

**Proposed Readoption with Amendments of N.J.A.C. 6A:9B,
State Board of Examiners and Certification**

The following is the accessible version of the proposed readoption with amendments of N.J.A.C. 6A:9B. The proposal level document includes three sections – [a comment and response form](#), [a summary of the chapter](#) and [the rule text, including proposed amendments](#).

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

This comment and response form contains comments from the October 12, 2022, meeting of the State Board of Education when the rulemaking was considered at Third Discussion Level.

Topic: State Board of Examiners and Certification

Meeting Date: November 9, 2022

Code Citation: N.J.A.C. 6A:9B **Level:** Proposal

Division: Field Support and Services

Completed by: Office of Recruitment, Preparation and Certification

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:

- A. Kathy Goldenberg, President, State Board of Education
- B. Andrew Mulvihill, Vice President, State Board of Education
- 1. Jacy Lance, Director of Public Affairs, Porzio Governmental Affairs, on behalf of the New Jersey Speech-Language Hearing Association
- 2. Colleen Schultz-Eskow, Senior Director of Public Policy, New Jersey Children's Foundation
- 3. Elisabeth Yucis, Associate Director, Professional Development and Instructional Issues, New Jersey Education Association
- 4. Harry Lee, President and Chief Executive Officer, New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association
- 5. Ashley Bencan, Chief Operating Officer, New Jersey Tutoring Corp.
- 6. Margaret Renn, Director, Office of Field Experiences, William Paterson University
- 7. Liana Fornarotto, Director, Education Enrollment and Certification, College of Education, William Paterson University
- 8. Amy Ginsberg, Dean, College of Education, William Paterson University
- 9. Matthew Konowicz, Director of Instruction, Agriscience, Applied Technology, Business, Family Consumer Science, Visual and Performing Arts, Video Production/Northern TV, Northern Burlington County Regional School District

10. Daryl Detrick, Director/Ben Isecke, President, CS4NJ Coalition/Computer Science Teachers Association New Jersey (CSTANJ)
11. Dr. Robert Goodman, Executive Director, New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning
12. David Bailey, Director of Human Resources, Millburn Township Public Schools
13. Ewa Dziedzic-Elliott, President, New Jersey Association of School Librarians, and School Library Media Specialist
14. Waheetha Banu Yunus

1. **Comment:** The commenter expressed concern with replacing “equal” with “equitable opportunities” throughout N.J.A.C. 6A:9, 9A, 9B, and 9C, specifically at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(b)4iii. The commenter also objected to the use of “equity” in the four chapters because it is utopian idea that everyone must have a great outcome, which the commenter stated can result in holding certain groups back from succeeding. The commenter contended that the State Board’s Policy Committee proposed to replace “equity” with “equal opportunities” and not “equitable opportunities.” The commenter further contended that a possible definition of “equal opportunities” was provided during a Policy Committee meeting, but the Department was concerned that “equity” cannot be defined differently at N.J.A.C. 6A:7 and 9. The commenter further expressed concern about the definition of “equity” at N.J.A.C. 6A:7 and stated that he cannot support the use of that definition at N.J.A.C. 6A:9, 9A, 9B, and 9C. The commenter suggested removing “equity” at N.J.A.C. 6A:9, 9A, 9B, and 9C and address it in N.J.A.C. 6A:7 only. **(B)**
Response: The Department declines to remove “equity” throughout N.J.A.C. 6A:9, 9A, 9B, and 9C because it is relevant within the regulations where it appears. By using “equity” the Department is ensuring that students will have the resources in place to meet their needs, resulting in educational achievement. The use of “equity” also reinforces for educators the importance of understanding that each student is different and will need different tools and resources to succeed.
2. **Comment:** The commenter asked if any of the educational certificates require a master’s degree in education. **(A)**
Response: N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12 requires a master’s degree for all administrative certificates, which include principal, school administrator, supervisor, and school business administrator. The regulations for most of the educational services certificates at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14 also require graduate-level coursework and/or a master’s degree.
3. **Comment:** The commenter supported the proposed amendments to the requirements for the reading specialist endorsement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13. The commenter stated that the proposed amendments will help to ensure that reading is taught appropriately, thereby providing students access to a free appropriate public education (FAPE). The commenter also stated that the ability to read is paramount to success in school and, for too long, important elements of reading (e.g., phonemic awareness, phonics, morphology, syntax, parts of speech) were ignored or not taught in depth even though they are needed for reading success. **(1)**
Response: The Department thanks the commenter for support of the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13.

