

ICYMI: New Jersey Department of Education Announces Districts Approved for Phone-Free Schools Grants

Posted on - 12/18/2025

TRENTON – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) today announced 86 school districts across the state will receive grant awards under the Phone-Free Schools Grant Program. These grants will support school districts in implementing a bell-to-bell policy for all students in grades 6-12, consistent with State [guidelines \(https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/sandp/digital/docs/GuidanceSchoolsStudentUseInternet-EnabledDevices.pdf\)](https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/sandp/digital/docs/GuidanceSchoolsStudentUseInternet-EnabledDevices.pdf).

A bell-to-bell policy must ensure that students’ cell phones and other internet-enabled devices are securely stored when students arrive at school, and access is not allowed during the entire school day. Participating districts will receive funds to implement secure storage systems such as lockers, locked pouch systems, or check-in cabinets. Districts may also use funding to provide staff training to ensure consistent and equitable application of the bell-to-bell policies.

“In recent years, we’ve begun to truly understand the threat that cell phones and access to social media pose to our children’s education. If we want to provide New Jersey’s children with a world-class education, we need to give schools the tools necessary to remove the very distractions that rob students of their attention and their concentration,” **said Governor Murphy**. “Getting cell phones out of schools helps educators, it helps parents, and most of all, it helps our kids. I am proud of the leadership shown by these early-adopting districts, and I look forward to seeing the impact of these new policies on our young learners.”

“The findings from the Growing Up Online report underscore why this initiative matters, including rising concerns about social media’s impact on adolescent mental health, sleep disruption, cyberbullying, and declining academic focus,” **Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer said** of the [report \(https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/sandp/digital/docs/Social-Media-Report_Sept2025Final.pdf\)](https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/sandp/digital/docs/Social-Media-Report_Sept2025Final.pdf) issued by the Commission on the Effects of Social Media Usage on Adolescents. “We applaud the districts for stepping forward now and setting a standard for student well-being and a more focused learning environment.”

The grants are funded through a \$3 million appropriation in the Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Act. Approximately \$980,000 has been allocated in this round, and the NJDOE intends to launch another funding round to expand to additional districts.

The list of participating districts is below and is also available on the [NJDOE’s website \(https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/sandp/digital/docs/ListofGrantees.pdf\)](https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/sandp/digital/docs/ListofGrantees.pdf).

County	District	Maximum Award Amount
Atlantic	Absecon Public Schools District	\$2,499.80
Atlantic	Egg Harbor Township School District	\$32,513.74

County	District	Maximum Award Amount
Atlantic	Pleasantville Public School District	\$15,220.18
Bergen	Alpine School District	\$1,000.00
Bergen	Bergen Arts and Science Charter School, Garfield	\$5,489.02
Bergen	Englewood Public School District	\$12,910.48
Bergen	Ramsey School District	\$10,730.80
Bergen	Wallington School District	\$5,015.22
Burlington	Florence Township School District	\$6,875.64
Burlington	Pemberton Township School District	\$14,991.50
Burlington	Springfield Township School District	\$1,000.00
Burlington	Willingboro Public School District	\$14,323.38
Camden	Black Horse Pike Regional School District	\$27,961.44
Camden	Gloucester City Public School District	\$10,823.52
Camden	KIPP: Cooper Norcross, Camden	\$10,820.00
Camden	Sterling Regional School District	\$6,872.32
Cape May	Ocean City School District	\$10,290.38
Cumberland	Cumberland Regional School District	\$9,950.00
Cumberland	Deerfield Township School District	\$1,000.00
Essex	East Orange School District	\$36,651.12
Essex	Essex Regional Educational Services Commission	\$1,000.00
Essex	Gateway Academy Charter School, Newark	\$4,367.16
Essex	Great Oaks Legacy Charter School, Newark	\$9,022.78
Essex	Irvington Public School District	\$27,928.40

County	District	Maximum Award Amount
Essex	Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School, Newark	\$1,490.44
Essex	Newark Public School District	\$176,625.08
Essex	Orange Public Schools	\$23,469.10
Essex	South Orange-Maplewood School District	\$28,257.02
Essex	Team Academy Charter School, Newark	\$24,752.62
Gloucester	Clayton Public School District	\$5,984.92
Gloucester	Glassboro School District	\$7,971.32
Gloucester	Logan Township School District	\$2,074.34
Gloucester	Paulsboro School District	\$5,342.60
Hudson	Empowerment Academy Charter School, Jersey City	\$5,769.46
Hudson	Golden Door Charter School, Jersey City	\$1,426.32
Hudson	Guttenberg School District	\$2,723.42
Hudson	Harrison Public Schools	\$10,633.30
Hudson	Hoboken Charter School	\$1,322.16
Hudson	Hudson Arts and Science Charter School, Kearney	\$3,061.00
Hudson	Jersey City Global Charter School	\$1,000.00
Hudson	Union City School District	\$52,451.18
Hudson	Weehawken Public School District	\$5,630.00
Hunterdon	Bethlehem Township School District	\$1,000.00
Hunterdon	Bloomsbury Borough School District	\$1,000.00
Hunterdon	Frenchtown Borough School District	\$1,000.00
Mercer	Thrive Charter School, Hamilton	\$2,876.00

