



Coming Soon: Don't Miss the 2026 ESCNJ Vendor Expo!

P Preparations are well underway for the 2026 ESCNJ Vendor Expo on Wednesday, May 20 at the New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center in Edison, with several exciting updates.

This year, ESCNJ's Expo team is partnering with a new platform, Swoogo, to streamline registration for both vendors and members. We have also made significant enhancements to the showroom floor plan to improve traffic flow and further improve the overall experience for attendees and exhibitors.

The 2026 theme, "Kickoff to Summer," will feature boardwalk-inspired food and the return of our Student Ambassadors, who will serve as event "lifeguards" to assist throughout the day. Additionally, the agenda has been restructured to better support attendee engagement and learning opportunities.

Full Story continued on page 3

Save the Date

EXPO - Wednesday, May 20, 2026

On The Inside

New Assistant Business Administrator **p 2**

2025-2026 Board of Directors **p 2**

ESCNJ Appoints an Assistant School Business Administrator

Morma Diaz has joined ESCNJ as the Assistant School Business Administrator. She brings more than 15 years of experience in K-12 education and administration, including six years as a principal in urban schools.

In her new role at ESCNJ, Ms. Diaz will oversee the day-to-day operations of the business office and provide strategic recommendations to further enhance the Commission's services.

"We are pleased to have Ms. Diaz join the ESCNJ administrative team; her knowledge and years of experience in the many facets of education and business will play a key role in the operations of the Commission," said ESCNJ Business Administrator/Board Secretary Tim Havlusch. "As the Commission continues to evolve, Ms. Diaz's extensive background and expertise in special education and strategic planning are tremendous assets in ensuring our schools meet and exceed our organizational goals."

Prior to joining ESCNJ, Ms. Diaz served as a principal/assistant superintendent at the Academy for Urban Leadership Charter School in Perth Amboy and was a principal for the Linden Public School District.

She holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, two Master of Arts degrees in Education, and a Master of Business Administration from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Additionally, Ms. Diaz holds various New Jersey certifications, including School Business Administrator.



ESCNJ Highlights the 2025-26 Board of Directors

ESCNJ is pleased to welcome the 2025-2026 Board of Directors.

Schools Superintendent Nadia Romano extended her appreciation to the Board for its ongoing dedication and commitment to supporting the students, staff, and programs at ESCNJ. "Thank you so much for your many contributions throughout this school year," she said.



New Autism Program Opening this Summer in Warren County

ESCNJ is pleased to announce the opening of a new program for students with autism in the Warren County area, beginning this summer. Located at 712 South Main St. in Phillipsburg, the ESCNJ Andover-Morris program aims to significantly reduce transportation times for students throughout the Skylands Region.

The extended school year program will run from June 29 to July 30, operating Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon. Then, in September, the regular school year program will follow a standard weekday schedule from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Historically, students in this region of the state

have faced bus commutes of up to 90 minutes to reach specialized schools. This new local option is designed to alleviate that burden for families while simultaneously decreasing school district costs.

ESCNJ Schools Superintendent Nadia Romano said the program will offer “academic, functional, and independence-focused instruction.”

She added: “Finally, students from nearby areas will have their own local program to receive highly individualized support with a 2:1 student-to-staff ratio, ensuring consistent structure, responsiveness and opportunities for skill development.”

The program is open to all school districts.

2026 ESCNJ Vendor EXPO “Kickoff to Summer” is Underway

There will be nine presentation sessions covering the following topics for attendees earning CEUs:

- Collaborative Cybersecurity: A Practical Approach to Protecting Digital Information
- Public School Purchasing, Ethics in Purchasing, & Travel Requirements
- Best Practices for Managing Public Funded Construction Projects
- Solving Your Records Management Problems Forever
- Code Review
- Green Purchasing Resources for School Districts
- Understanding the ESCNJ Cooperative: How Cooperative Purchasing Works
- Understanding Your Utilities Bills
- Checklists and updates on Public Work Projects

As in previous years, the EXPO will include a member breakfast, complimentary lunch, giveaways, and opportunities to meet with various vendors who will be showcasing their new products and services.

While finalizing plans for the 2026 EXPO, the team is also beginning to look ahead to 2027, which will mark the 50th anniversary of ESCNJ.



Vendor and attendee registration for the 2026 Expo is now open. Participants may now register and confirm classes for CEU opportunities.

Please direct any questions to the Expo team at expo@escnj.us.

A GREAT START TO THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR!



A Look Back at the First Day of School!

