

March 23, 2009

TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons  
Business Administrators  
Supervisors

FROM: Lucille E. Davy  
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Professional Development

We have learned from districts that professional development activities have been included as “non-essential” expenditures and that many of these activities both within and outside the districts have been stopped or curtailed. If this has occurred as a result of my January 16, 2009 letter urging that you “freeze all non-essential and discretionary district spending,” it was not my intention.

I want to affirm that professional development activities for teachers and school leaders are a critical part of the instructional program. Professional development activities are absolutely essential to building effective programs for our students. Federal Title I and Title II funds, as well as state and local monies should be sufficient to maintain current and future professional development efforts.

I urge you to support quality professional development for teachers and school leaders.

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c: Members, State Board of Education  
Willa Spicer  
Senior Staff  
Executive County Superintendents  
NJ LEE Group  
Garden State Coalition of Schools