

Notice of Proposal Regarding Proposed Amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9, Professional Standards, N.J.A.C. 6A:9A, New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B, State Board of Examiners and Certification

The following is the accessible version of the notice of proposal for N.J.A.C. 6A:9, 9A, and 9B. The notice of proposal document includes two sections – [summary](#) and [proposed amendments](#).

Education

State Board of Education

Professional Standards

New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs

State Board of Examiners and Certification

Proposed Amendments: N.J.A.C. 6A:9-2.1; 6A:9A-4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5.4, and 5.5; and 6A:9B-6.1, 7.3, 8.2, 8.3, 8.7, 8.8, 8A.3, 9.2, 11.3, 11.5, 11.6, 11.12, and 11A.3

Authorized By: New Jersey State Board of Education, Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner, Department of Education, Secretary, State Board of Education.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.23, 2.24, 2.26, 2.31, 2.32, 35, and 36; and P.L. 2024, c. 26.

Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

Proposal Number: PRN 2025-084.

Submit written comments by September 19, 2025, to:

Jorden Schiff, Assistant Commissioner

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New Jersey Department of Education

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The agency proposal follows:

Summary

The Department of Education (Department) proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9, Professional Standards, 6A:9A, New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs, and 6A:9B, State Board of

Examiners and Certification, to align the chapters with recently enacted State laws and other authorizing statutes. The following are a list of the amended or new laws and statutes:

- P.L. 2024, c. 26, which eliminated the requirement to complete a Department Commissioner (Commissioner)-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills to obtain an instructional certificate;
- N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.32, which created a paraprofessional educator preparation pathway to expedite the process for paraprofessionals and instructional assistants to obtain certificates of eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS) in specific endorsement areas;
- N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.26, which established the computer science endorsement and requires the endorsement for educators teaching computer science in grades nine through 12;
- N.J.S.A. 18A:26-35, which eliminated the requirement to complete a Commissioner-approved, performance-based assessment to obtain a CEAS, a certificate of eligibility (CE), or a standard certificate, and requires educator preparation programs to establish their own performance-based assessment;
- N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.23, which requires all educator preparation programs for an instructional certificate to include six credits of classroom instruction, clinical experience (including student internships), or a combination of both, in special education;
- N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.31, which requires all teaching certification candidates who have completed a Commissioner-approved educator preparation program to complete a course or training on culturally responsive teaching, which recognizes the importance of including students' cultural references in all aspects of learning and uses research-based teaching strategies to meaningfully connect school lessons with students' cultures, languages, and experiences;

- N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.24, which requires educator preparation programs that train educators, specifically for the teacher of students with disabilities endorsement to the instructional certificate, to include coursework on autism spectrum disorders and comprehensive, evidence-based instructional practices to address the educational strengths and needs of students with autism; and
- N.J.S.A. 18A:26-36, which permits educator preparation programs to accept any number of credit hours from accredited county colleges toward meeting requirements for teacher certification.

The following is a summary of the proposed amendments.

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

Subchapter 2. Definitions

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-2.1 Definitions

This section provides definitions for terms that apply to this chapter and N.J.A.C. 6A:9A, 6A:9B, and 6A:9C.

The Department proposes a definition for “culturally responsive teaching,” to mirror the definition at N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.31.c.

The Department proposes a definition for “performance-based assessment,” to mirror the definition at N.J.S.A. 18A:26-35.c.

The Department proposes a definition for “professional education coursework,” to mirror the definition at N.J.S.A. 18A:26-37.b.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9A New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs

Subchapter 4. CEAS Educator Preparation Programs

N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.2 CEAS Educator Preparation Program Course Requirements

This section requires a CEAS educator preparation program designed to lead to instructional certificates to include a curriculum devoted to educator preparation that builds upon the content knowledge and skills of the individual candidate; a clinical component aligned with the Professional Standards for Teachers; and clinical experiences incorporated into courses leading up to, and including, clinical practice.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.2(a)4 to require an educator preparation program that leads to a CEAS to include a minimum of the equivalent of six semester credit hours of classroom instruction and/or clinical experience, including student internships, in special education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.23.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.2(a)5 to require an educator preparation program that leads to a CEAS, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, to include training on culturally responsive teaching, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.31.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.2(a)6 to require educator preparation programs that lead to an instructional certificate with the teacher of students with disabilities endorsement to include coursework on autism spectrum disorders and comprehensive, evidence-based instructional practices to address the educational strengths and needs of students with autism, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.24.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.3 Admission to CEAS Educator Preparation Programs

This section requires a candidate who starts a CEAS educator preparation program to meet the section's GPA and basic skills requirements. This section also requires a candidate to have a bachelor's or higher degree.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.3(d) and the reference to that subsection at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.3(a) because a Department-established minimum score on a

Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills is no longer required pursuant to P.L. 2024, c. 26. The State law eliminated the Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills and all exceptions as a requirement for an instructional certificate, except for a limited certificate of eligibility (CE) or limited CEAS.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.4 Clinical Component and Candidate Supervision for CEAS Educator Preparation Programs

This section sets forth the requirements for the clinical component of CEAS educator preparation programs. The section describes the gradual release of responsibility and increased rigor of the clinical aspects of the program. Clinical experiences are the diverse, guided, hands-on, practical applications and demonstrations in educator preparation programs of professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions through integrated, collaborative, and facilitated learning and practice. These experiences take place in early field, practicum, and other opportunities that occur prior to clinical practice across a variety of settings and that are integrated throughout the educator preparation program. Clinical practice is the culminating field-based experience or internship. In this hands-on experience in a preschool through grade 12 setting, candidates demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and dispositions to be effective educators.

The Department is proposing new regulations to align the section with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.32, which created a pathway to teacher certification for paraprofessionals and instructional assistants who are employed in school districts. The new law allows individuals to count their direct classroom service while employed in school districts as paraprofessionals and instructional assistants toward full credit for the clinical practice component of a CEAS educator preparation program.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.4(c)1 to allow a candidate who is a paraprofessional or instructional assistant, employed to work in a school district, and enrolled in a

CEAS educator preparation program to count their direct classroom service toward full credit of the candidate's clinical practice requirements, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.32.c(1).

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.4(d)1 to ensure that a school district with a paraprofessional or instructional assistant enrolled in a CEAS educator preparation program makes every reasonable effort to place the candidate in a classroom setting in the endorsement area sought and with a cooperating teacher.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.5 Recommendations for a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS)

This section requires approved CEAS educator preparation programs to recommend to the Department for certification-only candidates who have completed the CEAS educator preparation program and all requirements, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 through 13, or the specified exemptions. The candidates also must have demonstrated continued competence, aptitude, motivation, and potential for outstanding success in educating students. This section further requires CEAS educator preparation programs to recommend a candidate for certification within one year from the date the candidate completed the approved program.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.5(a)4 to require a CEAS candidate who graduated in the spring of 2024, or thereafter, to complete a performance-based assessment approved by the educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-35.a. The same amendment is proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.5 for completion of a CE educator preparation program. The proposed amendments will align the sections with changes to a State statute that prohibits the State Board from requiring a candidate for a CEAS or a CE to complete a Commissioner-approved performance-based assessment. The revised statute also requires an educator preparation program to establish a program-approved performance-based assessment that

is embedded within the educator preparation program, beginning with candidates who will complete the educator preparation program in the spring of 2024 or thereafter.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.4 Additional Curriculum and Course Requirements for CE Educator Preparation Programs

This section sets forth the curriculum and course requirements for CE educator preparation programs.

The Department proposes amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.4(a)1i to allow CE educator preparation programs to accept “any number of” formal instructional hours or semester-hour credits to eliminate the cap on hours or credits transferred between educator preparation programs. The Department also proposes to prohibit a CE educator preparation program from limiting the number of semester-hour credits or formal instructional hours of professional education coursework completed at any accredited county college to meeting certification requirements, unless prohibited by the receiving educator preparation program’s accreditation. The proposed amendments will align the section with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-36.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.4(a)4 to require an educator preparation program that leads to a CE to include a minimum of the equivalent of six semester credit hours of classroom instruction and/or clinical experience, including student internships in special education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.23.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.4(a)5 to require an educator preparation program that leads to a CE, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, to include training on culturally responsive teaching, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.31.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.4(a)6 to require an educator preparation program that leads to the instructional certificate with the teacher of students with disabilities

endorsement to include coursework on autism spectrum disorder and comprehensive, evidence-based instructional practices to address the educational strengths and needs of students with autism, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.24.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.5 Completion of CE Educator Preparation Program

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.5 to allow a candidate to complete a CE educator program by completing a performance-based assessment approved by the educator preparation program, as discussed above.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B State Board of Examiners and Certification

Subchapter 6. College Courses and Certification

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-6.1 Validation of College Degrees and College Professional Preparation

This section requires a candidate for certification to hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university or a foreign higher education institution recognized by international accreditation agencies. This section also requires a candidate for a CEAS to complete a CEAS educator preparation program and coursework from a list of acceptable entities.

The Department proposes amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-6.1(b) to allow CEAS educator preparation programs to accept “any number of hours of formal instruction or professional education” coursework completed at the listed entities. The Department also proposes amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-6.1(b)3 to add a cross-reference to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-36. The proposed amendments will align the section with changes to State law. The Department also proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-6.1(b)3 to replace “a college or university” with “an educator preparation program,” to reflect that the Department approves the latter.