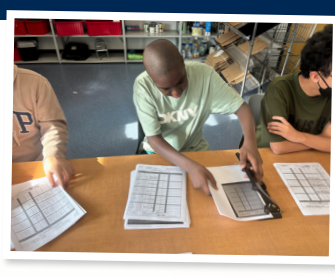
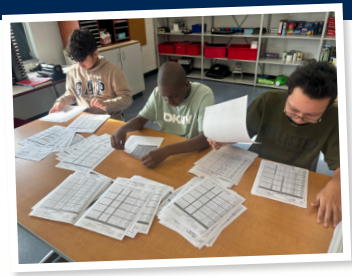
ACS participants and their families had an amazing time at the Second-Annual Family Fun Day in the park.



The Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL) students celebrated "World Peace" with a week of daily activities and concluded with their annual "Peace Parade."

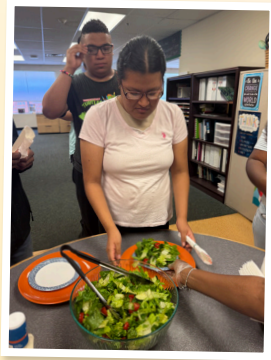
Thank you to Patrolman Salvatore and Detective Soto for visiting the PAL program. We truly appreciate them sharing such useful safety information with our students.





FFA J5 students assisted the ESCNJ non-public department by putting their vocational skills to work. They successfully completed several multi-step sorting and filing tasks.

ACS honored its incredible Direct Support Professionals with a fashion show and lunch bags filled with gifts. This celebration was a small token of the deep appreciation for the fantastic work they do year-round to support people with disabilities.



Work, cooking, and yoga are just some of the great activities that Pathways to Adult Living (PAL) students enjoy during the course of a day.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the ALC family joined together to honor the strength, courage, and resilience of those affected by breast cancer.



A GREAT START TO THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR!



Students from FFA participated in this year's Fall Fest which included an outdoor obstacle course, indoor campfire sing-along, face painting, and the very popular "make your own s'mores" booth.

PRDS staff and students enjoyed a Pre-Halloween Pizza Party donated and served by the Piscataway Township Rotary Club!

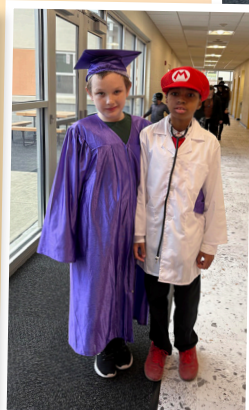


ALC's fall was filled with joy, creativity, and community. Thank you to our students, staff, and families for making our Fall Festival, Trunk or Treat, and Halloween Parade truly unforgettable.





Participants from ACS, as well as students and staff from all ESCNJ campuses, enjoyed this year's Halloween activities and admired all the creative costumes.

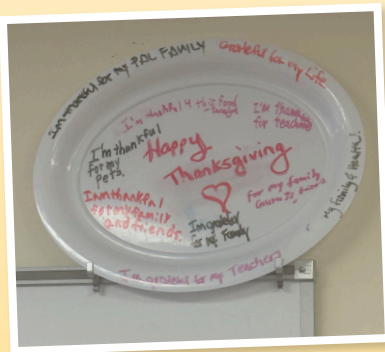


A GREAT START TO THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR!

This Thanksgiving season, staff and students at NuView Academy made a huge difference! Through fundraising, shopping, cooking, and packaging meals, our school community proudly supported families within our NuView community for the holiday. To celebrate their hard work, students and staff also enjoyed a dessert buffet on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving — a sweet way to wrap up a meaningful week.



The students and staff at FFA partook in a wonderful Thanksgiving feast. A big thank you goes out to the entire FFA community for the delicious food and the warm atmosphere that made this celebration so special, memorable, and meaningful.



PAL students enjoying the Thanksgiving feast they prepared.

Students from FFA followed visual and verbal directions to create and decorate gingerbread houses. Students practiced making choices, requesting materials, and describing their creations, supporting receptive and expressive language skills.



The winter holidays were celebrated at ESCNJ; students throughout the district participated in many fun-filled activities.



ACS participated in the annual holiday gift exchange celebration, which included a special visitor!

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Governor's Educator of the Year Award Winners

ESCNJ would like to congratulate all recipients of this year's Governor's Educator of the Year Award. We thank you for your dedication and hard work, and everything you do to make ESCNJ a special place. This is a prestigious award and we are extremely proud to have so many talented teachers be recognized.