4. **Comment:** The commenter recommended that the Department implement certificate fee flexibility for candidates who demonstrate a financial hardship or completely waive fees for candidates seeking certificates in identified teacher shortage areas. The commenter stated that the associated fees are one of the major hurdles to obtaining a teaching certificate in New Jersey. (2)

Response: Certificate fees pay for the salaries of Department staff who process applications and for Office operations; additional State funding is not provided. The Department continues to look at the impact of the cost of certificate fees in New Jersey, as the current fees have not increased since January 2008. The Department conducted an analysis of State fees for certificates and found that other states have increased the cost of their educator certificates or require certificates to be renewed every five years along with the payment of additional fees. The certificate of eligibility (CE), certificate of eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS) and provisional and standard certificates issued by the State Board of Examiners do not expire and do not require renewal. The Department continues to encourage school districts to use some of the Federal funds received during the COVID-19 pandemic to help cover the costs of certificate fees for candidates the school districts seek to hire.

5. **Comment:** The commenter opposed the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3(a)1 that will require a chief school administrator to notify the State Board of Examiners when teachers who are accused of criminal offenses or unbecoming conduct are suspended or placed on administrative leave. The commenter stated that notification to the district board of education is unnecessary at such an early stage because the individual may be acquitted or there may be another resolution to the matter. (3)

Response: The Department maintains that the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3(a)1 are necessary. The proposed amendments do not require or compel the State Board of Examiners to take action with regard to the chief school administrator's notification. Rather, the notification will ensure that the State Board of Examiners can follow up with employing school districts, as appropriate, on issues of educator conduct that impacts the health, safety, and welfare of students.

6. **Comment:** The commenter opposed the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3(b) that will require school districts to cooperate with investigations before or after an order to show cause has been issued to a certificate holder. The commenter expressed concern that the proposed amendments will impact educators' due process rights because, absent an order to show cause, there is no method for notifying educators that they are under investigation. The commenter stated that impacted educators will not have an opportunity to view materials submitted to the State Board of Examiners and cannot defend themselves. (3)

Response: The Department disagrees that the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3(b) will negatively impact educators' due process rights. All certificate holders are entitled to due process prior to the State Board of Examiners revoking or suspending their certificate(s). In this instance, obtaining investigation information from an employing school district prior to the State Board of Examiner's issuance of an order to show cause will not impact the due process rights of certificate holders. Certificate holders will still have an opportunity to respond to an order to show cause and to defend themselves before the State Board of Examiners or the Office of Administrative Law, as appropriate. The State Board of Examiner's ability to obtain detailed information prior to issuing an order to show cause is of the utmost importance and is beneficial to both the State Board of Examiners and certificate holders. Receipt and review of the information prior to

issuing an order to show cause will allow the State Board of Examiners to have the breadth of information prior to issuing an order to show cause, which could result in the issuance of fewer orders based upon review facts and materials.

7. **Comment:** The commenter objected to proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3(c)3, which will require educators to report to the chief school administrator the suspension or revocation of any other license, certificate, or authorization issued to the certificate holder by a state or Federal agency or body. The commenter stated that the proposed reporting requirement is an overreach because the license reported upon may have no bearing on the individual's employment or fitness to work in a school. The commenter also requested that the Department reconsider the proposed regulation because it is far too broad and potentially jeopardizes an individual's ability to work. **(3)**

Response: Proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3(c)3 will not require or compel the State Board of Examiners to take action when a certificate holder notifies the chief school administrator that another license, certificate, or authorization has been suspended or revoked. Notification of an action against any other license, certificate, or authorization issued by other jurisdictions and agencies will ensure that an employing school district and/or the State Board of Examiners has all potentially relevant information available regarding a certificate holder. Therefore, the proposed regulation will provide an additional mechanism by which the State Board of Examiners and employing school districts can ensure the health, safety, and welfare of students. The proposed regulation also will not impact a certificate holder's due process rights.

