including parents and members of the business community to address their concerns about specific standards to inform the work of the committees.

The Listening Tours will occur as follows:

**Northern Location:** Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Avenue, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Date and Time: September 17, 2015 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Registration link: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/details.php?recid=23042>

**Southern Location:** Stockton College, 101 Vera King Farris Drive, Galloway, NJ 08205-9441

Date and Time: September 28, 2015 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Registration link: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/details.php?recid=23044>

**Central Location:** Mercer Special Services School District, 1020 Old Trenton Road, Hamilton, NJ 08690

Date and Time: September 29, 2015 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Registration link: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/details.php?recid=23043>

***Important Considerations:***

Registration will close at 5 p.m. the day before each event. Please note, that space and time are limited. Speakers participating must pre-register and will be called to speak in the order of arrival at the event. All speakers will have three minutes to provide comments that are pertinent to the Standards Review Process and must provide a written copy of comments to a Department representative. Although walk-ins will be able to attend the event, they will not be able to speak during the event.

**New Jersey Standards Review Survey**

The New Jersey Standards Review Survey will be open for responses from September 2, 2015 through October 9, 2015. During this time, all are encouraged to use the Survey to provide specific feedback on each Standard from Kindergarten through Grade 12. Responses from the Survey will be compiled and used to inform the New Jersey Standards Review Committee and Subcommittees in their work to review and recommend changes to the Standards.

To access the New Jersey Standards Review Survey go to: <http://njstandardsreview.statestandards.org>. Please note that the Survey may not work properly using older versions of Internet Explorer.

***Getting Started on the New Jersey Standards Review Survey:***

1. Sign In. The survey will ask for a limited amount of required identifying information: whether you live or work in the state, your county of residence, and whether you are a parent/guardian, teacher, student, administrator, etc. All other requested information is optional.
2. Read and accept the Terms and Conditions.

3. **Choose a grade level and strand to review.** For example, as a starting point, if you are a parent or grandparent of a child in fifth grade, you might want to view the English language arts (ELA) and math standards for that grade level.
4. **Review the Standards.** Each Standard contains various strands, all of which may be reviewed. For instance, second grade ELA contains strands for reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language.
5. **Provide Feedback for each Standard.** Read carefully and decide whether you agree with the Standard. If you choose that you agree with a Standard, no comments are required. Positive feedback is helpful. If you feel a Standard should somehow be changed or deleted, comments are required.

All written feedback should be specific and clearly relate to the standard being reviewed. Even supportive feedback about why particular skills being taught are important for functioning in the workforce or in the real world at large are helpful and vital to this process.

**Please note:**

Once you have initially signed in, you may pause your review and comments at any time and return to continue at your convenience. **However, once feedback has been submitted on a specific standard, it cannot be changed.** In order to have your participation and comments registered, please submit your comments before the New Jersey Standards Review Survey closes on **October 9, 2015.**

I urge you to join us in participating in this important review process to ensure we maintain high standards for the students of New Jersey. Please continue to monitor the Standards Review web page for monthly updates.

KH/KG

c: Members, State Board of Education  
David C. Hespe, Commissioner  
Senior Staff  
Executive County Superintendents  
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers  
Executive County Business Officials  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group