Daniela Johnson & Diana Chin, Academy Learning Center

"Daniela Johnson is an elementary teacher in ALC's Autism Program. She brings warmth, positivity, and dedication to her classroom each day, creating a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where students can thrive. She consistently meets students' diverse academic and behavioral needs through thoughtful instruction and classroom management. Daniela Johnson strengthens our school community through her collaboration with families and staff and her participation in school-wide events, making her a deserving choice for Teacher of the Year."



"Diana Chin has made an immediate and lasting impact at Academy Learning Center through her expertise and dedication to improving student communication. Since joining our ALC team in 2023, Diana has been instrumental in guiding families and districts through the process of securing AAC devices, including navigating private insurance when needed. Diana also serves as a valued resource to classroom staff and families by providing training, sharing effective strategies, and developing communication supports across the school and home settings. In addition, Diana is an active member of several school-based

committees and consistently supports colleagues through collaboration and staff development. We are excited to celebrate her as Service Professional of the Year."

- Nicole Paturzo, Principal at Academy Learning Center



Marianne Petritsch & Toniann Moccoaro, Bright Beginnings Learning Center

"Marianne Petritsch: Marianne is a dedicated speech therapist who has been at the Commission for 20 years. She primarily works with our multiple disabled population, bringing several modalities of communication to all students on her caseload. She is a team player and always willing to help on every committee. Marianne organizes the well-loved MD Month Races that have become a cherished tradition at BBLC. Her hard work and dedication to the BBLC community is invaluable. Congratulations to Marianne on her well-deserved honor!"

"Toniann Moccoaro: Toniann is a beloved teacher by staff, students, and her peers. She started working at BBLC as an aide (2018) when she realized her calling and passion to become a teacher in 2022. She is dedicated and values communication with parents and staff. Toniann works diligently with the support of her speech therapists to ensure all students have communication. Toniann has been the chairperson for the Yearbook for the past several years. She dedicates her time and talent to working with the staff to ensure we have lasting memories in a beautiful Yearbook each year. Her kindness and willingness to help others is invaluable. Congratulations to Toniann on this well-deserved honor!"

- Jennifer Nesi, Principal at Bright Beginnings Learning Center



**David Longenhagen & Carly Matthews,
Center for Lifelong Learning**

"David is an exceptional educator who demonstrates a deep commitment to all students and staff within the school community. He treats students with dignity and respect, focusing on their strengths and fostering independence through thoughtful accommodations and patient, compassionate instruction. Highly creative and collaborative, David initiates engaging school-wide events like our Science Fair and International Day and supports colleagues through mentorship and innovative practices, including the transition to digital data collection. His leadership, creativity, and dedication have had a meaningful and lasting impact on students, staff, and the broader school culture."

"Carly is an invaluable member of the school community whose expertise spans speech and language development, AAC, evaluations, feeding, and pragmatics. She consistently demonstrates knowledge beyond her role, strong collaboration with staff, and meaningful partnerships with families to support student communication across settings. Known for her exceptional work ethic and unwavering support, Carly serves as a trusted resource, mentor, and leader. Her dedication, professionalism, and commitment to continuous learning make her a model educational specialist and a true asset to the school."

- MaryBeth Conley, Principal at Center for Lifelong Learning



Lindsey Medeiros, Future Foundations Academy

"It is with great pride and unwavering enthusiasm that I recommend Lindsey Medeiros for Educator of the Year. As a Vocational Education Teacher at FFA, Ms. Medeiros serves as the vital link across our programs, ensuring all pathways are aligned and student-centered."

Beyond her classroom excellence, she serves as our CPI trainer and Transition Coordinator, where she empowers students for post-secondary success and organizes our annual Transition Fair. Her leadership extends to coordinating all school trips, Community-Based Instruction, and our Job Coaches, ensuring meaningful real-world learning. Additionally, she manages milestone events, including Prom and Graduation, with exceptional organization."

Ms. Medeiros is a trusted mentor and the primary resource for our staff, leading with authenticity and a collaborative spirit. Her dedication to our school community makes her an ideal candidate for this honor."

- Katie Feiles, Principal at Future Foundations Academy

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Lisa Laskowski, NuView Academy

"We are proud to endorse Lisa Laskowski as NuView Academy's Educational Services Professional of the Year. With 35 years of service, Ms. Laskowski exemplifies professionalism, dedication, and instructional excellence as a Speech-Language Specialist.