Subchapter 7. Substitute Credential

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.3 Time-Period Limitations for Serving as a Substitute Teacher

This section sets forth the time-period limitations for a substitute teacher filling a full-time teacher vacancy.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.3(a)1 to align the section with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1a, which limits to 20 school days, the amount of time that one or more holders of a substitute credential can fill a vacant teaching position or the position of a teacher who is absent for an extended time period. The law also allows the Commissioner to grant a school district's request to extend, for an additional 20 school days, the use of a substitute credential holder upon demonstration that the school district has been unable to hire an appropriately certified teacher for the vacant position within the original 20-day time limit.

Subchapter 8. Requirements For Instructional Certification

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2 Requirements for Certificates of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS)

This section sets forth the requirements for a candidate to qualify for a CEAS.

The Department proposes amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)6 to replace the reference to a "Commissioner-approved performance-based assessment of teaching" with "performance-based assessment approved by the educator preparation program" and to delete the graduation timeframe because it has passed. The proposed amendments will align the paragraph with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-35.a.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3 Requirements for Certificates of Eligibility (CE)

This section establishes the requirements for a candidate to qualify for a CE.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5 because a Department-established minimum score on a Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills is no longer required. P.L. 2024, c. 26 eliminated the requirement and any

exceptions to the Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills for a candidate to attain a CE.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(f) because the performance assessment is no longer required for issuance of an instructional certificate, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-35. Therefore, a candidate who meets all of the CEAS requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)1 through 5, but did not take a state-approved performance assessment because it was not required for the educator preparation program completion or for completion of an out-of-State certification program, will be eligible for a CEAS and no longer will be issued a CE pursuant to this section.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7 Requirements for the Standard Certificate

This section includes the requirements for a candidate to be eligible for a standard certificate.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7(a)4i because N.J.S.A. 18A:26-35.a eliminated the requirement to pass a Commissioner-approved performance-based assessment to attain a standard certificate.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7(a)4 and 4ii as N.J.A.C. 6A:8.7(b).

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8 Requirements for Interstate Reciprocity for a CEAS, CE, or Standard Certificate

This section governs interstate reciprocity for instructional certificates.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(a)3, (b), and (j)2 because N.J.S.A. 18A:26-35 prohibits the State Board from requiring a candidate to pass a Commissioner-approved performance-based assessment for a CE, CEAS, or standard certificate candidate.

Technical amendments are proposed throughout the section as well.

Subchapter 8A. Limited Instructional Certificate of Eligibility and Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing Pilot Program

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.3 Limited CE or CEAS in an Instructional Area Requirements

This section includes the eligibility criteria for the limited CE and limited CEAS in an instructional area.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.3(a)1 specifies that the minimum GPA requirement is found at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)3. The Department proposes to amend the paragraph to specify that the allowable existing GPA exception is at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c)1, rather than subsection (c), for candidates who graduated before September 1, 2016. Therefore, the existing exception at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c)2 for a candidate who has a GPA below 3.00, but at least 2.75, does not apply to a candidate seeking a limited CEAS. Allowing a candidate for the limited CEAS to utilize the GPA exception at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c)2 would enable a candidate who graduated on or after September 1, 2016, to qualify for a limited CEAS with two exceptions — not achieving the minimum passing score on an appropriate State test(s) of subject matter knowledge and not having a GPA of at least 3.00. The Department maintains that providing candidates with two exceptions was not the intent of the limited CE and limited CEAS pilot program. The same amendments are proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.3(b)2 for the limited CE.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.3(a)2 to delete the reference to “and the alternative requirements or.” The Department also proposes to recodify “exceptions at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)2,” as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.3(a)2i and to state that it does not apply to a candidate who seeks to exempt the minimum passing score on an appropriate State test(s) of subject matter knowledge to be eligible for the limited CEAS. A candidate can choose only one exception to attain the limited CEAS and allowing a candidate to choose alternatives to the requirement would result in

allowing the candidate to choose multiple exceptions to attain the limited CEAS. The same amendments are proposed at recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.3(b)3 for the limited CE.

The Department proposes to amend existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.3(b)1 to delete “or exceptions” because candidates for the limited CEAS or limited CE can select one exemption, but cannot use any other exception.

The Department proposes to delete the existing exemption at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.3(b)3 because the test of basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills is a requirement for the limited CE pursuant to P.L. 2024, c. 26. Instead, the Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.3(c) to require candidates for the limited CEAS or limited CE to achieve the minimum score on a Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills.

Subchapter 9. Instructional Endorsements

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.2 Authorizations – General

This section provides the grades or subject(s) that each endorsement authorizes the holder to teach.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.2(a)7 to state that, after July 1, 2027, a teacher of computer science in grades nine through 12 must hold the computer science endorsement, instead of the existing preschool through grade 12. The proposed amendment will align the paragraph with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.26, which requires teachers to hold the computer science education endorsement to teach computer science in grades nine through 12.

