



EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 18, 2026

Virtual Meeting - 8:30 A.M.

Committee Members: Paulo Lopes, Chair

Linda Rad, David Rizza (abs.), Justina Ryan, Beth Fiore (alt.)

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools
Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary
Dr. Rebecca Burns, Director of Pupil Services
Dr. Stacey Brown, Humanities Supervisor
Katie DaQuisto, Early Childhood Supervisor
Sarah Pauch, Math, Science, Tech Supervisor
Dr. Anthony Tumolo, Special Projects Supervisor
Jim Belske, Technology Coordinator

Agenda

1. **Preschool Program Assessment Overview**

- Three key measurement tools track program effectiveness:
 - Curriculum Fidelity Tool: Measures Creative Curriculum implementation across 45 indicators
 - TPOT: Assesses Pyramid Model usage for social-emotional learning and behavior support
 - ECERS-3: Evaluates overall program quality across 10 randomly selected classrooms
- There are two tools that track student progress:
 - ASQ-3 screening tool completed by parents at year start for early intervention identification
 - GOLD assessment provides actual student developmental data

Curriculum Fidelity Results

- Dramatic improvement from spring 2025 to spring 2026:
 - Implementation increased : 86% to 90%
 - Fidelity use increased : 65% to 76%
- Major breakthrough in GOLD data collection:
 - Spring 2025: Only 40% of teachers effectively collecting student data
 - Spring 2026: 94% of staff now collecting and utilizing GOLD data appropriately
- One provider is performing below district average at 67% fidelity vs 88% overall

Social-Emotional Learning Progress

- TPOT assessment shows significant gains across all areas:
 - Overall averages across key practices jumped from 61% (2025) to 87% (2026)
 - Among the following focus areas improvement was made:

- Teaching behavioral expectations: 42% to 87%
- Social emotional competencies: 44% to 84%
- Interventions for challenging behavior: 22% to 90%
- Zero child study team referrals this entire school year
- Only 4 PERT cases and 1 monitoring case currently active

Program Quality Assessment with ECERS-3

- ECERS-3 conducted by external assessors across 10 classrooms
- Significant score variations between buildings (standard deviations of 1-2 vs typical 0.5)
- Math identified as the primary weakness area statewide, and will be a preschool goal.
- Plan to use internal coaches for next year's ECERS-3 assessment to ensure standardized evaluation

Preschool Goal: Math Curriculum Enhancement Initiative

- Creative Curriculum provides insufficient math guidance despite overall effectiveness
- New Jersey released updated early learning math standards this month
- Summer curriculum writing project planned:
 - Collaborate with state liaison (math specialist involved in writing new standards)
 - Create goal-oriented math activities integrated into daily Creative Curriculum schedule
 - Align with kindergarten readiness requirements

2. Summer Teacher Academy

- List of course descriptions and dates were shared with the committee.
- 21 courses will be taking place this summer taught by teachers and administrators.

3. Reading Portfolio/log Data Analysis

- Low parent engagement despite 80% of parents who opted into the portfolio
- Instructional time impact was 5-10 minutes weekly
- 84% of teachers find tool not valuable for instruction or record-keeping
- Lowest-performing students spend most time on form vs. actual reading instruction

Solution Discussed

- Reading log will be a homework assignment starting in 2026.
- Make reading portfolio optional for teachers starting September 2026.
- Reading opt outs website for easier access by parents .
- Teachers will remind parents during back to school night about reading topics and the ability to opt out of reading certain books.

4. Sex Education Opt-Out Trends

- Stable participation rates across grade levels:
 - Grade 2: Lower opt-out numbers than previous years

- Grades 4-5: Consistent with historical data
- Grades 6-8: Slightly lower than past years
- 24 students opted out district-wide (grades 3-8)
- When one BOE member asked about NJSLA opt outs, the supervisor identified the majority of opt-outs in 8th grade, often due to private school transitions.

The committee recommended future opt out trends for Sex Education updates are not needed

5. NJSLA Updates

- Testing went smoothly considering test changes and scheduling challenges.

Next Meeting: 06/08/2026 8:30am