Ms. Laskowski consistently supports students in developing essential communication skills that directly impact their academic success and confidence. Her individualized approach, patience, and expertise result in measurable progress for students across all ability levels. She works collaboratively with staff to align her instruction with classroom goals and provides thoughtful support in both therapeutic and academic settings.

In addition to her impact on student growth, Ms. Laskowski is a trusted colleague whose kindness and professionalism positively influence school culture. Her commitment to students and her team makes her truly deserving of this recognition."

- Lisa Williams, Principal at NuView Academy



Elizabeth Rites & Jillian Sharon, Piscataway Regional Day School

Elizabeth consistently exceeds her assigned responsibilities and provides exceptional support to colleagues, contributing significantly to the overall success of the school community. She demonstrates a high level of professionalism, dedication, and expertise, and is always willing to assist others. Creative and resourceful, Elizabeth brings strong instructional knowledge and high standards to her work, ensuring that students are both challenged and supported in an engaging, structured learning environment.

A dedicated educator and respected leader, she volunteers to lead a variety of school activities and frequently supports peers with data analysis and questions related to instruction and school policies. Highly organized and reliable, Elizabeth is trusted by colleagues and students alike and consistently exemplifies the qualities of an exceptional educational leader.

"Jillian has served as a Speech Therapist at Piscataway Regional Day School for the past two years and is a valued member of the school community. She is a collaborative team player who consistently brings

innovative ideas to enhance the school environment. Jillian effectively supports students' speech and language goals through fun, engaging, and meaningful real-world activities that promote skill generalization.

She played a key role in launching a school-based coffee enterprise, an initiative that has been enthusiastically received and has successfully engaged the entire speech department and their students. Additionally, Jillian has taken the lead in creating the PRDS newsletter, involving students in every step of the process—from photography and content development to layout and production. Jillian is an important asset to Piscataway Regional Day School and is highly deserving of recognition for her dedication and contributions to the school community."

- Elizabeth Fuzy, Principal at Piscataway Regional Day School

ESCNJ Awards Staff for Landmark Work Anniversaries

Schools Superintendent Nadia Romano and the ESCNJ Administration Award Staff for Work Anniversaries



Marsha Abney (30 years)



Debra Lair (25 years)



Lynn Fallon (25 years)



April Garofalo (25 years)



Poonam Nijhawan (25 years)



Lucinda Gustitus (25 years)



Karima Rizkalla (25 years)



Rena Brenman (20 years)



Angela Dwyer (20 years)



Cynthia Lockhart (20 years)



Corina Fernandez (20 years)



Lindsey Kiningham (20 years)



April Trzeciak (20 years)



Michelle Randall (20 years)



Anneliese Malyshko (20 years)



Marcia Flood (20 years)



Lidia Andrys-Ornafa (20 years)



Gisele Bretan (20 years)



Cindy Mendelsohn (20 years)



Geraldyn Kenyon (20 years)



Lisa Murray(10 years)



Donna Bonavita (10 years)



Clare Lindsey (10 years)



Gail Quick (10 years)



Vaishali Korgaonkar (10 years)



Rajwantie Slawinski (10 years)



Aaron Olexa (10 years)



Sarah Foss (10 years)



Monica Groel (10 years)



Joseph O'Donnell (10 years)



Joanne Cameron (5 years)



Andrea Hill (5 years)



Huma Ansari (5 years)



Amina Arif (5 years)



Ruby Baig (5 year)



Nabeela Rashid (5 years)



Aneela Waseem (5 years)



Annette Cunnius (5 years)



Vicenza Firmani (5 years)



Diane Lange (5 years)



Yazmin De Jesus Tepal (5 years)



Rosa Silva (5 years)



Jeanne Miller (5 years)

Not Pictured

Bette Miller (25 years)

Taheerah Amica (20 years)

Annemarie Foster (20 years)

Ellen Gable (20 years)

Jada Payne (20 years)

Kathleen Serpico (20 years)

Judith Shoen (20 years)

Martha Ulman (20 years)

Angela Roque (10 years)

Tamminay Steiner-Otoo (10 years)

Kristyn Jannell (10 years)

Quratulain Azam (5 years)

Katrina Enriquez (5 years)

Krista Gladney (5 years)

Loretta Koleser (5 years)

Lauren Palladino (5 years)

Rucha Tamhaney (5 years)

Renee Fortunka (5 years)

Vinaya Kambli (5 years)



