

## **Proposed Rulemaking for N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.15 and 11.10**

The following is the accessible version of the proposed amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.15 and 11.10 to authorize a third issuer of the Water Safety Instructor Certificate, which is required for anyone employed to coach or serving as coach for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs in New Jersey public schools and for candidates seeking the swimming and water safety endorsement to the instructional certificate. The proposal level document includes three sections – [comment and response](#), [summary of the proposed amendments](#), and [text of the proposed amendments](#).

**State Board of Education  
Administrative Code  
Comment/Response**

This comment and response form contains comments from and since the November 6, 2019, meeting of the State Board of Education when the rulemaking was considered at Second Discussion Level.

**Topic:** State Board of Examiners and Certification      **Meeting Date:** December 4, 2019  
**Code Citation:** N.J.A.C. 6A:9B      **Level:** Proposal  
**Division:** Academics and Performance      **Completed by:** Office of Certification and Induction

**Summary of Comments and Agency Responses:**

The following is a summary of the comments received from State Board of Education members and members of the public and the Department of Education's (Department) responses. Each commenter is identified at the end of the comment by a letter or number that corresponds to the following list:

1. Linda Bolger, Creator of FAST Swim Program
2. Janis Atkinson, Swim instructor
3. Christopher Sylvester, Teacher and swim coach

**1. Comment:** The commenter expressed support for the proposed amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B. The commenter also stated that the FAST Swim Program should be one of the acceptable issuers of the Water Safety Instructor Certificate required at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)4 for a candidate to be eligible for the swimming and water safety endorsement to an instructional certificate. The commenter also illustrated how individuals learn how to swim under the FAST Swim Program. **(1)**

**Response:** The Department thanks the commenter for the support of the proposed amendments.

**2. Comment:** The commenter expressed support for the FAST Swim Program because it focuses on safety and addresses each of the basic skills necessary to build swimming skills in an appropriate progression. **(2)**

**Response:** The Department thanks the commenter for the feedback on the FAST Swim Program.

**3. Comment:** The commenter stated that six valid certifications (Fundamentals of Coaching, Water Safety Instructor, Lifeguard, CPR, AED, and First Aid) are required to

coach swimming in the State. The commenter also stated that he believes the FAST Swim Program is at least as effective as the American Red Cross and YMCA courses that lead to the Water Safety Instructor certificate, and arguably more effective. The commenter further stated the FAST Swim Program is a valid option for coaches in New Jersey to obtain Water Safety Instructor certification because the FAST Swim Program could save coaches countless hours and hundreds of dollars in certification and recertification costs, while making swimmers safer in the pool. (3)

**Response:** The Department thanks the commenter for the feedback on the FAST Swim Program.



**State of New Jersey**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

**Proposal Level**  
**December 4, 2019**

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

LAMONT O. REPOLLET, Ed.D.  
*Commissioner*

To: Members, State Board of Education

From: Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

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

Reason  
For Action: Amendments

Authority: N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:6-38, and 18A:26-2.3

Sunset Date: November 12, 2022

### **Summary**

The Department of Education (Department) proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B, State Board of Examiners and Certification, to provide a third option for the issuer of the water safety instructor certificate that candidates are required to hold to be eligible for a swimming and water safety endorsement to the instructional certificate and to be employed to coach, or to serve as coach, for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs. Specifically, the Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10, Swimming and water safety, to add the Flotation Aided Swim Training Program (FAST Swim Program™) as one of three acceptable issuers of the Water Safety Instructor Certificate.

The proposed amendments are the result of a petition for rulemaking submitted by Linda Bolger, creator of the FAST Swim Program. The petition requested amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)4, which requires candidates to hold a valid Water Safety Instructor Certificate issued by the American Red Cross or YMCA, to add the FAST Swim Program as an issuer of the required certificate.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.3, the Department sought the assistance of the Department of Health to review the materials submitted by the petitioner and to make a recommendation to the Department as to whether the FAST Swim Program is comparable to the water safety instructor programs offered by American Red Cross or YMCA. The Department of Health recommended the FAST Swim Program as an alternative issuer of the Water Safety Instructor Certificate. After further deliberations and reviewing the Department of Health's recommendation, the Department on July 15, 2019, granted the petitioner's request to add the FAST Swim Program as one of the acceptable issuers of the Water Safety Instructor Certificate

required at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)4 for a candidate to be eligible for the swimming and water safety endorsement to an instructional certificate.

Pursuant to rules governing petitions for rulemaking at N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2(a)3, the Department is required to initiate a rulemaking to effectuate the approved request within 90 days of approving a petition.

The Department also proposes an amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.15, Persons employed to coach or serving as coach for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs, to reflect an additional issuer of the Water Safety Instructor Certificate.

The proposed amendments will provide a third option for the issuer of the Water Safety Instructor Certificate, which is required for candidates to be eligible for the swimming and water safety endorsement to the instructional certificate and to be employed to coach, or to serve as coach, for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs.

The proposed amendments will have no impact on class size, curriculum, or required equipment of swimming or diving programs in school districts or on anything other than the issuance of the Water Safety Instructor Certificate for a candidate to be eligible for the swimming and water safety endorsement. Likewise, approval of the FAST Swim Program for purposes of N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)4 will not constitute endorsement or favoring by the Department over other listed authorizers. If the rulemaking is adopted, all promotional materials will need to be limited to statements indicating that the FAST Swim Program may issue the Water Safety Instructor Certificate required for a candidate to be eligible for the swimming and water safety endorsement to an instructional certificate in New Jersey. The use and display of the seal of the State of New Jersey and State agencies are restricted by law.