8. **Comment:** The commenter stated that the proposed amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(b) that will require certificate holders to specifically deny allegations in an order to show cause will create a due process issue for certificate holders. The commenter also stated that certificate holders might not have all information available to provide specific denials when required to respond to an order to show cause because discovery or a hearing has not yet taken place. The commenter further stated that the proposed requirement will place certificate holders at a disadvantage. The commenter also stated that deeming a general denial an admission would be an extremely harsh penalty because certificate holders' livelihoods and careers are at stake. **(3)**

Response: The Department disagrees that requiring certificate holders to provide a specific denial when responding to an order to show cause will create an undue burden. If a certificate holder does not have the necessary information to admit or deny an allegation and makes such a statement in the response to the order to show cause, it preserves the certificate holder's rights for due process with regard to allegation(s). The proposed amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(b) also will codify the State Board of Examiners' current process to request that all certificate holders provide a specific denial to each numbered paragraph in the order to show cause.

9. **Comment:** The commenter requested clarification regarding the proposed amendments at recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(j) that set forth new reasons why the Office can refuse to issue a new certificate to a certificate holder who is otherwise eligible. The commenter stated that the proposed amendments do not specify whether there would be a way to reapply for a new certificate, or if the Office will hold the application in abeyance pending litigation and/or an investigation. The commenter requested clarification on a pathway for reapplication if the certificate holder is acquitted or found not to be at fault. **(3)**

Response: The proposed regulations do not include a specific time when a certificate holder can reapply. However, in practice, the certificate holder or candidate can apply or reapply for a certificate once the situation that gave rise to the refusal has been resolved. If

there is no basis to refuse to issue a new certificate pursuant to proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(j), the Office will process the application and determine the candidate's eligibility.

- 10. Comment:** The commenter supported the transition to electronic filing as proposed at new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(k). The commenter requested that the Department include procedural safeguards to confirm that electronically submitted files are received. **(3)**
Response: The Department appreciates the commenter's support. The Office confirms receipt of all files submitted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6.
- 11. Comment:** The commenter recommended allowing a candidate's teaching experience in a content area to replace the number of college credits required in the subject area for a certificate. The commenter stated that, under existing regulations, an individual who has been teaching chemistry for five years in another state or in a private school but does not have a college degree in chemistry would be denied an instructional certificate with an endorsement to teach chemistry in a New Jersey public school. **(4)**
Response: New Jersey's current reciprocity rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8 would allow a certified teacher from another state with demonstrated successful teaching experience to earn New Jersey teaching certificate if a comparable endorsement area exists in New Jersey. Furthermore, N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.12(b) allows candidates for a certificate to appeal an adverse decision regarding a certificate to the State Board of Examiners. The State Board of Examiners can consider evidence of alternative education and/or experience to determine whether the experience or education is equivalent to the area(s) of deficiency identified by the examiner when denying the certificate application.
- 12. Comment:** The commenter suggested that the Department require educator preparation programs to cover the fees associated with certification set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.6. The commenter stated that the total cost of becoming a teacher, including higher education and certification, creates an issue. Referencing [P.L. 2021, c. 393](#), which requires an opportunity for certification cost to be included in lab or program fees to allow financial aid to cover the cost, the commenter suggested that the Department review costs codified in N.J.A.C. 6A:9A. The commenter also suggested that to diversify the educator workforce, the Department formally require educator preparation programs to pay certification costs and offer fee waivers for financial hardships. **(5)**
Response: The Department declines the commenter's suggestion to codify P.L. 2021, c. 393, as the law requires educator preparation programs to include an optional lab fee that students may pay through financial aid. The law delineates fee structures the Department contends that including the fee structures in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B is unnecessary.
- 13. Comment:** The commenter expressed support for the Department's proposals at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.4(a) and 11.3 to recognize industry credentials issued by states other than New Jersey and to annually review credentials that may be equivalent to employment experience for career and technical education teachers. **(3)**
Response: The Department thanks the commenter for the support.
- 14. Comment:** The commentor expressed support for the limited CE/limited CEAS pilot program at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A but urged the Department to do more. The commenter recommended that the Department amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3 and 8.3 to eliminate the basic skills test requirement for candidates with five or more years of experience as teaching associates or paraprofessionals or who hold bachelor's degrees. The candidate also recommended that a bachelor's degree should meet the basic skills requirements for candidates for a CE. The commenter stated that the priority for the candidate's training

