



**NJEXCEL**  
New Jersey  
EXpedited  
Certification for  
Educational  
Leadership



(609) 860-1200

[www.njexcel.org](http://www.njexcel.org)

# NJEXCEL - An Overview

The **New Jersey Expedited Certification for Educational Leadership (NJEXCEL)** Program is offered by NJPSA's Foundation for Educational Administration (FEA). NJEXCEL is the state-approved, innovative, non-traditional certification program with distinct models leading to a Certificate of Eligibility for Principal, Supervisor, Director of School Counseling Services,\* School Administrator, or Teacher Leader\*\*.



Eligibility for admission includes a minimum of a master's degree in a related educational field and four years of full-time experience as a teacher and/or educational specialist. NJEXCEL is designed for candidates who desire to earn certifications as a supervisor, school and/or district administrator, in lieu of pursuing a second master's degree.

NJEXCEL's program is guided by the research related to adult learning strategies, standards for school leader preparation programs, and current national and state school leader performance standards.

\*Eligibility for Director of School Counseling Services Certification with three years' experience as a certified Guidance Counselor (enrolled in Models 1, 2, or 3 only).

\*\* NJEXCEL candidates who meet NJDOE eligibility requirements may also be eligible to earn teacher leader certification. In addition, teachers who do not qualify for NJEXCEL can obtain teacher leader certification through FEA's 10-month teacher leader program. Visit [www.njtlc.org](http://www.njtlc.org) for details.

# Which Model Is Right for You?

	<b>Model 1</b>	<b>Model 2</b>	<b>Model 3</b>
<b>Candidate's Experience</b>	Practicing supervisors with 4+ years of full-time supervisory experience	Teachers and educational specialists with supervisor certification and 4+ years of full-time educational service OR practicing supervisors with less than 4 years of supervisory experience	Teachers and educational specialists with 4+ years of full-time educational service
<b>Outcome</b>	Principal Certification (CE) Teacher Leader Certification	Principal Certification (CE) Teacher Leader Certification	Principal Certification (CE) and Supervisor Certification (Standard) Teacher Leader Certification
<b>Time Frame</b>	One Year	One Year	One and a Half Years
<b>Graduate Credit from Thomas Edison State University</b>	34 graduate credits upon program completion	38 graduate credits upon program completion	51 graduate credits upon program completion
<b>Individualized Professional Growth Plan (PGP)</b>	Focuses on learning experiences that support explorations into school leadership practices	Focuses on learning experiences that support explorations into school leadership practices	Focuses on learning experiences that support explorations into school leadership practices
<b>Field-Based Experience: Internships and Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School-based Internship</li> <li>School-based Project</li> <li>Job-embedded Project</li> <li>Action Research Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School-based Internship</li> <li>School-based Project</li> <li>Job-embedded Project</li> <li>Action Research Project</li> <li>Supervisory Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School-based Internship</li> <li>School-based Project</li> <li>Job-embedded Project</li> <li>Action Research Project</li> <li>Supervisory Internship</li> <li>Supervisory Project</li> </ul>
<b>Small-group Collaborative Inquiry Sessions</b>	8 sessions, led by an experienced, certified school/district administrator	8 sessions, led by an experienced, certified school/district administrator	11 sessions, led by an experienced, certified school/district administrator
<b>Assessment Licensure Prep Classes</b>	Free School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) Prep Classes — 5 sessions (\$450 value)	Free School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) Prep Classes — 5 sessions (\$450 value)	Free School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) Prep Classes — 5 sessions (\$450 value)
<b>Leadership e-Folio</b>	Development of Leadership e-Folio culminating with an External Portfolio Review (EPR)	Development of Leadership e-Folio culminating with an External Portfolio Review (EPR)	Development of Leadership e-Folio culminating with an External Portfolio Review (EPR)
<b>Marketing Yourself Workshop</b>	Free Marketing Yourself Workshop with Simulated Interviews	Free Marketing Yourself Workshop with Simulated Interviews	Free Marketing Yourself Workshop with Simulated Interviews