Subchapter 11. Additional Requirements or Exceptions to Requirements for Instructional Certification with Special Endorsements

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3 Career and Technical Education

This section establishes the requirements for the career and technical education endorsement.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(a)1i and (a)3i(1) because P.L. 2024, c. 26 eliminated the requirement to pass a Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills; therefore, it no longer needs to be listed as an exception for a career and technical education endorsement or as a requirement for the renewal of a provisional or standard certificate with the endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.5 Bilingual/Bicultural Education

This section includes the requirements for the bilingual/bicultural endorsement.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.5(a)2i(2) because P.L. 2024, c. 26 eliminated the requirement to pass the Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills; therefore, it is not necessary to list it as an option to demonstrate written proficiency in English for a CE candidate to attain a bilingual/bicultural education endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.6 English as a Second Language

This section sets forth the requirements for the English as a second language (ESL) endorsement.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.6(a)2ii because P.L. 2024, c. 26 eliminated the requirement to pass the Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills; therefore, it is not necessary to list it as an option to demonstrate written proficiency in English for a CE candidate to attain a English as a second language endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.12 Requirements for the Charter School Certificate of Eligibility (CSCE)

This section sets forth the requirements for the charter school certificate of eligibility (CSCE).

The Department proposes, at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.12(b)2, to delete the reference to passing the basic skills assessment because P.L. 2024, c. 26 eliminated the requirement to pass the Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills.

Subchapter 11A. Requirements for Teacher Leader Endorsement

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11A.3 Requirements

This section establishes the requirements for a candidate to be eligible for the teacher leader endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11A.3(a)5 to align the section with changes to State law, at N.J.S.A. 18A:26-35.a, which prohibits the State Board from requiring a candidate for CEAS or a CE to complete a Commissioner-approved performance-based assessment. The revised statute also requires an educator preparation program to establish a program-approved performance-based assessment that is embedded within the educator preparation program.

As the Department has provided a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, the notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirement, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

Social Impact

The proposed amendments will have a positive social impact on students, teacher candidates, school districts, and CEAS and CE educator preparation programs because the proposed amendments will address teacher shortages by doing the following: eliminating the Department-established minimum score on a Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills; creating a CEAS paraprofessional educator preparation pathway; eliminating the requirement to use a Commissioner-approved, performance-based assessment and allowing educator preparation programs to establish their own; adding coursework in educator preparation programs for teacher of students with disabilities endorsements, so candidates learn about autism, and coursework regarding culturally responsive teaching and special education topics for all educator preparation programs that lead to instructional certificates; and allowing educator preparation programs to accept any number of credit hours from accredited county

colleges. Permitting a school district to seek approval to extend a substitute credential holder's time in the same classroom by 20 school days when a certified teacher is unavailable will promote consistency for students and teacher shortages.

Economic Impact

The proposed amendments will have no financial impact on educator preparation programs or school districts because the proposed amendments will address teacher shortage areas. The acceptance of credits from accredited county colleges may have a slight negative economic impact on educator preparation programs because they will not collect tuition for repeated coursework. Accepting such credits may have a positive economic impact on candidates enrolled in educator preparation programs because they will receive credit for coursework already taken and not have to pay tuition to retake the coursework at the transfer institution.

Federal Standards Statement

The proposed amendments will not be inconsistent with, or exceed, Federal requirements or standards, as there are no Federal requirements or standards related to the Commissioner-approved performance-based assessment of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills; certification of candidates who have experience as paraprofessionals or instructional assistants; coursework content for educator preparation programs; and the transfer of credit hours between institutions.

Jobs Impact

It is not anticipated that jobs will be either generated or lost as a result of the proposed amendments.

Agriculture Industry Impact

The proposed amendments will have no impact on the agriculture industry.

Regulatory Flexibility Statement

The proposed amendments will not change the existing reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements or place new requirements on small businesses, as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq. The proposed amendments impact district boards of education, charter and renaissance school project boards of trustees, approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSDs), clinics and agencies, and educator preparation programs. APSSDs, clinics, and agencies could be considered small businesses, as that term is defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act at N.J.S.A. 52:14B-17.

Housing Affordability Impact Analysis

There is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed amendments will have any impact on the affordability of housing in New Jersey. There is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed amendments would evoke a change in the average costs associated with housing because the proposed amendments concern professional standards, school districts, and educator preparation programs in New Jersey.

Smart Growth Development Impact Analysis

The proposed amendments will have an insignificant impact on smart growth. There is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed amendments would evoke a change in housing production in Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, pursuant to the State Development and Redevelopment Plan in New Jersey because the proposed amendments concern professional standards, school districts, and educator preparation programs in New Jersey.