should be content knowledge and teaching pedagogy with a focus on student engagement. (5)

Response: The Department thanks the commenter for the support of the limited CE/limited CEAS pilot program regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A, which were adopted by the State Board in June 2022. The Department will analyze data collected through the pilot program to determine the impact of basic skills requirements on teacher effectiveness and student outcomes and, if necessary, make recommendations for future amendments in this area. The Department declines to adopt the commenter's suggested changes because the basic skills test requirement is one measure that helps to determine a potential educator's academic readiness, in addition to the content assessment, degree, and educator preparation requirements. The Department has proposed at recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5 to allow a candidate to demonstrate proficiency by scoring in the top-half on the SAT, ACT, or GRE instead of in the top-third as currently allowed. The Department proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5ii to allow a candidate to demonstrate proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills by holding a master's or higher degree with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. The proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(5)i and ii will provide multiple options for a candidate to demonstrate basic skills proficiency, thereby reducing redundancy for candidates who demonstrate proficiency through means other than the basic skills assessment. Collectively, these measures help to ensure properly prepared educators for New Jersey students.

15. **Comment:** The commenters stated that the Department's proposed flexibilities will have little impact on the teacher pipeline because fewer colleges and universities are requiring standardized testing (SAT, ACT, GRE) and there are a limited number of candidates with master's degrees entering educator preparation programs. The commenters stated that national reports have indicated that student performance in literacy and mathematics has remained the same since the implementation of basic skills assessment requirements. The commenters further stated that the [New Jersey Performance Reports for Educator Preparation](#) released by the Department between 2014 and 2020 indicate that the number of certified teachers in New Jersey has decreased significantly, coinciding with the addition of the basic skills test requirement. The commenters also cited a report by American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education's (AACTE) Consortium for Research-Based and Equitable Assessments indicating that entrance exams are a barrier to diversifying the teacher workforce. The commenters stated that only 13 states currently have a basic skills requirement for entry into teacher preparation programs and that several states and the national accreditation agencies have removed the basic skills requirement in their state requirements or accreditation standards. The commenters also stated that educator preparation programs have multiple measures and checkpoints during to assess the basic skills of candidates while in the programs.

The commenters stated the basic skills assessment requirement represents a significant barrier to qualified individuals entering the teacher workforce and removing it, or offering greater flexibilities in meeting this requirement, will help to diversify the teacher workforce and mitigate teacher shortages.

The commenters recommended the following amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.3 to allow:

- Candidates to meet the basic skills requirement by achieving a 3.0 cumulative GPA in the first 60 credits of college study or by achieving a passing score on a Commissioner-approved assessment of basic skills; or

- Candidates with a GPA between 2.5 and 3.0 to demonstrate basic skills proficiency by achieving a higher passing score on the Commissioner-approved assessment of basic skills. **(6 and7)**

Response: There are various reasons for a decline in individuals seeking a career in education, many of which are outside of the Department’s control, such as salary, benefits, career ladder, school environment, and views of the profession. The Department contends that it is not appropriate to attribute the decline to only the basic skills assessment.