County	District	Maximum Award Amount
Mercer	Pace Charter School, Hamilton	\$1,201.96
Mercer	Trenton Public School District	\$55,573.44
Middlesex	Carteret Public School District	\$17,028.14
Middlesex	South Amboy School District	\$5,286.72
Monmouth	Asbury Park School District	\$5,156.96
Monmouth	Belmar Elementary School District	\$1,000.00
Morris	Chester Township School District	\$2,696.84
Morris	Hanover Park Regional High School District	\$10,046.46
Morris	Hanover Township School District	\$3,280.00
Morris	Kinnelon School District	\$6,988.18
Morris	Mendham Borough School District	\$1,282.54
Ocean	Central Regional School District	\$17,208.26
Ocean	Pinelands Regional School District	\$12,624.88
Ocean	Tuckerton Borough School District	\$1,000.00
Passaic	Hawthorne Public School District	\$8,753.46
Passaic	Lakeland Regional High School District	\$6,691.98
Passaic	Passaic Arts and Science Charter School	\$9,487.54
Passaic	Paterson Arts and Science Charter School	\$5,232.58
Passaic	Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology	\$7,308.00
Passaic	West Milford Township Public School District	\$13,094.62
Salem	Alloway Township School District	\$1,000.00
Salem	Mannington Township School District	\$1,000.00

County	District	Maximum Award Amount
Salem	The Lower Alloways Creek School District	\$1,000.00
Salem	Penns Grove-Carney's Point Regional	\$9,271.32
Salem	Salem City School District	\$5,570.72
Salem	Upper Pittsgrove Township School District	\$1,000.00
Salem	Woodstown-Piles Grove Regional School District	\$6,892.62
Somerset	Warren Township School District	\$4,384.98
Sussex	Andover Regional School District	\$1,203.88
Sussex	Frankford Township Consolidated School District	\$1,246.92
Sussex	Hampton Township School District	\$1,000.00
Sussex	Kittatinny Regional School District	\$5,686.00
Sussex	Lenape Valley Regional High School District	\$5,520.22
Sussex	Montague Township School District	\$1,000.00
Sussex	Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School District	\$1,000.00
Union	Hillside Public School District	\$12,359.60
Union	Plainfield Public School District	\$34,337.56
Union	Roselle Public School District	\$13,937.70
Union	Township of Union School District	\$33,747.70
Warren	Belvidere School District	\$3,176.64

Governor Phil Murphy

Statewide

[Home \(/governor/\)](/governor/)

[Key Initiatives](#)

[Social](#)

[NJ Home \(//www.nj.gov\)](http://www.nj.gov)

[Services A to Z](#)

[Administration](#)

[Economy & Jobs](#)

[Facebook](#)

[\(//www.nj.gov/nj/gov/njgov/alphaserv.](http://www.nj.gov/nj/gov/njgov/alphaserv)

[\(/governor/initiatives/#Economy\) \(https://www.facebook.com/governorphilmurphy/\)](https://www.facebook.com/governorphilmurphy/)

Governor Phil Murphy (/governor/admin/about)	Education (/governor/initiatives/#Education)	Twitter (https://twitter.com/GovMurphy)	Departments/Agencies (//www.nj.gov/nj/gov/deptserv/)
Lt. Governor Tahesha Way (/governor/admin/lt)	Environment (/governor/initiatives/#Environment)	Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/govmurphy)	FAQs (//www.nj.gov/faqs/)
In memoriam of Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver (/governor/admin/lt-sheila-y-oliver)	Health (/governor/initiatives/#Health)	Snapchat (https://www.snapchat.com/add/govmurphy)	Contact Us (//www.nj.gov/nj/feedback.html)
Senior Staff (/governor/admin/staff)	Law & Justice (/governor/initiatives/#Justice)	YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/njgov)	Privacy Notice (//www.nj.gov/nj/privacy.html)
Cabinet (/governor/admin/cabinet)	Transportation (/governor/initiatives/#Transportation)	Bluesky (https://bsky.app/profile/govmurphy)	Legal Statement & Disclosures (//www.nj.gov/nj/legal.html)
Office of Climate Action and the Green Economy (/governor/climateaction/)	News & Events	Contact Us	Accessibility Statement (//www.nj.gov/nj/accessibility.html)
Office of Equity (/governor/admin/equity/)	Press Releases (/governor/news/news/562024/governor-announces-scheduled)	Scheduling Requests (/governor/news/news/562024/governor-announces-scheduled)	
Office of Health Care Affordability and Transparency (/governor/admin/affordablehealthcare/index.shtml)	Photos (https://www.flickr.com/photos/govmurphy)	Contact Us (/governor/contact/all/)	
Boards, Commissions & Authorities (/governor/admin/bca)	Public Addresses (/governor/news/addresses)		
New Jersey Puerto Rico Commission (https://www.nj.gov/puertoricocommission/)	Executive Orders (/infobank/eo/056murphy/approved/eo_archive.html)		
Internship Opportunities (/governor/admin/internship.shtml)	Administrative Orders (/governor/news/ao/approved/ao_archive.shtml)		
Governor's Fellows Program (/governor/admin/fellows)	Direct Appointments (/governor/news/appointments)		
Governor's Residence - Drumthwacket (http://drumthwacket.org/)	Advice and Consent (/governor/news/acappointments)		
	Statements on Legislation (/governor/news/statements/approved/statements_archive.shtml)		
	Administration Reports (/governor/news/adminreports/approved/archive.shtml)		
	Transition Reports (/governor/news/reports/approved/reports_archive.shtml)		
	Press Kits (/governor/news/press)		

(//nj.gov/opra/)

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2025
Office of Governor PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000

(https://my.nj.gov/)

(https://tech.nj.gov/)