



# NJPSAFE

NJEXCEL



## New Jersey EXpedited Certification for Educational Leadership

(609) 860-1200

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



# NJEXCEL - NJ's Premier School Leader Preparation and Certification Program

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 school leader certification program with distinct models leading to eligibility for New Jersey certification as Principal (CE), Supervisor, Director of School Counseling Services\*, Teacher-Leader\*\*, or School Administrator (CE).



Eligibility for admission includes a minimum of a master's degree in a related educational field and four years of full-time certificated experience as a teacher and/or educational specialist. NJEXCEL is designed for practicing NJ educators who aspire to earn NJ school leader certifications through NJEXCEL, 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 (enrolled in Models 1, 2 or 3 only).

# 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	Practicing 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	Practicing 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>	Graduate credit available upon program completion	Graduate credit available upon program completion	Graduate credit available 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>Licensure Assessment Prep Classes</b>	Complimentary School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) Prep Classes — 5 sessions (\$550 value)	Complimentary School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) Prep Classes — 5 sessions (\$550 value)	Complimentary School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) Prep Classes — 5 sessions (\$550 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>	Complimentary Marketing Yourself Workshop with Simulated Interviews	Complimentary Marketing Yourself Workshop with Simulated Interviews	Complimentary 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
Graduate credit available 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
Complimentary School Superintendent Assessment (SSA) Prep Classes — 5 sessions (\$550 value)
Development of Leadership e-Folio culminating with an External Portfolio Review (EPR)
Complimentary 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**

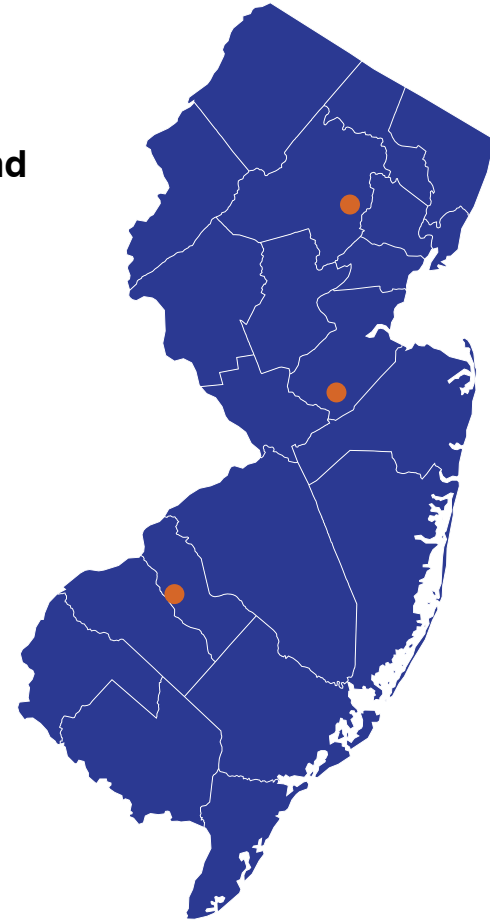
# Learning Opportunities and Access for All New Jersey Educators

**Classes, seminars and workshops are held through a combination of remote/online and in-person/on-site learning sessions. New cohorts begin each January and July with in-person, on-site sessions held at one or more of the following locations:**

**North:** Parsippany-Troy Hills Township Schools  
Morris County, NJ

**Central:** FEA Conference Center  
Middlesex County, NJ

**South:** Black Horse Pike Regional Schools  
Camden County, NJ



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 opened in your district, do you have qualified aspiring leaders on staff who are prepared to 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 leaders in your school or district and **encourage them to apply to NJEXCEL.**
- **Share this brochure** with them and highlight the many advantages of becoming 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, many projects implemented by NJEXCEL candidates have a positive, long-term impact.
- 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  
Township of Ocean Schools  
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  
Princeton Public Schools  
NJEXCEL Model 2 Alumna

*“NJEXCEL provided me with all the necessary skills and tools to become an effective educational leader. Not a day passes in my current position where I don't reflect on something I learned throughout the Model 3 program.”*

- Sean Henry  
Vice-Principal  
Keansburg School District  
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.”*

- Joan V. Mast, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
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** with a broad range of experience as NJ school leaders
- **Authentic and relevant experiential learning**, with hands-on internships and projects that positively impact students, schools, and districts
- **Competency-based technology skills** development courses and online modules
- **Collaborative cohort model** with multiple mentors that fosters open communication, teamwork, and networking
- **Comprehensive LEGAL ONE “School Law” Institute**, which fulfills state requirements for legal training
- **Accessible learning for all NJ educators**, with remote and on-site classes
- **Most competitive pricing**, especially when compared to a second master’s degree (monthly payment options available)
- **Proven success**, with more than 2,500 alumni since 2003
- **Personalized career counseling, support, and guidance** from NJEXCEL faculty and staff