

N · J · A · S · L

New Jersey Association of School Librarians

Legislative and Agency Update

August & September 2009

Department of Education News

Proposed NJQSAC Regulations

NJASL's Professional Development Committee and members of the Board have reviewed proposed amendments to the state's regulations for the *Evaluation and Performance of School Districts* and recommended a change in the proposal to both Commissioner Lucille E. Davy and State Board of Education President Josephine Hernandez. The recommendation aims to provide some measure of accountability to encourage school districts to comply with N.J.A.C. 6A:13-2.1(h) which requires districts to provide certain school library media services under the direction of a certified School Library Media Specialist. The Association recommended that the Regular District Performance Review (DPR) for Instruction and Program, Section C. Instruction Indicator #8 be changed to say:

"The district requires and verifies that teachers and other instructional staff effectively use *school library resources and* technology to support learning, increase productivity and create products across all NJCCCS areas." (NJASL's recommended addition is in italics.)

The Commissioner hopes to move the amendments at Proposal Level at the October 21 meeting of the State Board which is why NJASL took expeditious action to ask that the monitoring regulations include language on the effective use of school library resources before the board votes on the proposed amendments. <http://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/qsac/>

Common Core Standards Review

Education Commissioner Lucille E. Davy has invited individuals interested in the education of children in the 21st century to review and comment on the draft "Common Core Standards," released yesterday by the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Administrators (CCSSO). The draft standards for Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy are part of President Obama's reform agenda to raise educational standards.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2009/0923css.htm>

Professional Development Workshops

The Department of Education will conduct roundtables and workshops for educators on the standards for World Languages, "Technology in the 21st Century Classroom" and other educational topics during the 2009-10 school year. The schedule of programs and registration information is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/events/pdta.htm>

NJ Public Schools Fact Sheet

The Department has published a report listing the types of school districts in the state, student enrollment, state aid, mean salary data, and other statistics of interest. The report provides links to county summaries and reports for individual school districts.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/data/fact.htm>

Adopted Graduation Requirements

The department has updated the information on its website on three recently enacted major initiatives that impact instruction at all grade levels, namely,

- The revised Core Curriculum Content Standards,
- The new high school graduation requirements and
- The Standards and Assessment Code (N.J.A.C. 6A:8).

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/ser/grad/>

New GED Exam to be Introduced January 2012: Current Candidates Urged to Finish Before That Date

The General Education Development (GED) Testing Service will introduce a new series of exams in January 2012. The GED, developed by the American Council on Education, is a series of five national exams testing candidates in the content areas of science, social studies, reading, mathematics, and writing in order to allow them to obtain a high school diploma in their home states. Candidates currently working on their GED must pass the current series of tests prior to 2012 or they will be required to take the new tests in order to receive a GED.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2009/0813ged.htm>

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