The Department declines to adopt the commenters’ suggested change because the basic skills test requirement is one measure that helps to determine a potential educator’s academic readiness, in addition to the content assessment, degree, and educator preparation requirements. The Department also has proposed at recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5 to allow a candidate to demonstrate proficiency by scoring in the top-half on the SAT, ACT, or GRE instead of in the top-third as currently allowed. The Department proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5ii to allow a candidate to demonstrate proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills by holding a master’s or higher degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0. The proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(5)i and ii will provide multiple options for a candidate to demonstrate basic skills proficiency, thereby reducing redundancy for candidates who demonstrate proficiency through means other than the basic skills assessment. Collectively, these measures help to ensure properly prepared educators for New Jersey students.

Additionally, N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A authorizes a five-year limited CE/limited CEAS pilot program, which allows exemptions to the basic skills requirement for candidates who meet all other certification requirements and work in school districts that participate in the pilot program. The Department will analyze data collected through the pilot program to determine the impact of basic skills requirements on teacher effectiveness and student outcomes and, if necessary, make recommendations for future amendments in this area.

- 16. Comment:** The commenter stated the pipeline of passionate, diverse, and capable educator candidates has shrunk since the enactment of the basic skills assessment. The commenter also stated this has led to fewer candidates entering the education profession, fueled the current teacher shortage, and hampered the diversification of the teacher workforce. The commenter further stated the basic skills assessment requirement represents a significant barrier to qualified individuals entering the teacher workforce and removing it, or offering greater flexibilities to meet the requirement, will help to diversify the teacher workforce and mitigate teacher shortages. The commenter recommended that N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.3 be amended to allow candidates to meet the basic skills requirement by achieving a 3.0 cumulative GPA in the first 60 credits of college study or by achieving a passing score on a Commissioner-approved assessment of basic skills. **(8)**

Response: There are various reasons for a decline in individuals seeking a career in education, many of which are outside of the Department’s control, such as salary, benefits, career ladder, school environment, and views of the profession. The Department contends that it is not appropriate to attribute the decline to only the basic skills assessment.

The Department declines to adopt the commenters’ suggested change because the basic skills test requirement is one measure that helps to determine a potential educator’s academic readiness, in addition to the content assessment, degree, and educator preparation requirements. The Department also has proposed at recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5 to allow a candidate to demonstrate proficiency by scoring in the top-half on the SAT, ACT, or GRE instead of in the top-third as currently allowed. The Department proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5ii to allow a candidate to demonstrate proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills by holding a master’s or higher degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0. The proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(5)i and ii will provide

multiple options for a candidate to demonstrate basic skills proficiency, thereby reducing redundancy for candidates who demonstrate proficiency through means other than the basic skills assessment. Collectively, these measures help to ensure properly prepared educators for New Jersey students.

Additionally, N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A authorizes a five-year limited CE/limited CEAS pilot program, which allows exemptions to the basic skills requirement for candidates who meet all other certification requirements and work in school districts that participate in the pilot program. The Department will analyze data collected through the pilot program to determine the impact of basic skills requirements on teacher effectiveness and student outcomes and, if necessary, make recommendations for future amendments in this area.

17. **Comment:** The commenter stated that there should be equity of opportunity for educators regardless of the public school in which they work and whether they were hired under a CE or CEAS. The commenter also stated that changes in employment while a candidate's is working under a provisional certificate should not cause hardships or inequities. The commenter provided the following as examples of regulatory provisions under which changes to employment would present difficulties in obtaining a certificate:

- N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(b)3 allows candidates for a CE to utilize GPA flexibility if sponsored continuously by an EPP throughout the provisional teacher program;
- N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(c) provides individuals hired late into the school year less than 3.5 years to complete the requirements for the standard certificate and does not allow them to renew their provisional certificate; and
- N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(j) imposes a "renewal period" for candidates for a CE with a teacher of students with disabilities endorsement and also requires the candidates to earn "effective" or "highly effective" ratings as a condition of renewal. The commenter stated that this is an example of another equity issue, as the Department appears to be holding these educators to a different standard than their colleagues holding other endorsements.

