

Public Notice

Education

State Board of Education

Notice of Action on Petition for Rulemaking

New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs

Certificate of Eligibility Educator Preparation Programs for Documented Areas of Teacher Shortage

N.J.A.C. 6A:9A

Petitioner: Robert Goodman, Ed.D., Executive Director, New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning Inc. (NJCTL).

Take notice that on January 6, 2026, the State Board of Education (State Board) received a petition for rulemaking from the above petitioner, requesting the State Board adopt new rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A to restore rules as they existed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.6 prior to being readopted with amendments in 2023.

The petitioner sought to adopt former N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.6, which allowed certificate of eligibility (CE) educator preparation programs to be developed to serve school districts to place teachers in documented areas of teacher shortage. The former section also allowed CE educator preparation programs to be established by New Jersey colleges and universities, educational organizations, or other entities approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Education (Commissioner). The former section further established the requirements for CE educator preparation programs for documented areas of teacher shortage to be approved by the Commissioner and for candidates seeking admission into the programs.

The section was amended effective May 1, 2023 (see 55 N.J.R. 843(a)) to replace the section heading with “Add-on endorsement programs for mathematics and science.” The

Department of Education (Department) stated in the notice of proposal (see 54 N.J.R. 2242(a)) that the former heading did not capture the intent of the specialized programs, which were designed for certified teachers to gain content knowledge in high-need subject areas and not new teachers seeking a CE through the existing pathway. As part of the 2023 readoption with amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A, the Department changed the purpose of N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.6 to allow existing approved educator preparation programs within New Jersey colleges and universities, educational organizations, or other entities approved by the Commissioner to establish add-on endorsement programs designed to prepare current certified teachers to earn a CE in mathematics and/or science.

The petitioner indicated that NJCTL is approved, pursuant to former N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.6, to operate educator preparation programs in the shortage areas of mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology through December 31, 2027, and has current educators in the program.

The petitioner requested that the former rules be reinstated — as a section at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A of the Department’s choosing — to allow NJCTL to continue to operate its programs beyond December 31, 2027. The petitioner stated that reinstating the former rules will enable NJCTL to create additional programs and will encourage other institutions of higher education to develop documented shortage area educator preparation programs.

A notice acknowledging receipt of the petition was published in the February 17, 2026, New Jersey Register at 58 N.J.R. 1088(b).

In accordance with applicable law, the President of the State Board has reviewed the petition and, in consultation with the Commissioner, has determined that further deliberations are required before taking action on the petition. The Department intends to evaluate the program-level impact of reinstating the former N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.6 by examining both outcomes and equity across CE educator preparation programs, including analyzing key data such as

candidate enrollment, completion rates, certification and employment outcomes, and whether graduates ultimately serve in teacher shortage areas within high-needs school districts. In addition, the Department will assess whether reinstating the former rules would create unintended inequities between CE educator preparation program models or necessitate additional guidance, supports, or transition periods to ensure consistent implementation Statewide. The extended deliberation will allow the Department to make a well-informed conclusion that considers both workforce realities and the need to uphold rigorous standards for educators serving in New Jersey schools, specifically in the documented shortage areas.

Accordingly, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2(a)3 and 6A:6-4.2(b)3, this matter will be referred for further deliberations for a period not to exceed 90 days.