# The NJEXCEL Experience

<b>Model 4</b>
Educators holding Principal Certification (CE, Provisional, or Standard) OR School Business Administrator Certification with 4+ years of SBA experience
School Administrator Certification (CE)
One Year
15 graduate credits upon program completion
Focuses on learning experiences that support explorations into district leadership practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District-level, Field-based School Administrator Internship Experience</li><li>• District-based Action Research Project</li></ul>
8 sessions, led by experienced, certified, district superintendent
Free School Superintendent Assessment (SSA) Prep Classes — 5 sessions (\$450 value)
Development of Leadership e-Folio culminating with an External Portfolio Review (EPR)
Free Marketing Yourself Workshop with Simulated Interviews

NJEXCEL's program components (curriculum design and instructional and assessment methodologies) are focused on **six learning strategies**:

- 1. Creation of a diverse professional learning community**
- 2. Self-assessment and self-analysis of knowledge, skills, dispositions, and emotional intelligence competencies for effective instructional and organizational leadership practices**
- 3. Personalized self-directed learning**
- 4. Constructivist methodology and experiential learning**
- 5. Reflective practice**
- 6. Practitioner-driven inquiry**

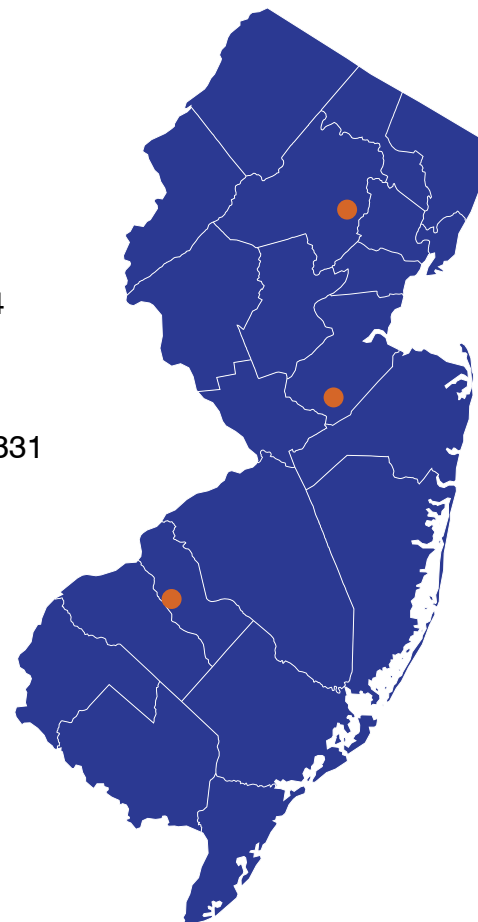
# Cohorts in South, Central, and North Jersey

Candidates apply for entrance through an easy online application process at [www.njexcel.org](http://www.njexcel.org). Cohorts begin in January and July at the following locations:

**North:** Dr. Frank R. Calabria Education Center  
Parsippany-Troy Hills Township Schools  
292 Parsippany Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054

**Central:** FEA Conference Center  
12 Centre Drive, Monroe Township, NJ 08831

**South:** Timber Creek Regional High School  
Black Horse Pike Regional Schools  
501 Jarvis Road, Erial, NJ 08081



*“Working in Morris County, I was able to get to my class in Parsippany without any problems. Having three locations makes NJEXCEL so convenient for anyone in the state. I’m sure my colleagues in Central and South Jersey feel the same way.”*

- Alexis Piombino  
Director of Special Education  
East Hanover Public Schools  
NJEXCEL Model 2 and Model 4 Alumna

To learn more about the NJEXCEL program, sign up for an information session, or complete an online application, visit

[www.njexcel.org](http://www.njexcel.org).