RENOVATIONS AROUND ESCNJ CAMPUSES

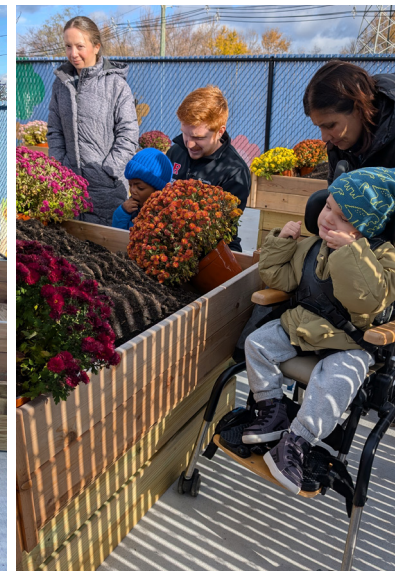
F SCNJ is excited to provide an update on several key infrastructure improvements designed to enhance safety and accessibility for our community. Most notably, the Aquatics and Fitness Center (AFC) parking lot has undergone a total transformation, adding 60 spaces for AFC membership. The project included a full excavation and creation of a new lot. The increased amount of available parking spaces will improve traffic flow, as well as the overall safety for our students, staff, and members.

Furthermore, the installation of high-efficiency LED lighting will ensure a secure environment for our early-morning and late-evening members. These upgrades not only improve the “curb appeal” of our flagship fitness facility but also address long-standing drainage

issues, ensuring a smoother experience for all visitors regardless of the weather.

In addition to the AFC improvements, progress has been made on the Piscataway Outdoor Playground Area (POPA) renovations. This initiative will transform our outdoor space, behind the Piscataway Regional Day School, into a premier destination for ESCNJ student recreation and physical education.

The project features the installation of a new, high-durability rubberized walking track and the revitalization of our green spaces with native landscaping, a splash pad for summer months, and shaded seating. These upgrades are specifically designed to provide a safe, accessible, and aesthetically pleasing environment for our students to engage in outdoor fitness and socialization.



UPDATES ON ESCNJ PARTNERSHIPS, PROGRAMS and SERVICES

The following is an update on ESCNJ's innovative and top-quality services/programs and meaningful partnerships as we explore new ways to serve our students and the community.

• **Mental Health Support:** ESCNJ has partnered with InSite Health to provide on-site and virtual psychiatric services for students in need. The comprehensive, compassionate program is designed to address and understand student mental health wellness needs. This collaboration will help foster a healthier, more supportive educational environment.

The services include:

- Psychiatric evaluations
- Medication management
- Coordination with school counselors, case managers and education teams
- Support for Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety, depression, ADHD, mood disorders, and more

• **Middlesex County Food Insecurity Policy Summit:** This fall, ESCNJ hosted the Middlesex County Food Insecurity Policy Summit at the Professional Conference Center. The event served as a platform for critical conversations regarding community solutions to food insecurity.

Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (D-19th Dist.) and Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ron Rios, along with representatives from Elijah's Promise, Replenish, and various other local relief agencies, gathered to discuss local challenges and collaborative solutions for the residents of Middlesex County.

• **The Rutgers A4A Club:** The Rutgers A4A Club hosted a workshop for BBLC and PRDS staff to learn how to adapt toys for students with disabilities. Staff were able to adapt multiple toys and add accessible switches to allow our students to enjoy the toys. Thank you Rutgers A4A Club for all of your knowledge and talent!



• **Dental Program:** During the fall semester, Middlesex College students provided dental services to all ESCNJ students at the Professional Conference Center on the Piscataway campus. ESCNJ has collaborated with Middlesex College's Dental Hygiene Department since 2019, a partnership that has resulted in dental screenings and treatment for hundreds of our students over the years.

Under the direction of faculty and dentists at ESCNJ campuses, the college students provided free dental screenings, home care instruction, cleanings, fluoride treatments, and X-rays.

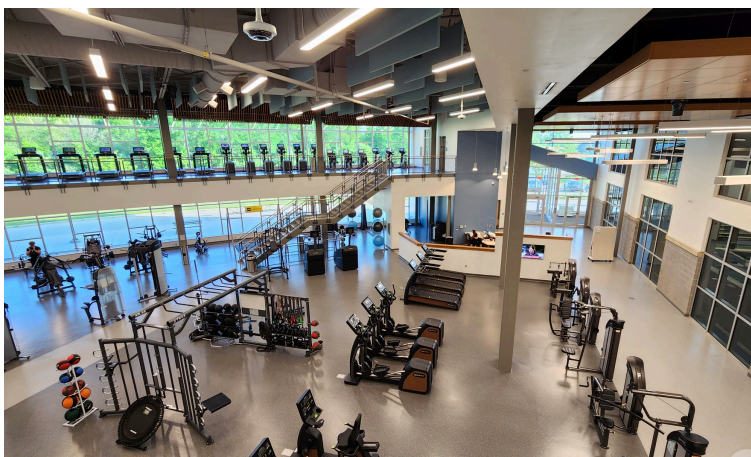


ESCNJ STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARIES: VISION FOR THE FUTURE

As we move forward, the ESCNJ is guided by a refreshed Strategic Plan that prioritizes growth, wellness, and protection.

