



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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February 14, 2017

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Directors of Special Services

FROM: Lorelei Drew-Nevola, Director
Office of Special Education Professional Development

SUBJECT: Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST): Training/Webinar Opportunities

The New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Special Education Professional Development, in partnership with the Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, is sponsoring regional training and webinars for parents and educators working with students with disabilities on the Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST) process.

PCAST is a holistic life-mapping approach in which a facilitator guides a student, with the support of family and educators, to identify the student's strengths and determine future goals and supports that are needed for the life the student envisions after high school. This includes work, post-secondary education, and all aspects of community life.

The scheduled training programs and webinars include:

PCAST: Person-Centered Planning and Implementation

- March 2 & 3, 2017, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. – Learning Resource Center South, Blackwood
- March 20 & 21, 2017, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. – Learning Resource Center Central, Trenton
- March 30 & 31, 2017, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. – Learning Resource Center North Satellite, Morris Plains

Participants will learn fundamental skills, tools, and processes to implement person-centered approaches in schools. These include effective methods for gathering, organizing, providing, and presenting information strategically to improve post-school outcomes for students with disabilities. This two-day training was formerly the one-day *Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition* workshop. The new workshop introduces additional person-centered thinking skills and tools along with expanded instruction and practice time.

- [Register online](#) for *Person-Centered Planning and Implementation*.

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PCAST: Effective Meeting Facilitation for Educational Settings

- March 9, 2017, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. – Learning Resource Center South, Blackwood
- March 17, 2017, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. – Learning Resource Center Central, Trenton
- March 23, 2017, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. – Learning Resource Center North Satellite, Morris Plains

Participants will learn key person-centered thinking skills and tools designed to improve the quality of meetings. These facilitation techniques are applicable to various meeting types. Participants will leave with practical strategies and tools that address the diverse needs of students, families, and educators in New Jersey schools.

- [Register online](#) for *Effective Meeting Facilitation for Educational Settings*.

Webinar: Introduction to Person-Centered Planning and Implementation

- March 1, 2017, noon-1 p.m.

This webinar provides an overview of person-centered thinking, planning, and implementation approaches developed and used by New Jersey schools involved in the PCAST project. Educators and family members are welcome to attend to learn about the benefits of innovative strategies, including holistic collaborative planning and individual and classroom approaches.

- [Register online](#) for the *Introduction to Person-Centered Planning and Implementation* webinar.
- [View system requirements](#) for the webinar.

Webinar: Introduction to Effective Meeting Facilitation in Educational Settings

- February 22, 2017, noon-1 p.m.

This webinar provides an overview of key person-centered thinking skills and tools designed to improve the quality of meetings. These techniques are applicable in multiple settings and various meeting types.

- [Register online](#) for the *Introduction to Effective Meeting Facilitation in Educational Settings* webinar.
- [View system requirements](#) for the webinar.

There is no registration fee for educators or parents. School district leaders are also encouraged to identify educators and parents who will attend as a team. The [Department's website](#) provides directions to each of the Learning Resource Centers.

If you have questions, contact Robert Haugh, Transition Coordinator for the Department of Education, at (609) 633-6431 or by email at robert.haugh@doe.state.nj.us.

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