**If you have questions, contact:**

**Angelina Martino Finnegan**, Director of School Leadership Programs, at [afinnegan@njpsa.org](mailto:afinnegan@njpsa.org) or (609) 860-1200

**Dr. Jeffrey Graber**, Associate Director, at [jgraber@njpsa.org](mailto:jgraber@njpsa.org) or (609) 860-1200

# Attention District Leaders: We can help you build a leadership pipeline!

If an administrative position suddenly became available in your organization, wouldn't it be great to have a highly-qualified, certified leader in your district ready to step in and take on the challenge? NJEXCEL is the key to building your district's leadership pipeline.

## Help Your Team. Help Your Schools. Help Yourself.

- Identify the best, brightest, most energetic and ambitious future leaders in your school or district and **encourage them to enroll in NJEXCEL.**
- **Share this brochure** with them and highlight the many advantages of getting certified through NJEXCEL in lieu of pursuing a second master's degree.
- **Build a strong leadership pipeline** as a crucial element to developing and sustaining excellence in schools.
- Increase leadership capacity by **improving communication** and make professional learning communities operate more effectively.
- **Improve and enhance your school or district with an NJEXCEL candidate's project.** In fact, 80 percent of projects completed by NJEXCEL candidates as part of the program continue to be implemented in districts today.
- Support your team's goals and ambitions through **visionary leadership and succession planning.**
- Remember **teacher leader certification** is also available through NJEXCEL.

*"The NJEXCEL program continues to fully prepare its alumni to lead and to serve New Jersey's students, educators and communities. As a superintendent, I was fortunate to have five outstanding NJEXCEL alumni on our administrative team. They brought the very best leadership qualities to their purpose driven work each day."*

- Judith Wilson  
Superintendent (Ret.) Princeton

# NJEXCEL Alumni — Prepared for Success

*“The structure of NJEXCEL allowed me to fully explore the requirements, the law, and the everyday hands-on experiences of life as a principal in a fashion that was immersive, interactive, and collaborative.”*

- Dawn Kaszuba  
Principal  
Ocean Township High School  
NJEXCEL Model 1 Alumna

*“I was prepared not only to successfully interview, but to secure a principalship within months of completing the program.”*

- Dineen Gruchacz  
Principal  
Community Park Elementary School, Princeton  
NJEXCEL Model 2 Alumna

*“I believe NJEXCEL, through its use of practicing administrators as teachers, provides real-time insights that no other program can accomplish.”*

- Joseph G. Majka, J.D.  
Superintendent  
Matawan-Aberdeen  
NJEXCEL Model 3 Alumnus



*“NJEXCEL helped me develop and express my professional voice in order to be an influential leader within my school district, and provided me with a path to hone the skills I needed for my current position as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology.”*

- Joan V. Mast, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum,  
Instruction and Technology  
Scotch Plains-Fanwood  
NJEXCEL Model 1 and Model 4 Alumna

# The NJEXCEL Advantage

- **Fast-track, non-traditional route** to school and district administrator certifications and teacher leader certification
- **Research-based**, standards-driven, practitioner-focused spiraling curriculum
- **Distinguished faculty of expert practitioners** who are in the field with you, providing real experience and career assistance
- **Authentic and relevant experiential learning**, with more than 80 percent of school-based projects completed by NJEXCEL candidates remaining in place today
- **Competency-based technology skills** development courses and online modules
- **Collaborative cohort model** with multiple mentors promoting sharing, teamwork, and building your network
- **Comprehensive LEGAL ONE “School Law” Institute**, which fulfills state requirement for legal training
- **Convenience of three regional locations** - North, Central, and South Jersey
- **Most competitive pricing**, especially when compared to a second master’s degree (monthly payment options available)
- **Proven success**, with more than 1,000 alumni now in administrative roles
- **Personalized career counseling, support, and guidance** from NJEXCEL administrative staff