• **Aquatics and Fitness Center:** The Aquatics and Fitness Center (AFC), strategic focus centers on community integration and holistic health. Our goals include diversifying our program offerings to include more inclusive wellness classes and leveraging our newly upgraded facilities to increase membership engagement.

We are committed to maintaining a “member-first” philosophy, which involves regular equipment rotations and the implementation of new digital tools to help members track their fitness milestones. The AFC is not just a gym; it is being positioned as a central hub for community health and vitality.



• **Adult Community Services:** The primary goal is to continue expanding specialized vocational training and personalized learning tracks.

We are focused on bridging the gap between classroom instruction and real-world application, ensuring that every student has access to the tools and certifications necessary for post-graduation success. By fostering new partnerships with local industries, we aim to make ACS a regional leader in career-readiness for students with diverse needs.



• **Curriculum, Instruction and Related Services:** All ESCNJ classroom teachers have worked diligently within building-based professional learning communities to inventory and assess current ELA curricular resources as part of the curriculum revision cycle. Principals have led professional development during half-day PDs to identify key elements of effective curriculum and guided staff in populating grade-band ELA curriculum inventories at each school.

This work will continue throughout the rest of the school year to inform next steps within the curriculum revision cycle and professional development plan. Through this collaborative process, ESCNJ instructional staff will build instructional coherence across and within grade and age level bands.

• **Co-op:** ESCNJ's Cooperative Purchasing department continues to deliver significant taxpayer savings to 1,600 members. Recent strategic initiatives include Good Energy to stabilize energy costs and collaborating with Dellicker Strategies via the [NJDRAP Program](#) to provide E-rate-supported internet services.

Additionally, the department has commissioned a specialized web development firm to modernize its digital infrastructure and website to better serve the Commission. The following bids have been finalized over the past quarter and we continue to work with the state to improve the Co-op:

- Kitchen Equipment Maintenance & Repair
- Glass and Glazing Services
- Security Guard Services • Uniforms and Workwear
- Office Supplies • Technology Supplies & Services
- Translation Services • Athletic Apparel and Uniforms
- Document Management Services • Ceiling Tiles

• **Higher Quality Educational Services:** In order to meet the diverse needs of ESCNJ students, differentiated professional development is essential for instructional staff. To target staff needs, the ESCNJ Universal Supports Walkthrough Checklist was designed and utilized to establish baseline data and action plans for continuous improvement in classroom instruction.

This baseline data was analyzed to surface successes and areas for improvement so that differentiated professional development (PD) could be provided for instructional aides during half-day PDs in October and December. PD workshops have addressed critical topics such as student engagement and data collection.

By expanding professional development to target data-informed trends in classroom needs, staff have received responsive support that directly enhances

Continued on page 18

programs for ESCNJ students. In January, midyear data was collected to monitor progress toward year end goals articulated within the 2025-26 Professional Development Plan.

Over the past 2.5 years, Community-Based Instruction (CBI) has been significantly expanded in frequency, participation, and scope. Our programs have added numerous sites where these CBI lessons are conducted, including malls, grocery stores, restaurants, libraries, recreational facilities, volunteer placements, and work-based learning locations.

Several programs have increased the number of participating classes and expanded daily schedules, with some students attending morning, afternoon, or both sessions based on their IEP goals. In some cases, 100% of students now participate in daily CBI lessons in the community. This growth has been made possible through increased staffing, including job coaches and CDL drivers, allowing for more frequent trips and expanded vocational opportunities.

Younger students (i.e., Kindergarten – 3rd grade) have also been given access to CBI through introductory activities where they receive instruction on foundational life skills, communication, safety awareness, and social participation. Related service providers, including OT, SLP, and nursing staff, regularly support students during outings to ensure IEP goals are generalized across settings. Overall, CBI expansion has focused on increasing access while intentionally aligning experiences with IEP goals, transition planning, functional skill development, communication, safety, recreation, and independence.