The commenter also stated that the Department has the opportunity to implement safeguards that help keep educators progressing toward their standard certificates and careers in the classroom. The commenter requested regulatory fixes that will preserve fairness. The commenter also stated that there are possible amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7 that would assist individuals who are not continuously employed during their provisional period. (3)

Response: The exception for CE candidates at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(b)3 is very limited in scope because it applies only to candidates who are sponsored by a CE educator preparation program prior to applying for a CE and employed while participating in the CE educator preparation program. Candidates sponsored by the CE educator preparation program under this exception can equal no more than 10 percent of a CE educator preparation program's annual accepted candidates.

The Department disagrees with the commenter that individuals hired late into the school year would have less than 3.5 years to complete the requirements for a standard certificate and would not be able to renew a provisional certificate. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(c) allows for a second renewal of a provisional certificate for educators whose provisional certificate was issued after February 1 of the first school year the educator was employed.

The Department disagrees with the commenter that proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(j) is unfair to candidates for the teacher of students with disabilities endorsement. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(j) will require the holder of a provisional certificate with a teacher

of students with disabilities endorsement to meet the following requirements to renew the provisional certificate: demonstrate successful completion of at least two courses per provisional period, as required of the approved educator preparation program, and be rated “effective” or “highly effective” during the year of the requested renewal. The proposed rules will ensure that teachers who are holding the endorsement and seeking a renewal of their provisional certificate show annual progress toward meeting requirements for the standard certificate. Additionally, holders of a provisional certificate with a teacher of students with disabilities endorsement have six years to complete the requirements to receive a standard certificate with a teacher of students with disabilities endorsement since they must complete an additional educator preparation program. Candidates for most instructional endorsements have a maximum of four years to complete the requirements for a standard certificate.

The Department cannot respond to the commenter’s statement that there are possible amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7 that would assist candidates because specific examples were not provided.

- 18. Comment:** The commenter recommended that GPA requirements be waived if a candidate has passed the Praxis and demonstrated relevant work experience in a particular subject. The commenter suggested that the Department allow candidates who received their bachelor’s degrees five to 10 years ago to substitute work experience for the GPA requirement. **(4)**

Response: Existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c) allows candidates with a higher Praxis score to have a lower GPA. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(b)3 and 11.4 allow CE candidates who meet all requirements but have a GPA as low as 2.75 to be sponsored by an educator preparation program to enter the program and be issued a CE. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A, which was adopted in June 2022, authorizes a five-year limited CE/limited CEAS pilot program that provides exemptions to the GPA requirement for candidates who meet all other certificate requirements and are employed by school districts that participate in the pilot program. The Department will analyze data collected through the pilot program to determine the impact of GPA on teacher effectiveness and student outcomes and, if necessary, make recommendations for future amendments in this area.

- 19. Comment:** The commentor expressed support for the limited CE/limited CEAS pilot program at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A but encouraged the Department to eliminate other barriers that prevent candidates from entering the profession such as the basic skills assessment and GPA requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A and 9B. The commenter stated that taking advantage of existing flexibilities is costly, especially considering that candidates who have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher have demonstrated they have met the basic skill benchmark. The commenter also stated that the existing 3.0 GPA requirement is arbitrary and does not equate to stronger teachers in the classrooms. The commenter further stated that there are many life circumstances that might hinder a college student’s academic performance and that career changes seeking to enter the profession now may be held back because of a lower GPA from years earlier. The commenter encouraged the Department to consider additional flexibility and ways to satisfy the basic skills requirement such as career experience or performance in specific coursework. **(2)**

Response: The Department declines to adopt the commenter’s suggested change because the basic skills test requirement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3 is one measure that helps to determine a potential educator’s academic readiness, in addition to the content assessment, degree, and educator preparation requirements. The Department contends that proposed and existing regulations help to ensure properly prepared educators.

