OVERVIEW

In response to the need for climate change education, New Jersey took a significant step in 2020 by incorporating climate change into the state’s Student Learning Standards across nine content areas. Local school districts design day-to-day curricula to meet these standards effectively.

In another show of commitment to climate education, NJ allocated $5 million to support the Office of Climate Change Education and Climate Awareness Education grants.

These grants aim to support schools in implementing the new climate change education standards by providing crucial funding for technical assistance, professional development opportunities, instructional materials, and evaluation strategies to empower educators.

FUNDING

Out of the total $5 million allocation, $500,000 will support the Office of Climate Change Education, while the remaining $4.5 million will go towards the Climate Awareness Education grants.

TARGET AUDIENCE

All of New Jersey's public school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects are eligible to apply for these grants. An anticipated average award of $7,000 is expected for each of the 686 grants to be issued, ensuring comprehensive coverage for every school district, charter school, and renaissance school project across the state.

COALITION

Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey legislature supported this bill.

IMPACT

By promoting hands-on learning opportunities for students, fostering the establishment of "Green Teams" to provide leadership and support local initiatives, and facilitating professional development, the grants will enable schools to offer curriculum development and instructional materials that align with the State's learning standards.

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