Racial and Ethnic Community Criminal Justice and Public Safety Impact

There is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed amendments would have an impact on pretrial detention, sentencing, probation, or parole policies concerning juveniles and adults in the

State because the proposed amendments concern professional standards, school districts, and educator preparation programs in New Jersey.

Full text of the proposal follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

Chapter 9

Professional Standards

Subchapter 2. Definitions

6A:9-2.1 Definitions

The following words and terms shall have the following meanings when used in this chapter and N.J.A.C. 6A:9A, 6A:9B, and 6A:9C, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

...

“Culturally responsive teaching” means a pedagogy that recognizes the importance of including students’ cultural references in all aspects of learning, and that uses research-based teaching strategies that make meaningful connections between what students learn in school and their cultures, languages, and experiences.

...

“Performance-based assessment” means a multi-measure assessment process where candidates demonstrate the pedagogical knowledge and skills identified in the New Jersey Professional Standards for Teachers and their content knowledge and skill in teaching to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in the grade band and subject area of the endorsement sought.

“Professional education coursework” means coursework required to obtain a certificate, including courses in child development, language development, curriculum

development, and methods of instruction.

...

Chapter 9A

New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs

Subchapter 4. CEAS Educator Preparation Programs

6A:9A-4.2 CEAS educator preparation program course requirements

(a) The CEAS educator preparation program designed to lead to instructional certificates shall include:

1.-3. (No change.)

4. A minimum of the equivalent of six semester credit hours of classroom instruction or clinical experience, including student internships, or a combination thereof, in special education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.23, for candidates seeking an initial CEAS;

5. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, a course or training on culturally responsive teaching, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.31, for candidates seeking an initial CEAS; and

6. Coursework on autism spectrum disorder and comprehensive, evidence-based instructional practices to address the educational strengths and needs of students with autism, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.24, for educator preparation programs that lead to the instructional certificate with the teacher of students with disabilities endorsement.

6A:9A-4.3 Admission to CEAS educator preparation programs

(a) A candidate shall be admitted to a CEAS educator preparation program only if the candidate meets the GPA and basic skills requirements at (b) [and (d)] below.

(b)-(c) (No change.)

[(d) The candidate shall have achieved a Department-established minimum score on a Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills, except:

1. A candidate may demonstrate proficiency in the use of the English language and in mathematics by achieving a Commissioner-established qualifying minimum score on the SAT, ACT, or GRE pursuant to (d)1i below;

i. The Department shall maintain on its website a list of qualifying minimum scores for each test, which shall be approximately equal to the top-half percentile score for all test takers in the year the respective test was taken, for each year the data is available.

2. A candidate who starts a program in or after academic year 2022-2023 may demonstrate proficiency in the use of the English language and/or mathematics by holding a master's degree, or an advanced or higher degree, from an accredited institution of higher education with a minimum GPA of 3.00.]

6A:9A-4.4 Clinical component and candidate supervision for CEAS educator preparation programs

(a)-(b) (No change.)

(c) The candidate shall be placed within the endorsement subject that the candidate will pursue for certification. The candidate shall be under the direct and continuous personal supervision of an appropriately certified cooperating teacher.

1. A candidate who is a paraprofessional or instructional assistant, employed to work in a school district, and enrolled in an educator preparation program to obtain a CEAS in a specific endorsement area shall be allowed to count direct classroom service toward full credit of the candidate's clinical practice requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.32.c(1).

(d) School districts shall be responsible for accepting and placing clinical interns as part of the continuum of professional education and development.

1. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.32.c(2), school districts shall make every reasonable effort to place the paraprofessional or instructional assistant who is enrolled in an educator preparation program to obtain a CEAS in a specific endorsement area in a classroom setting in the endorsement area that the paraprofessional or instructional assistant is seeking and with a cooperating teacher who meets the requirements at (h) below, so as to allow the paraprofessional or instructional assistant to perform any required clinical practice in the school district while, if possible, continuing employment as a paraprofessional or an instructional assistant.

(e)-(i) (No change.)

6A:9A-4.5 Recommendations for a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS)

(a) CEAS educator preparation programs shall recommend to the Department certification only for candidates who have:

1. (No change.)

2. Completed all requirements pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 through 13. Higher education institutions and/or their CEAS educator preparation programs also may apply the exceptions at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c); [and]

3. Demonstrated continued competence, aptitude, motivation, and potential for outstanding success in educating students[.]; **and**

4. Completed a performance-based assessment approved by the educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-35.a.

(b) (No change.)

