

# *Glassboro Public Schools*



## MEMO

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To: Dr. Mark Silverstein, Superintendent of Schools

From: Danielle Sochor, Director of Curriculum and Personnel

Date: March 14, 2014

Re: Grant Action Item  
March 26, Board Meeting

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Recommend Board Approval for the Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative. This is a grant sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education in collaboration with the Center for Applied Psychology at Rutgers University.

This grant would be put in place for the next two years to help build a safe and supportive school climate with a focus on students with disabilities.

DS/ed



Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative  
Center for Applied Psychology  
112 Paterson Street, Suite 102  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Phone: 848-932-5900 Fax: 732-932-5910

March 14, 2014

Mr. Kriston Matthews  
Principal  
Glassboro Intermediate School  
202 N. Delsea Drive  
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Dear Mr. Matthews:

On behalf of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), and the Center for Applied Psychology (CAP) at Rutgers University, I would like to congratulate Glassboro Intermediate School on being selected to participate in Cohort 3 of the Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative (ISCI). We are looking forward to working with you over the next two years to support your work in promoting and fostering a school climate that best supports the inclusion of students with disabilities.

Included with this letter you will find two documents: 1) *Acknowledgement of Participation in the Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative*; and 2) *Participation and Stipend Disbursement Agreement: 2014-2015*. The *Acknowledgement of Participation* is required by the Rutgers University Institutional Review Board (IRB), responsible for assuring our data collection protocol has been reviewed and approved for protection of human subjects. The *Participation and Stipend Disbursement Agreement* provides an overview of the project requirements and your school's acceptance of the stipend reimbursement procedures. Please review, complete, and return both forms by March 21, 2014. Dr. Virginia Stillson will contact you in the following week to discuss the Spring 2014 ISCI School Climate Survey administration for your school.

Please also mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 27, 2014, when we are hosting the ISCI Showcase Celebration at Rutgers New Brunswick. ISCI Cohort 2 schools will present overviews of their project accomplishments. This will be a wonderful opportunity for you and your newly formed project team to learn, share, and network with Cohort 2 school teams as well as to meet the other Cohort 3 school teams. Further details regarding the showcase will be forthcoming.

We appreciate your commitment to this important initiative and feel confident that your participation will support your school as well as contribute to best practices in recognizing and responding to the school climate factors that best support the inclusion of students with disabilities.

If you have any questions regarding ISCI, please contact me at [blerman@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:blerman@rci.rutgers.edu) or 848-932-5900.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradford C. Lerman".

Bradford C. Lerman, Psy.D.  
Project Director

Enclosures: 1) *Acknowledgement of Participation in the Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative*  
2) *Participation and Stipend Disbursement Agreement: 2014-2015*

c. Dr. Mark Silverstein, Superintendent  
Mr. William Lundahl, Supervisor of Special Services

Sponsored by New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (NJOSEP)  
in collaboration with The Center for Applied Psychology at Rutgers University. Funded by IDEA, Part B.



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## **Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative (ISCI):**

### ***Building a Safe and Supportive School Climate With a Focus on Students with Disabilities***

#### **Participation and Stipend Disbursement Agreement: 2014-2015**

Please indicate your school's agreement to participate in the Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative for the 2014-2015 school year by providing the requested information on the following page.

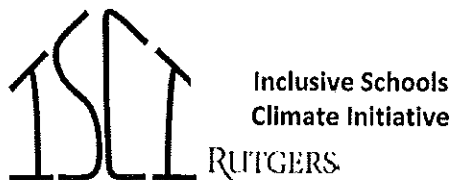
Participation in ISCI involves working closely with consultants from Rutgers ISCI staff, forming an inclusive school climate leadership team, conducting the ISCI School Climate Survey, developing and implementing a School Climate Improvement Plan (SCIP), engaging in statewide and regional meetings designed for learning and sharing across ISCI school teams, mentoring future ISCI school teams, and engaging in other inclusive school climate leadership opportunities, such as presenting at workshops and conferences.

Your school's participation in ISCI also includes the opportunity to access a \$2500 stipend to support the implementation of your SCIP. The ISCI stipend shall be used toward efforts that support the school-wide implementation of the School Climate Improvement Plan (SCIP). These efforts may include, but are not limited to, the introduction, coordination and/or improvement of programs and efforts in the following areas:

- Special education, disability awareness, and social inclusion
- Social, emotional, and character development (SECD)
- Professional learning communities (PLCs)
- Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) prevention and intervention
- Support Specific school concerns as related to school climate improvement with a focus on students with disabilities

Accessing the stipend funds will require the development of a budget plan (consistent with your school's SCIP), the review and approval of the budget plan by Rutgers ISCI staff, and documentation of expenditures.

Please contact Dr. Bradford C. Lerman, Project Director, should you have any questions.



**Participation and Stipend Disbursement Agreement: 2014-2015**

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Federal ID Number (needed to process stipend): \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

School Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail, Email, or Fax to:**

**Dr. Bradford C. Lerman, Director  
Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative  
Center for Applied Psychology  
Rutgers University  
112 Paterson Street, Suite 102  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
[blerman@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:blerman@rci.rutgers.edu)**

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Center for Applied Psychology  
112 Paterson Street Suite 102  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Phone: 848-932-5900 Fax: 732-932-5910

March 14, 2014

RE: Acknowledgement of Participation in the Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative for the Rutgers Institutional Review Board

As a representative of the \_\_\_\_\_ School, I hereby acknowledge my school's participation in the Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative at Rutgers University funded by The New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs through IDEA, Part B. By signing this Letter of Acknowledgement in conjunction with Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative at Rutgers University, I understand that:

- Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative at Rutgers University must submit all evaluation research proposals to the Rutgers University Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approval with regards to the protection of human subjects in research;
- The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Rutgers University reviews the evaluation research proposal for the purposes of ensuring that ethical research is conducted with human subjects; and
- The Rutgers Institutional Review Board (IRB) will serve as the sole official IRB for the evaluation research, but that \_\_\_\_\_ School District may require its own approval for individual evaluation instruments to be used.

Signed,

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Representative (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Title in school)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

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Bradford C. Lerman, Psy.D.,  
Director  
Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative at Rutgers University

\_\_\_\_\_  
Virginia Stillson, Psy.D.,  
Director of Research and Program Development  
Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative at Rutgers University

Please email or fax to Dr. Virginia Stillson at [virgdisp@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:virgdisp@rci.rutgers.edu) or 732-932-5910.