The Department has proposed at recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5 to allow a

candidate to demonstrate proficiency by scoring in the top-half on the SAT, ACT, or GRE instead of in the top-third as currently allowed. The Department also has proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5ii to allow a candidate to demonstrate proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills by holding a master's or higher degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0. The proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5 will provide multiple options for a candidate to demonstrate basic skills proficiency, thereby reducing redundancy for candidates who can demonstrate proficiency through means other than the basic skills assessment.

Existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c) allows candidates with a higher Praxis score to qualify for a certificate even if they have a lower GPA. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(b)3 allows CE candidates who meet all requirements but have a GPA as low as 2.75 to be sponsored by an educator preparation program to earn a CE. Additionally, N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A, which was adopted in June 2022, authorizes a five-year limited CE and limited CEAS pilot program. The pilot program provides exemptions to the GPA requirement for candidates who meet all other certificate requirements and are employed by school districts that participate in the pilot program. The Department will analyze data collected through the pilot program to determine the impact of GPA on teacher effectiveness and student outcomes and, if necessary, make recommendations for future amendments in this area.

- 20. Comment:** The commenter stated that it is easier to earn a teaching certificate from New York or Pennsylvania than in New Jersey and the State is losing excellent teacher candidates due to rigid reciprocity rules. The commenter recommended that the Department amend and expand reciprocity agreements between states to make it easier for candidates who hold teaching certificates from New York State, New York City, or Pennsylvania to obtain a certificate in New Jersey. **(4)**

Response: The Department has reciprocity agreements with other states through the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC). The Department has proposed multiple amendments to reciprocity requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8 that the Department anticipates will alleviate most issues that out-of-State candidates may have experienced while applying for a certificate in New Jersey based on reciprocity.

- 21. Comment:** The commenter supported the new regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10 and 11 to improve literacy instruction across the curriculum. The commenter stated that it will be several years before New Jersey's students begin to experience the impact of changes to educator preparation programs. The commenter suggested that the Department leverage existing educators and provide professional learning that will help them build the skills now. **(3)**

Response: The Department thanks the commenter for the support for new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10 and 11. The Department intends to collaborate with professional learning communities to leverage existing educators and provide them with professional learning opportunities to improve literacy instruction across the curriculum.

- 22. Comment:** The commenter supported the new requirement for health and physical education teachers to receive instruction in adaptive physical education at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.3(b). The commenter stated that the shift will foster more equitable instruction in physical education classes and will result in positive impacts on students of all abilities. **(3)**

Response: The Department thanks the commenter for the support.

- 23. Comment:** The commenter expressed support for the creation of pathways for in-service teachers to earn additional endorsements as proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.4(b) and 11.13.

Given the current teacher shortage and the narrowness of many existing endorsements, the commenter requested that the Department consider add-on pathways in all content areas and not only mathematics and science. (3)

Response: The Department thanks the commenter for the support of the add-on certificate pathways for mathematics and science. The proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.4 and 11.13 concentrate specifically on the add-on endorsements for mathematics and science because these high-need areas require additional content knowledge. Many of the other high-need areas, such as bilingual/bicultural education and teacher of students with disabilities endorsements, require nuanced specialized pedagogy to meet the needs of vulnerable student populations. Other high-need areas, like career and technical education, require industry experience. The Department’s proposals to address high-need areas are aligned to the requirements of the specific roles rather than proposing a single solution for all high-need areas. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B, as proposed for readoption with amendments, will allow for flexibilities in other subject areas identified as high need.

24. **Comment:** The commenter recommended that the name for the technology education endorsement be changed to “technology and engineering education.” The commenter suggested that a 15-credit add-on endorsement that focuses on three core principles of technology and engineering education be added as a pathway for certified teachers, similar to the requirements at proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.4(b) and 11.13. The commenter stated that additional choice electives can help train the teacher to meet a school district’s specific needs. The commenter highlighted the importance of technology and engineering in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs) and stated that many schools are being forced to shut technology education programs that benefit all students because of a lack of appropriately certified teachers. (9)

Response: The Department declines to propose the commenter’s suggested changes. Endorsement areas for instructional certificates align with the NJSLs, which acknowledge the integration of technology throughout the standards. In 2020, the NJSLs were updated to incorporate the concepts and skills previously included in 8.1 Educational Technology by integrating technology across multiple disciplinary concepts, such as Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills standard 9.4. Given this alignment, the Department expects students to demonstrate increasing levels of proficiency to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Therefore, school districts can adopt or develop technology curricula and incorporate concepts across content areas that address the standards. Adding engineering to the technology education endorsement would be misaligned with the intent of the current NJSLs.