• **Professional Conference Center:** The Professional Conference Center (PCC) serves as a central hub for collaboration, professional learning, and community engagement across municipal, county, and school district partners. The center supports a wide range of activities, including professional development sessions, board and council meetings, trainings, and large-scale conferences, with expanded usage through ML Schedules to meet increasing demand.

Notable events included the Middlesex County Food Insecurity Policy Summit, which brought together county leaders and community partners to address hunger and food access, as well as election-related poll worker trainings that use the space extensively throughout the fall. Ongoing improvements to scheduling processes, daily room setup, and technology readiness have helped reduce conflicts, maximize room availability, and ensure smooth transitions between events, allowing for consistent, responsive support for all stakeholders.

Internally, the PCC continues to host recurring ESCNJ and county meetings and orientations. In addition, PCC hired its first-ever intern, Bridget Dunn, who supports PCC and event-related initiatives. Bridget is a senior at Georgian Court University and is graduating in May 2026 with a bachelor's degree in marketing. Her role focuses on assisting with event coordination, communications, and promotional efforts, further strengthening the center's ability to support professional learning opportunities and expand outreach.

Together, these efforts reflect the PCC's continued growth as a dependable, well-organized space that fosters collaboration and high-quality service across the county.

• **Security:** Security and Operations remains a foundational pillar of our 2024-2027 vision. Our strategic objectives involve a comprehensive overhaul of campus-wide surveillance systems and the implementation of advanced access control technologies.

Additionally, the entire Commission is undergoing a new entry protocol by replacing an outdated key system with updated hardware and keycard swipe access. Beyond hardware, we are investing heavily in "human-centric" security through ongoing staff training in emergency response and de-escalation techniques.

By creating a culture of vigilance and preparedness, we ensure that our facilities remain a safe haven for students, staff, and visitors, allowing the focus to remain squarely on education and personal growth.



- **Transportation:** ESCNJ Transportation Services supports nearly 45 school districts across five counties, providing safe and punctual transportation for special education, general education, public, nonpublic, and vocational students. Districts rely on ESCNJ for consistent service, experienced coordination, and strong oversight of transportation operations.

Through regional coordination and shared routing, the program reduces transportation expenses for participating districts, saving them millions of dollars annually while maintaining reliability. Furthermore, revenue generated through the transportation program helps offset tuition costs for sending districts, providing an additional financial benefit.

ESCNJ continues to expand its services across New Jersey. Current service areas include Middlesex, Hunterdon, Atlantic, Monmouth, Warren, Camden, and Mercer counties, with outreach now extending to Union, Somerset, Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Ocean, and Morris counties. This expansion strengthens our ability to support more districts and respond to growing needs statewide.

We also plan to enhance our offerings by providing routing and scheduling support. These services will help districts improve transportation planning, reduce administrative workloads, and strengthen operational efficiency.



SO MUCH HAPPENING THIS SCHOOL YEAR AT ESCNJ

BBLC Receives a Generous Donation from South Plainfield Elks Club

A big thank you to the South Plainfield Elks Club for its continued support of BBLC. The school received a generous donation of four Jeep Wagons!



BBLC Celebrates Veterans Day

The students from the preschool program at BBLC honored security officer Jimmy Cruz, and thanked him and all veterans for their tremendous service and sacrifice.



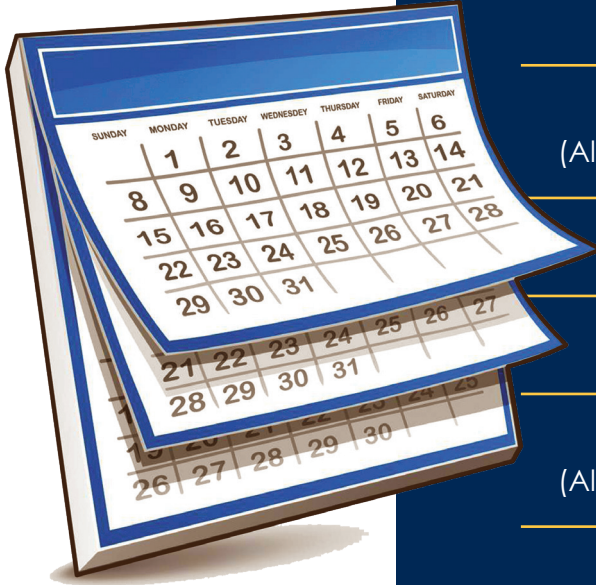
SO MUCH HAPPENING THIS SCHOOL YEAR AT ESCNJ

Breast Cancer Awareness Month Marked at ESCNJ

Staff at CLL, staff and community members at AFC and the staff and families at ALC joined together to honor the strength, courage, and resilience of those affected by breast cancer.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



