

## **Public Notice**

### **Education**

#### **State Board of Education**

#### **Notice of Action on Petition for Rulemaking**

#### **New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs**

#### **State Board of Examiners and Certification**

#### **N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.3 and 6A:9B**

Petitioner: Jill M. Caccia.

**Take notice** that on January 30, 2023, the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) received two petitions for rulemaking from the above petitioner, requesting the State Board create new rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.3(d)1 and 6A:9B to allow the test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills (Praxis Core) to replace the State test of subject matter knowledge for elementary education for candidates seeking a basic skills teaching certificate.

The petitioner requested a new regulation at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.3(d)1, which allows certificate of eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS) educator preparation programs to determine how a candidate admitted to a program that starts before the academic year 2015-2016 is required to demonstrate acceptable levels of proficiency in the use of the English language, both oral and written, and mathematics. Candidates admitted to a CEAS educator preparation program in, or after, the academic year 2015-2016 are required to have achieved a minimum score established by the Department of Education (Department) on a Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills. The petitioner also requested a new rule at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B, which sets forth the rules governing the licensure of educators or candidates required to be certified.

The petitioner's request stated that a candidate who holds a State certificate and completed a teaching program should be eligible for a certificate and have the basic knowledge of reading/writing and mathematics to teach basic skills for elementary school (kindergarten to grade eight).

A notice acknowledging receipt of the petition was published in the March 6, 2023, New Jersey Register at 55 N.J.R. 497(b).

The request stated that the petitioner's intent is to see the State change the requirements for the basic skills certificate to enable certificate holders to teach basic skills in kindergarten through grade eight after showing that they are capable of doing so without having to take the State test of subject matter knowledge for elementary education. The petitioner's request stated that the Praxis Core exam is identical to the State test of subject matter knowledge for elementary education.

The State Board of Examiners does not issue a basic skills teaching certificate, as the petitioner stated, but issues the Teacher of Supplemental Instruction in Reading and Mathematics, Kindergarten through Grade Eight endorsement to the instructional certificate. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.3(b)5, the endorsement authorizes the holder to provide supplemental, pull-out instruction in reading and mathematics for students in kindergarten through grade eight. The endorsement requires, in part, passage of the State test of subject matter knowledge, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.11.

The petitioner also sought to modify N.J.A.C. 6A:9B, generally, to effectuate the petitioner's expressed goal of permitting the basic skills assessment to replace the State test of subject matter knowledge. The petitioner asserted that this change is appropriate since the basic skills assessment and State test of subject matter knowledge, which includes reading and language arts, mathematics, social studies and science, are identical.

The Department has reviewed the petitioner's request and made the following determinations:

- The petitioner's request to create a new rule at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.3(d)1 does not detail what the new rule should require or how the existing rule should be modified to create the change sought;
- The petitioner's reason for, and interest in, the requested changes is the petitioner's personal circumstances relating to an application for a certificate, which fails to provide a sufficient basis for the requested changes; and
- The petitioner's assertion regarding the two tests is incorrect. The basic skills assessment upholds the expectation that teachers demonstrate basic skills and knowledge in reading, writing, and mathematics, whereas the State test of subject matter knowledge measures subject-specific content knowledge. The tests differ in purpose and content, one cannot replace the other, and neither can be waived.

For the above-mentioned reasons, the petitioner's request is hereby denied.