

**Abstract: New Jersey ESF-REM Discretionary Grant Program Submission
NJSLS Connect**

Introduction. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) seeks to address specific needs pertaining to accessing high-quality remote learning via Absolute Priority 3 (Field Initiated Projects for Educational Models for Remote Learning to Improve Student Outcomes). New Jersey schools closed on March 18 due to COVID-19 and remained closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Due to the lack of in-person instruction, Brookings Institute researchⁱ points to substantial learning loss nationally in both ELA and Math and predicts the largest losses will occur in mathematics grades K-5. As New Jersey plans for the reopening of schools in the fall of 2020, school districts will need to provide targeted instruction and support to students in the area of K-5 mathematics.

Project and Goals. This initiative promotes the increase of high-quality remote learning for all students through the implementation of a comprehensive statewide digital learning system (NJSLS Connect). This learning environment will contain data analysis tools, instructional tools and resources, interventions aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), and math instructional units for grades K-5. Instructional tools and resources developed will be free and accessible to the public. To meet the requirements of this initiative, the NJDOE aims to increase the number of students receiving standards-based, high quality, individualized digital learning in K-5 mathematics, increasing parent and guardian satisfaction, efficacy, and options within the digital learning environment, and strengthening the professional capacity of educators to successfully implement improvements to the digital learning environment. Student educational outcomes will be measured and tracked to ensure successful progression of this project.

ⁱ *The Impact Of COVID-19 On Student Achievement and What It May Mean for Educators.* Jim Soland, Megan Kuhfeld, Beth Tarasawa, Angela Johnson, Erik Ruzek, and Jing Liu Wednesday, May 27, 2020