Subchapter 5. CE Educator Preparation Programs

6A:9A-5.4 Additional curriculum and course requirements for CE educator preparation programs

(a) Effective for candidates starting a CE educator preparation program in academic year 2017-2018, or thereafter, the CE educator preparation program for all instructional certificates shall include:

1. A minimum of 350 formal instructional hours or 24 semester-hour credits, which shall be completed over a minimum of two academic years.

i. A CE educator preparation program may accept [up to 100 out of the total 350] **any number of** formal instructional hours or [up to six] semester-hour credits from another educator preparation program approved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-3. **A CE educator preparation program shall not limit the number of formal instructional hours or semester-hour credits of professional education coursework completed at any accredited county college to meet certification requirements, unless prohibited by the educator preparation program's accrediting organization;**

2. A sequence of courses that is devoted to professional educator preparation and that builds upon the content and skills of an individual candidate; [and]

3. Curriculum aligned with the Professional Standards for Teachers, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3.3[.];

4. **A minimum of the equivalent of six semester credit hours of classroom instruction or clinical experience, including student internships, or a combination thereof, in special education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.23, for candidates seeking an initial CE;**

5. **Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, a course or training on culturally responsive teaching, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.31, for candidates seeking an initial CE; and**

6. Coursework on autism spectrum disorder and comprehensive, evidence-based instructional practices to address the educational strengths and needs of students with autism, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.24, for educator preparation programs that lead to the instructional certificate with the teacher of students with disabilities endorsement.

6A:9A-5.5 Completion of CE educator preparation program

(a) To complete a CE educator preparation program, a candidate shall:

1.-2. (No change.)

3. [Pass a Commissioner-approved] **Complete a performance-based assessment approved by the educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-35.a.**

(b)-(c) (No change.)

Chapter 9B

State Board of Examiners and Certification

Subchapter 6. College Courses and Certification

6A:9B-6.1 Validation of college degrees and college professional preparation

(a) (No change.)

(b) To meet the CEAS requirements, a candidate shall complete a CEAS educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2, and **any number of hours of formal instruction or professional education** coursework from the following entities shall be accepted:

1.-2. (No change.)

3. Accredited two-year colleges, **in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-36**, provided the courses are accepted toward meeting the requirements for certification by [a college or university] **an educator preparation program** approved by the Department.

(c) (No change.)

Subchapter 7. Substitute Credential

6A:9B-7.3 Time-period limitations for serving as a substitute teacher

(a) Holders of a substitute credential or holders of administrative or educational services certificates without an instructional CE, CEAS, or standard certificate shall substitute for no more than 20 instructional days in the same classroom per school year.

1. The Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, may grant an extension of up to an additional 20 school days upon written application from the chief school administrator, or the chief school administrator's designee, demonstrating the school district's inability to hire an appropriately certified teacher for the vacant position within the original 20-day time limit.

(b) Holders of the following qualifications shall be permitted to substitute in any school district for no more than 40 instructional days in the same classroom per school year:

1. Instructional CE, CEAS, or a standard certificate with an endorsement not within the scope of the subject being taught[;].

i. (No change.)

2. (No change.)

(c) (No change.)

Subchapter 8. Requirements For Instructional Certification

6A:9B-8.2 Requirements for certificates of eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS)

(a) Except as indicated at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10 and 11, the candidate shall meet the following criteria to be eligible for a CEAS in instructional areas:

1.-5. (No change.)

6. [Pass] **Complete** a [Commissioner-approved] performance-based assessment [of teaching if graduated on or after September 1, 2017] **approved by the educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-35.a.**

(b)-(e) (No change.)

6A:9B-8.3 Requirements for certificates of eligibility (CE)

(a) Except as indicated at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8, 10, and 11, the candidate shall meet the following criteria to be eligible for a CE in instructional areas:

1.-2. (No change.)

3. Achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 when a GPA of 4.00 equals an A grade for candidates graduating on or after September 1, 2016, in a bachelor's degree program, higher degree program, or a State-approved post-baccalaureate certification program.

i. (No change.)

ii. A candidate who does not meet the 3.00 GPA requirement shall meet the exception criteria at (b) below; **and**

4. Satisfy the endorsement requirements and exceptions pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9, 10, and 11, including, but not limited to, passing the appropriate State test(s) of subject matter knowledge and completing the required subject-area course requirements[; and].

[5. Achieve a minimum score established by the Department on a Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills, except:

i. A candidate may demonstrate proficiency in the use of the English language and in mathematics by achieving a minimum score established by the Commissioner on the SAT, ACT, or GRE pursuant to (a)5i(1) below.

(1) The Department shall maintain on its website a list of Commissioner-determined qualifying minimum scores for each test, which shall be the top-half percentile score for all test takers in the year the respective test was taken, for each year such data is available.

(2) A candidate shall qualify for the exception at (a)5i above only if the candidate achieves at least the minimum qualifying score posted pursuant to (a)5i(1) above; or

ii. A candidate may hold a master's or terminal degree with a minimum GPA of 3.00 from an accredited institution of higher education.]

(b)-(e) (No change.)

