



Dear Director of Curriculum, Superintendent of Schools,

I am writing to you today to discuss a global issue that our school systems can address while providing our students with a pathway to a career in aviation. Boeing predicts that in the next 18 years, we will need 763,000 new pilots and 739,000 trained airplane technicians to service our worldwide aviation commercial infrastructure.

We represent a growing list of aviators and educators dedicated to meeting the needs of our country, our economy, our infrastructure, and, most importantly, our students by introducing and assisting school districts in implementing a meaningful aviation program. Students can explore two different paths in a secondary educational environment, a career as a pilot, and a career as an aircraft technician.

Currently, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) offers a free curriculum that is in use in several schools throughout New Jersey. This curriculum focuses on preparing students for an aviation career, either as a pilot of a manned aircraft, or of an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS or drone). AOPA provides schools with lesson plans, activities, and assessments, all of which are aligned to the NJSLS. Once the school is accepted by AOPA, the online teacher training and the curriculum are free. More information can be found at <https://youcanfly.aopa.org/high-school/high-school-curriculum>.

The second path focuses on students studying aviation mechanics. Students will learn in a hands-on environment that teaches them the skills and principles they need to keep the aviation infrastructure safe and functioning. The Aviation Technician Education Council (ATEC) is piloting a high school level curriculum during the 2021-2022 school year. They plan to have the curriculum ready for the 2022-2023 school year. More information can be found at <https://www.chooseaerospace.org/curriculum.html>.

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) provides additional resources to educators and their students. The Civil Air Patrol's Aerospace Education Member (AEM) program is a great way for your teachers to augment your district's current K-12 curricular offerings, in addition to possible participation in the aforementioned curriculum opportunities, at no obligation (other than a one-time \$35 AEM membership fee per teacher).

Students can also participate in CAP's "Cadet Program" outside of school, which includes five orientation flights where the Cadets actually fly the airplane, and provides scholarship opportunities to help pay for their education. More information is available at:

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/aerospace-education/join-as-an-aem>  
<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/activities>

The New Jersey Aviation Education Council offers a wealth of resources for your administrators and educators regarding these programs, as well as career information and educational opportunities for your students. The website can be accessed at:

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

Finally, Pathways to Aviation provides educators, students, and their families with the guidance that they need to prepare for a career in aviation. These skills include building a resume, conducting an interview, networking, and career prep. The resources found in this program can be used across many different career paths. More information can be found at <https://pathwaystoaviation.org/>.

Our goal is to help schools throughout New Jersey introduce their students and their communities to the wide variety of career opportunities in the field of aviation and aerospace. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions you may have. Again, please refer to our NJ Aviation Education Council website at [aviationec.org](http://aviationec.org) for more information about upcoming events.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Kevin S. Doyle*

Kevin S. Doyle, Ed. D.  
District Supervisor of  
Instruction - Science  
Coordinator - Math &  
Science Magnet Program  
Morris Hills Regional  
District Coordinator

*Michael Castania*

Lt. Col. Michael Castania  
Civil Air Patrol  
NJ Wing Director of  
NJ Aviation Education Council  
Aerospace Education  
NHQ AE External Programs

*Captain David Sarkisian*

CAP Airbus 320 Captain  
AOPA High School Education  
Coordinator