



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 24, 2023  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities  
Route To: District Directors of Special Education, Child Study Team Members, Speech Language Pathologists  
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services  
Deadline: June 15, 2023

## Speech and Language Community of Practice

A community of practice (CoP) is a group of learners who share a common interest, meet on a regular basis, and seek to improve their practice (Wenger & Traynor, 2015). Speech language pathologists in schools are responsible for fulfilling students' individualized education programs (IEPs), including assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. The goal of the Speech and Language Community of Practice (Speech and Language CoP) is to bring speech language pathologists and diverse educators together in a working relationship around common interests in the development and implementation of high-quality programming for students with disabilities in New Jersey schools. The Speech and Language CoP will share information to improve practices that lead to positive outcomes for staff and students by meeting three to four times annually at the Central Learning Resource Center (Trenton) to promote group sharing of evidence-based and other best practices, and collaborative problem-solving opportunities. A virtual component may be added to include hybrid meetings to engage additional participants. Speakers from other agencies and organizations will be invited to present information useful to those involved and the communities they serve.

### Who should apply?

Speech Language Pathologists and other school professionals who support students with speech and language disorders should consider applying. Members of the Speech and Language CoP will be invited to attend up to four in-person meetings at the [Learning Resource Center \(LRC\) – Central](#) in Trenton. Membership in the first Speech and Language CoP will be limited to 50 members. Please use the link below to register.

### Schedule of Speech and Language CoP Meetings:

- October 18, 2023
- December 13, 2023
- February 21, 2024
- May 1, 2024

All meetings will be held in-person from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Learning Resource Center – Central, unless otherwise stated. Please fill out this [registration form](#).

### Contact Information

For additional information, email [Kristen.Gavinelli@doe.nj.gov](mailto:Kristen.Gavinelli@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group