[(f) A candidate who meets all requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)1 through 5 but did not take a state-approved performance assessment because it was not required for educator preparation program completion or for completion of an out-of-State certification program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(b), shall be issued a CE. The candidate shall meet all requirements for provisional and standard certification, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4 and 8.7, respectively, but shall be exempt from:

1. CE requirements at (a) above;
2. The provisional certificate requirement to be enrolled in a CE educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(a)4;
3. The provisional certificate renewal requirement to be enrolled in or to have completed a CE educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(b)4; and
4. The standard certificate requirement to complete a CE educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7(a)4ii.]

6A:9B-8.7 Requirements for the standard certificate

(a) Except as indicated at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8, 10, and 11, the candidate shall meet the following requirements to be eligible for the standard certificate in any instructional area:

1.-2. (No change.)

3. Submit to the Department a completed Commissioner-issued teacher candidate survey[; and].

[4.] **(b)** [For] CE holders[, do the following:

i. Effective for candidates who begin teaching during or after academic year 2017-2018, pass the performance assessment if the candidate did not pass it prior to earning a CE; and

ii. Complete] **who completed** a CE educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5, unless exempt [under] **pursuant to** the reciprocity rule at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8, **shall be eligible for the standard certificate in any instructional area.**

[(b)] **(c)** (No change in text.)

6A:9B-8.8 Requirements for interstate reciprocity for a CEAS, CE, or standard certificate

(a) Through reciprocity, the Office shall issue an instructional CEAS to candidates who:

1. Have a valid CEAS issued by another state in a subject area or grade level also offered by the Department, following the completion of a CEAS educator preparation program that includes clinical practice and endorsement in a subject that is also issued in New Jersey;

i. Candidates applying for reciprocity for a certificate that requires possession of, or eligibility for, a CEAS or standard New Jersey instructional certificate with an endorsement appropriate to the subject or grade level to be taught shall be exempt from the clinical practice requirement at (a)1 above[.]; **and**

2. Passed a subject-matter test to receive the out-of-State endorsement or passed the appropriate New Jersey subject-matter test[; and].

[3. Passed a performance assessment that is approved by the state in which the certificate was issued, unless the candidate holds National Board for Professional Teacher Standards (NBPTS) or the Meritorious New Teacher Candidate (MNTC) designation.

(b) A candidate who meets all requirements at (a)1 and 2 above, but did not take a state-approved performance assessment because it was not required for educator preparation program completion or for certification in that state shall be issued a CE. The candidate shall meet all requirements for provisional and standard certificates pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4 and 8.7, respectively, but shall be exempt from:

1. CE certification requirements pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a);
2. The provisional certification requirement to be enrolled in a CE educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(a)4;
3. The renewal of provisional certification requirement to be enrolled in or to have completed a CE educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(b)4; and
4. The standard certification requirement to complete a CE educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7(a)4ii.]

[(c)] **(b)** [Except as] **As** provided at [(b) above, and] (e), (f), (h), **and** (i)[, and (j)] below, reciprocity shall not apply to an instructional CE. Candidates who have been issued an out-of-State instructional CE shall meet all requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3.

[(d)] **(c)** Through reciprocity, the Department shall issue an instructional standard certificate to a candidate who:

1. (No change.)

2. Meets the requirements at [(f)] (e) and [(g)] (f) below.

[(e)] (d) A candidate who has a valid standard certificate issued by another state, including an endorsement in a subject area or grade level also offered by the Department, but does not meet the requirements at [(d)]1 (c)1 above shall be issued a CEAS. The candidate shall meet all requirements for provisional and standard certificates at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4 and 8.7.

[(f)] (e) A candidate who holds **National Board for Professional Teacher Standards (NBPTS)** certification and the corresponding out-of-State license or certificate in a subject area or grade level also offered by the Department shall be eligible for the standard certificate in the NBPTS certificate field without additional requirements.

[(g)] (f) A candidate who holds the **Meritorious New Teacher Candidate (MNTC)** designation and the corresponding out-of-State license or certificate in a subject area or grade level also offered by the Department shall be eligible for the standard certificate in the MNTC-designated field without additional requirements.

Recodify existing (h)-(i) as (g)-(h) (No change in text.)

[(j)] (i) Through the Alternate Route Interstate Reciprocity Pilot Program, the Office shall issue a standard certificate to candidates who:

1. Successfully complete a CE educator preparation program while participating in the Alternate Route Interstate Reciprocity Pilot Program; **and**

[2. Pass a State-approved performance assessment or the performance assessment approved by the state in which the reciprocal certificate was issued prior to entry into the CE educator preparation program participating in the Alternate Route Interstate Reciprocity Pilot Program; and]

[3.] **2.** (No change in text.)

