



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 21, 2020  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
Route To: School Business Administrators, Board Secretaries, Principals  
From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Student Services

## Implementing the Gifted and Talented Legislation Updates

On January 13, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law A4710, the [Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act](#). A statewide stakeholder group, convened by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Gifted Education Coordinator, Ms. Leslie Franks-McRae, has been meeting over the past few months to provide input regarding implementation of the requirements of the law. The following updates are being provided to support local education agencies' (LEA) implementation of the newly signed act.

### LEA Report to the Department of Education Filing Date

Pursuant to *18A:7A-11*, each school district shall file with the NJDOE Gifted Education Coordinator a report by October 1, 2020. The report must contain:

- The gifted and talented continuum of services, policies, and procedures implemented in the school district; and
- The professional development opportunities provided for teachers, educational services staff, and school leaders about gifted and talented students, their needs, and educational development.

A reporting template and details for submission is expected to be available through NDOE's [Homeroom](#) webpage in the fall of 2020. Following this initial submission, reporting will be required on a schedule that coincides with each district's Quality Single Accountability Continuum review.

### Student Demographic Data Collection (*18A:37b(2)*)

Modifications have been made to [NJ SMART](#) to accommodate the collection of additional data required by the Law:

- a) Student record: A new data element of GiftedAndTalentedStudent has been added to SID Management to indicate if a student has been identified as a gifted and talented or twice exceptional;
- b) Staff record: A new data element of GiftedAndTalentedStaff has been added to SMID Management to indicate if a staff member has the job responsibility of providing gifted and talented and/or twice-exceptional education services to the identified students within the school district; and
- c) Staff Job & Purchased Services Job Code: a new regular Job Code of 3140 and Purchased Services Job Code of 0045 for Gifted and Talented Staff has been added to the Staff Submission.

**Technical Assistance Sessions**

On August 26, the Department will conduct technical assistance sessions focused on implementing the Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Law for Fall 2020 and beyond. In addition to information about district responsibilities and reporting requirements, participants will learn about the collaborative work being done by the New Jersey Association for Gifted Children, the NJDOE, and other stakeholders to help support LEAs as we navigate the upcoming changes and implement new possibilities for students in our state. The sessions will also include presentations by department staff on utilizing funding to support gifted and talented education. [Registration](#) for the technical assistance sessions is now open.

**Contact Information**

Please direct all questions to [Gifted@doe.nj.gov](mailto:Gifted@doe.nj.gov).

c:       Members, State Board of Education  
          Kevin Dehmer, Interim Commissioner of Education  
          NJDOE Staff  
          Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
          Garden State Coalition of Schools  
          NJ LEE Group  
          New Jersey Association for Gifted Children