Spring Recess March 30 to April 6, 2026
(All Schools Closed)

Spring Recess April 3, 2026
(All Schools/ACS Program Closed)

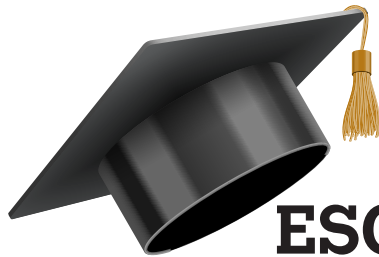
Schools Open April 7, 2026

EXPO May 20, 2026

Memorial Day May 25, 2026
(All Schools/ACS Program Closed)

Last Day of School June 23, 2026

Visit www.ESCNJ.us for more information



ESCNJ Graduations

Academy Learning Center	June 17, 2026
Bright Beginnings Learning Center - Preschool	June 11, 2026
Bright Beginnings Learning Center - Moving Up Ceremony	June 10, 2026
Center for Lifelong Learning - 8th Grade	June 5, 2026
Center for Lifelong Learning - High School	June 12, 2026
Future Foundations Academy	June 25, 2026
NuView Academy	June 16, 2026
Pathways to Adult Living - End of Year Celebration	June 16, 2026
Piscataway Regional Day School	June 18, 2026



The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey

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Dr. David A. Roman, *President*

Dr. Richard Labbe, *Vice President*

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 Milltown, Stephen Wisniewski
 Monroe, Adam Layman
 New Brunswick, Aubrey A. Johnson
 North Brunswick, Brian Zychowski
 Old Bridge, Elena Francisco
 Perth Amboy, David A. Roman
 Piscataway, Shantell Cherry
 Sayreville, Richard Labbe
 South Amboy, Frederick Williams
 South Brunswick, Bernard F. Bragen, Jr.
 South Plainfield, Noreen Tansey-Lishak
 South River, Sylvia Zircher
 Spotswood, Jeffrey Bicsko
 Woodbridge, Joseph Massimino

Additional Counties Represented

Alexandria Township, Kevin McPeek
 (Hunterdon)
 East Windsor, Mark Daniels (Mercer)
 Somerset Hills, Brian Brotschul
 (Somerset)

Higher Education

Kean University Liaison,
 Meredith Riddle
 Middlesex College,
 Mark McCormick

Administration

Nadia Romano, *Superintendent*
 Kaitlin Jones, *Assistant Superintendent*
 Matthew Scanlon,
Assistant Superintendent
 Timothy Havlusch, *Business
 Administrator/Board Secretary*
 Paul DeAngelo, *Assistant Business
 Administrator for Cooperative
 Purchasing*
 Kai-Li Pao, *Assistant Business
 Administrator for Financial Operations*
 Norma Diaz, *Assistant School Business
 Administrator for Business Operations*
 Russell Hudson,
Director of Human Resources
 Andrew Ullman,
Director of Security

Kate Johnson, *Director of
 Collaborative Educational Services*
 Lorraine Vitiello,
Transportation Coordinator
 Ed Kupsha, *Supervisor of Buildings/
 Grounds*
 Nicole Paturzo, *Principal, ALC*
 Colleen Marash, *Vice Principal, ALC*
 Jennifer Nesi, *Principal, BBLC*
 Jolanta Kolodziejski, *Vice Principal, BBLC*
 Mary Beth Conley, *Principal, CLL*
 Michael Kane, *Vice Principal, CLL*
 Antoinette Nicholasi, *Vice Principal, CLL*
 Katie Feiles, *Principal - FFA*
 Julio Lopez Jr., *Vice Principal, FFA*
 John Taylor, *Vice Principal - FFA*
 Lisa Williams, *Principal,
 NuView Academy*
 Elizabeth Fuzy, *Principal, PRDS*
 Meena Pasupathy, *Supervisor, PRDS*
 Denise Geddis, *Supervisor, PAL,
 Community-Based Instruction*
 Nancy Armbruster, *Interim Director of
 Nonpublic School Services*
 Alexander VanDriesen, *Supervisor of
 Nonpublic School Services*
 Katie Blades, *Supervisor of Nonpublic
 School Services*
 Carol Sparmo, *Supervisor of Nonpublic
 School Services*
 Spanishia Wilson, *Supervisor, TPA*
 Lisa Buckwalter, *Executive Director of
 the Adult Community Services Program*