Subchapter 8A. Limited Instructional Certificate of Eligibility and Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing Pilot Program

6A:9B-8A.3 Limited CE or CEAS in an instructional area requirements

(a) To be eligible for a limited CEAS in an instructional area, the candidate shall successfully complete a State-approved educator preparation program and meet all requirements for a CEAS pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2, with the exception of one of the following:

1. The minimum GPA requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)3 [and its] **or the** exception[s] at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c)1; or

2. The minimum passing score on an appropriate State test(s) of subject matter knowledge pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)4. [and the alternative requirements or]

i. The exception[s] at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)2 shall not apply to a candidate who seeks an exemption pursuant to (a)2 above.

(b) To be eligible for the limited CE in an instructional area, the candidate shall hold a bachelor's or an advanced degree pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)1 and shall meet all other requirements for a CE pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3, with the exception of one of the following:

1. The minimum number of subject area course credits and the alternative requirements [or exceptions] at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)4 and 9.1(a)1;

2. The minimum GPA pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)3 [and its] **or the** exception[s] at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(b)1; **or**

[3. The minimum score on a Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5 and the alternative requirements or exceptions at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5i; or]

[4.] **3.** [The minimum] **A** passing score on an appropriate State test(s) of subject matter knowledge pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)4. [and the alternative requirements or]

i. The exception[s] at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)2 shall not apply to a candidate who seeks an exemption pursuant to (b)3 above.

(c) Pursuant to P.L. 2024, c. 26, a candidate for a limited CEAS or limited CE shall achieve the minimum score on a Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills.

Subchapter 9. Instructional Endorsements

6A:9B-9.2 Authorizations – general

(a) Each teaching endorsement shall be required for the corresponding teaching assignment.

1.-6. (No change.)

7. Holders of other endorsements may teach computer science, as defined in Standard 8.1 of the NJSLs, until July 1, 2027. After July 1, 2027, a teacher of computer science in [preschool] **grades nine** through [grade] 12 shall hold a computer science endorsement issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15.

Subchapter 11. Additional Requirements or Exceptions to Requirements for Instructional

Certification with Special Endorsements

6A:9B-11.3 Career and technical education

(a) Candidates for the instructional certificate in a career and technical education endorsement shall complete:

1. CEAS requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2 or CE requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3, except[:]

[i. Candidates do not need to complete the basic skills requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5 prior to obtaining a CE; and

ii. Candidates] **candidates** shall complete either the experience-based or degree-based requirements at (b) below;

2. (No change.)

3. Requirements for the renewal of the provisional certificate at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5 and standard certificate requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7.

i. To be eligible for a standard certificate, holders of a provisional certificate with a career and technical education endorsement shall demonstrate proficiency in the use of English language and mathematics by meeting one of the following:

[(1) Passing the Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills;]

Recodify existing (2)-(4) as **(1)-(3)** (No change in text.)

(b)-(e) (No change.)

6A:9B-11.5 Bilingual/bicultural education

(a) A candidate for the bilingual/bicultural endorsement shall complete the certification requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 and the endorsement requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9. The candidate shall also:

1. (No change.)

2. Meet the test of subject-matter knowledge requirement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)2 by demonstrating:

i. Oral and writing competence in English by[:

(1) Passing] **passing** a Department-approved, nationally recognized test of oral and written proficiency in English; [or] **and**

[(2) Passing a Department-approved, nationally recognized test to demonstrate oral proficiency and passing the Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5, to demonstrate writing proficiency; and]

ii. (No change.)

3.-5. (No change.)

(b) (No change.)

6A:9B-11.6 English as a second language

(a) A candidate for the English as a second language (ESL) endorsement shall complete all certification requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 and the endorsement requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9. The candidate shall also:

1. (No change.)

2. Meet the test of subject-matter knowledge requirement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)2 by demonstrating oral and writing competence in English by[:

i. Passing] **passing** a Department-approved, nationally recognized test of oral and written proficiency in English[: or].

[ii. Passing a Department-approved, nationally recognized test to demonstrate oral proficiency and meeting the basic skills requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5, to demonstrate writing proficiency.]

(b) –(c) (No change.)

6A:9B-11.12 Requirements for the charter school certificate of eligibility (CSCE)

(a) (No change.)

(b) Except as indicated at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2 through 11.6, 11.10, and 11.11, the candidate shall do the following to be eligible for a CSCE with instructional endorsements:

1. (No change.)

2. Meet the GPA requirements, or its exceptions[, and pass the basic skills assessment,] pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-[8.3(a)5]**8.3(a)3 and (b)**; and

3. (No change.)

(c)-(e) (No change.)

Subchapter 11A. Requirements for Teacher Leader Endorsement

6A:9B-11A.3 Requirements

(a) To be eligible for the teacher leader endorsement, the candidate shall meet the following requirements:

1.-4. (No change.)

5. Pass a [Commissioner-approved performance] **performance-based** assessment **approved by the educator preparation program, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-35.a.a.**

(b) (No change.)