The proposed amendments also do not constitute any type of approval or endorsement of the FAST Swim Program by the Department of Health.

## **Subchapter 5. General Certification Policies**

### **N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.15 Persons employed to coach or serving as coach for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs**

This section sets forth the requirements for a candidate to qualify as a coach for interscholastic swimming or diving programs and specifies how school districts report the qualifying coaches in their school districts each year.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.15(b)2, which requires a chief school administrator to annually forward to the executive county superintendent copies of each valid American Red Cross or YMCA certificate required in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)2 through 4 for every person employed to coach, or serving as coach, for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs. The Department proposes to delete “American Red Cross or YMCA” since N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)4 will be amended to include the FAST Swim Program, but N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)2 and 3 will still have American Red Cross or YMCA as the sole acceptable issuers of the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) for Professional Rescuer Certificate and

Lifeguard Certificate, respectively. The Department proposes the same amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(b)2.

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

#### **N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10 Swimming and water safety**

This section sets forth the requirements for the swimming and water safety endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)4, which requires a candidate for the swimming and water safety endorsement to hold a valid Water Safety Instructor Certificate issued by the American Red Cross or the YMCA, to add the FAST Swim Program as an acceptable issuer.

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**

Although the proposed amendments will provide a third option for the issuer of the require Water Safety Instructor Certificate, the Department does not anticipate that the proposed amendments will have an social impact on candidates seeking a swimming and water safety endorsement to the instructional certificate and individuals employed to coach, or serving as coach, for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs. The proposed amendments will not have an social impact on school districts or students.

#### **Economic Impact**

Although the proposed amendments will provide a third option for the issuer of the require Water Safety Instructor Certificate, the Department does not anticipate that the proposed amendments will have an economic impact on candidates seeking a swimming and water safety endorsement to the instructional certificate and individuals employed to coach, or serving as coach, for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs. The proposed amendments will not have an economic impact on school districts or students.

#### **Federal Standards Statement**

There are no Federal requirements that impact the proposed amendments.

#### **Jobs Impact**

The proposed amendments will not result in the generation or loss of jobs.

#### **Agriculture Industry Impact**

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

### **Regulatory Flexibility Analysis**

A regulatory flexibility analysis is not required because the proposed amendments do not impose reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements on small businesses as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq. The proposed amendments impact candidates seeking a swimming and water safety endorsement to the instructional certificate and individuals employed to coach, or serving as coach, for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs.

### **Housing Affordability Impact Analysis**

The proposed amendments will have an insignificant impact on the affordability of housing in New Jersey. There is an extreme unlikelihood the proposed amendments would evoke a change in the average costs associated with housing because the proposed amendments concern candidates seeking a swimming and water safety endorsement to the instructional certificate and individuals employed to coach, or serving as coach, for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs.

### **Smart Growth Development Impact Analysis**

The proposed amendments will have an insignificant impact on smart growth. There is an extreme unlikelihood the proposed amendments would evoke a change in housing production in Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, under the State Development and Redevelopment Plan in New Jersey because the proposed amendments impact candidates seeking a swimming and water safety endorsement to the instructional certificate and individuals employed to coach, or serving as coach, for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs.

### **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 candidates seeking a swimming and water safety endorsement to the instructional certificate and individuals employed to coach, or serving as coach, for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs.

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

Subchapter 5. General Certification Policies

6A:9B-5.15 Persons employed to coach or serving as coach for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs

- (a) Persons employed to coach or serving as coach for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs shall:
  - 1. Hold a New Jersey certification pursuant to the rules for hiring athletics personnel at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.16(b); and
  - 2. Meet the requirements for water safety training pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)2 through 4.
- (b) The chief school administrator of the employing district board of education shall:
  - 1. Annually notify the executive county superintendent of all persons employed to coach or serving as coach for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs; and
  - 2. Annually forward to the executive county superintendent copies of each valid [American Red Cross or YMCA] certificate required in (a)2 above for every person employed to coach or serving as coach for interscholastic swimming and/or diving programs.

Subchapter 11. Additional Requirements or Exceptions to Requirements for Instructional

Certification with Special Endorsements

6A:9B-11.10 Swimming and water safety

- (a) To be eligible for the swimming and water safety endorsement, candidates shall hold:
  - 1. A standard New Jersey instructional certificate;



2. A valid Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation for Professional Rescuer Certificate issued by the American Red Cross or the YMCA;
  3. A valid Lifeguard Certificate issued by the American Red Cross or the YMCA;  
and
  4. A valid Water Safety Instructor Certificate issued by the American Red Cross, [or] the YMCA, **or the Flotation Aided Swim Training Program (FAST Swim Program™).**
- (b) The chief school administrator of the employing district board of education shall:
1. Annually notify the executive county superintendent of all teachers assigned to teach swimming and/or diving; and
  2. Annually forward to the executive county superintendent copies of each valid [American Red Cross or YMCA] certificate identified in (a)2 through 4 above for every person assigned to teach swimming and/or diving.
- (c) Any person otherwise qualified to serve as a substitute pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7 shall be required to hold all of the safety certificates in (a) above to serve as a substitute for a swimming and water safety teacher.