



Legislative and Agency Update

May 2009

Last Chance to Comment on Revised Technology Standards

NJASL continues to have concerns about the draft technology standards. They reflect a lack of understanding of child development, educational theory, and technology itself.

For a short time, SLMS have the ability to submit final comments on the draft standards. Your comments are urgently needed to try to get these important standards changed. Please visit the NJASL Advocacy wiki at the link below for more information and suggested survey comments.

<http://njasladvocacy.pbwiki.com/Technology-Standards-Response>

Comments on the proposed standards can be submitted at
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/2009/tech/index.html>

Recently, Commissioner Lucille E. Davy presented the State Board of Education with a Discussion Resolution on the revised Core Curriculum Standards in six content areas.

[**CCCS/Preschool Expectations**](#)

Dr. Jay Doolan, Assistant Commissioner, and Janis Jensen, Director for the Office of Academic Standards outlined the process used to revise the standards and the plan for implementation in a Power Point presentation.



StateBoardMay20Std
sDiscuss-Final.ppt

The Board is expected to adopt the revised standards at its business meeting in June. The content areas slated for approval are preschool education, visual and performing arts, comprehensive health and physical education, science, technology, 21st century life and career and world languages. Davy plans to bring the remaining content areas to the Board for approval later this year.

Regulations Governing School Library Services Proposed

State regulations require all school districts to provide library-media services connected to classroom studies in every school under the direction of a certified school library-media specialist (SLMS). Recently, Commissioner Davy submitted the regulations for

publication at Proposal Level in the New Jersey Register. No changes to the existing rules are proposed. While the rules fall short of requiring a full-time certified SLMS in the library in every school, they do mandate that every school provide the following library resources and services for students:

- Access to computers
- District-approved instructional software
- Appropriate books including novels, anthologies and other research materials
- Supplemental materials that motivate students to read and to conduct research.

In addition to outlining the minimum services and resources each school must offer, the regulations mandate that the school library-media program be provided under the direction of a certified SLMS at N.J.A.C. 6A:13-2.1(h). These new requirements are intended to support two important goals stated in the commissioner's regulations. Namely, to implement a coherent curriculum that is aligned to the Core Curriculum Standards and to provide an academically rigorous, personalized environment to prepare students for post-secondary education and/or careers after graduation.

The regulations, which will remain in effect for one year, are intended to implement the School Funding Reform Act P.L.2007, c260 and can be reviewed at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/code/proposed/title6a/chap13.pdf>

Comments on the regulations, including recommendations for changes, may be submitted in writing by July 3, 2009 to:

Rochelle Hendricks, Assistant Commissioner
NJ Department of Education
River View Executive Plaza
Building 100, PO BOX 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Governor's News

Further Cuts to Proposed School Aid

Due to declining state revenue, the State Treasurer, David Rousseau, reported to the legislature that the Governor has revised his proposed budget for FYI 2009-2010 to further reduce expenditures. The revised budget proposal slashes an additional \$65 million from certain school programs including magnet programs for special education, preschool expansion, and debt service.

Supreme Court Decision on School Funding

The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that the state's new school funding formula (SAFRA) meets the constitutional mandate of Thorough and Efficient. After a year long battle, the Court ruled that SAFRA could replace the Abbott program funding formula 31 districts across the state. The new formula is designed to fund programs based on the educational needs of individual students rather than where they reside.

The Education Law Center argued for the Abbott program to remain as outlined in earlier Court decisions. The center posted the following statement in reaction to the decision

on its web site: *SUPREME COURT: NEW SCHOOL FORMULA MUST BE FUNDED AND REVISITED* - Today the New Jersey Supreme Court issued a decision upholding the State's new school funding formula, the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) of 2008. The SFRA is a major setback in the quest for educational equity for all New Jersey school children. [Read More....](#)

Governor Jon S. Corzine hailed the decision calling it a "victory for all of New Jersey's children..." Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy also praised the decision to uphold SAFRA.

<http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/2009/approved/20090528a.html>

Department of Education News

Both June 2009 State Aid Payments to Schools to be Delayed

The Commissioner has informed local school districts that both state aid payments for the month of June will be delayed until July. The announcement from the Governor's office cited lower than expected revenues as the reason for the delay. Deadlines for districts to apply to the department for authorization to borrow sufficient funds to meet their short term financial obligations and for reimbursement for any interest paid on approved loans have been extended.

ARRA Training for School Districts

Commissioner Davy announced that the department would provide training sessions for local school districts in June on aspects of the new federal dollars New Jersey will receive for education via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). She noted that New Jersey is one of 16 states that will be monitored every six weeks by the USDOE on the distribution and use funds received under ARRA.

The American Library Association provides detailed information about the Act and state programs receiving funds under the legislation at

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/woissues/washfunding/fedfund/arra101.cfm#what>

On-line Application for Teacher Licenses Now Required

The Department announced that it would no longer accept paper applications for teacher certification except for non-citizen Instructional Certificates and transcript evaluation.

Candidates for new certificates can begin the process by visiting

<http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/license/tcis/>

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