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innovateNJ

innovateNJ is New Jersey's initiative to support innovation and practice by fostering collaboration, cultivating projects, and convening practitioners and partners. Through your active participation as an *innovateNJ* member, the establishment of next-generation instructional practices as a standard within classrooms will promote and heighten the college and career readiness levels of our students.

Office of School Innovation Welcomes New Cohort Members

The New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) Office of School Innovation is pleased to announce its 3rd cohort of *innovateNJ* Community members.

Embarking on its third year, *innovateNJ* has inducted an additional twenty-five school districts who have demonstrated a commitment to providing, designing, and implementing innovative school environments.

All New Jersey school districts are invited to apply and the newly inducted *innovateNJ* Cohort 3 Community members were selected as applicant districts who responded to the *innovateNJ* Community application. These districts have articulated a strategic vision that incorporates innovation and exhibits a capacity to implement a commitment to the work of the *innovateNJ* network.

The following twenty-five school districts, respective superintendents and their leadership teams will be acknowledged during the *innovateNJ* Spring Convening on Monday, March 21, 2016, in Trenton, NJ:

- Asbury Park School District
- Bergen Arts and Sciences Charter School
- Collingswood Public School District
- Egg Harbor Township School District
- Freehold Regional High School District
- Frelinghuysen Township School District
- Great Meadows Regional School District
- Hackettstown Public School District
- Harrington Park School District
- Hazlet Township Public Schools
- Hillsborough Township Public School District
- Hopatcong Borough School District
- LEAP Academy University Charter School
- Marion P. Thomas Charter School
- Millburn Township Schools
- Morris School District
- Newark Public School District
- North Plainfield School District
- Passaic Arts and Science Charter School
- Passaic City School District
- Paterson Arts and Science Charter School
- Rumson Borough School District
- Shore Regional High School District
- Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School
- Waterford Township School District

The Office of School Innovation would like to thank all *innovateNJ* cohorts for their commitment and dedication to ensuring that we continue to grow and strengthen the movement for educational equity and excellence in New Jersey. To become a part of this amazing community of innovators visit www.state.nj.us/education/innovateNJ/app/.



Spotlight Shines on Hopatcong Borough School District

Hopatcong Borough School District received a visit from Commissioner David C. Hespe last month when they presented some of the amazing initiatives and innovative programs taking place in their district. The Commissioner visited three Hopatcong schools and witnessed a number of cross-curricular infusion projects being taught from kindergarten to high school. The Hudson Maxim School showcased how they used their *innovateNJ* Blended Early Learning grant to teach first graders how to use an iPad Story Starter app to craft imaginative narratives and complete multi-dimensional versions of their stories in Lego-scape form.

At Hopatcong Middle School, Commissioner Hespe observed a Lego Robotics project, where students were building and programming on a number of inventive designs. The Hopatcong High School concert band class performed a musical number from their holiday musical. Concluding the tour, the Hopatcong High School's TV/Video Production class interviewed Commissioner Hespe on a number of educational topics that can be viewed on "[Arrow TV](#)". Click [here](#) to view more information on this awesome visit to Hopatcong Borough School District.



COMMUNITY

innovateNJ Introduces Course Code Initiative to Identify Next-Generation Classroom Structures

As a means of constructing a formalized process for capturing student progress data based on the type of classroom structure, the Office of School Innovation will introduce the *innovateNJ* Classroom/Course Code Initiative. The establishment of a three to four lettering system that will serve as an indicator of the type of classroom structure being used within selected schools may yield promising indicators on the successful implementation of next-generation instructional practices. For the purposes of this pilot initiative, the four definitions will serve as the preliminary codes used to identify district/school implementation of next-generation classroom/course structures. The following are the suggested codes:

Classroom/Course Structure	Suggested Code
Blended Rotation	BLR
Competency Based/Personalized Model	CPM
Flipped Classroom Model	FCM
Enriched Virtual Model	EVM



CLEARINGHOUSE

Course Code Informational Webinar invitations will be sent to *innovateNJ* school districts and their corresponding SIS provider within the course of the next month. We encourage all *innovateNJ* school districts to participate in this new initiative.

#innovateNJ

Calling all *innovateNJ* Community Members!!!

Do you have an innovative practice you'd like to share with Community members and other educators nationwide? Is there an innovative educational resource you'd like to learn more about? Then sign up to moderate the next #*innovateNJ* virtual discussions!

The *innovateNJ* Community holds online chats every first and third Wednesday at 8 p.m. to afford educators nationwide the opportunity to participate in a collaborative and positive innovative learning exchange.

To learn more, email innovation@doe.state.nj.us.



The Professional Learning and Leading Collaborative at the Friday Institute invites *innovateNJ* New Jersey school leaders to attend the Leadership in Blended and Digital Learning (LBDL) training seminar.

This three-day opportunity is an innovative approach to building leadership capacity to implement blended and digital learning in states, districts and schools. The training will take place March 15 -17, 2016, at the Friday Institute.

To receive additional information, please visit www.pllc.fi.ncsu.edu/lbl. Click [here](#) to register for the Leadership in Blended and Digital Learning training seminar.

Request for Qualified Innovation Partners

The New Jersey Department of Education Office of School Innovation is pleased to announce the opening of their Request for Qualification (RFQ) application for organizations seeking to become an NJDOE Qualified Innovation Partner. Qualified Innovation Partners are individuals or organizations who have demonstrated expertise applicable to potentially serve as a partner with New Jersey school districts on programs.

To access the application and to learn more on how to become a Qualified Innovation Partner, visit www.state.nj.us/education/innovateNJ/clearinghouse/.