The Department also declines the commenter’s suggestion to offer a 15-credit pathway to adding the technology education endorsement. The proposed computer science endorsement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15 offers multiple pathways for attaining the endorsement, which includes completing 15 credits. The level of overlap between technology education and computer science, as well as the adjusted NJSLs structure integrating computer science and technology, make the commenter’s request unnecessary.

25. **Comment:** The commenter expressed concern about proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15, which will require elementary school teachers to obtain the computer science endorsement and pass the State test of computer science knowledge (Praxis Computer Science). The commenter stated that requiring elementary school teachers to obtain the computer science endorsement will become a significant restricting factor in staffing and, therefore, make it more difficult to implement quality and equitable computer science education for all students in the State. The commenter also stated that many educators who already teach computer science in the lower grades would reconsider whether they

wanted to continue specializing in computer science instruction if forced to take the Praxis and earn additional credits. The commenter further stated that no other state requires educators to pass the Praxis Computer Science assessment to teach computer science in elementary schools and most states do not require additional certificates.

The commenter suggested that the Department add “computer science” to the list of subjects at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.3(b)2ii that elementary school (K-6) endorsement holders are allowed to teach. The commenter stated that the suggested change would allow all elementary school teachers to teach computer science without requiring an additional endorsement. The commenter also stated that the suggested change still would provide the opportunity for candidates to obtain the proposed computer science endorsement if they find it valuable. (10)

Response: The new computer science endorsement will authorize the holder to teach computer science as described in Standard 8.1 of the NJSLs in all New Jersey public schools. The Department disagrees with the commenter that adding computer science to the list of classes that can be taught by holders of the elementary school endorsement is necessary. Elementary school teachers will not be required to obtain the computer science endorsement to teach the subject, as they may incorporate technology in kindergarten through grade six, as necessary under the existing authorizations at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.3(b)2ii, which also allows holders to teach ELA, mathematics, science, computer and information literacy, and social studies. The proposed computer science endorsement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15 aligns with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.26, which authorizes the creation of a computer science education endorsement to the instructional certificate. Computer science is a specialized endorsement, not to be combined with another endorsement. Individuals interested in teaching designated computer science courses aligned to the NJSLs must have a computer science endorsement after July 1, 2027, pursuant to proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15, thereby ensuring the candidate has completed all required coursework and passed the State test of computer science. Certificate holders already teaching computer science will have to complete minimal requirements to obtain the endorsement. Pursuant to proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15(c), candidates for the proposed computer science certificate who hold a standard certificate and currently teach computer science as of September 1, 2024, will be eligible for the endorsement if they receive two effective or highly effective ratings in teaching computer science in the last four years and pass the appropriate State test of computer science content knowledge.

26. **Comment:** The commenter stated there is a greater need for flexibility in certificate requirements for hard-to-staff positions. The commenter also stated that New Jersey does not issue enough emergency certificates and limits, in a variety of ways, the ability for individuals to obtain certificates. The commenter suggested creating emergency certificates for special education, bilingual, mathematics, and science teachers and school nurses. (4)

Response: The Department disagrees with the commenter’s recommendation for the Department to issue emergency certificates in the areas of special education and bilingual education because existing rules allow certificate holders to obtain a teacher of students with disabilities or bilingual education CE with no additional coursework. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.5 allows a certified teacher to earn a CE in bilingual/bicultural education by demonstrating written and oral language proficiency. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4 allows a certified teacher to earn a teacher of students with disabilities CE and begin teaching special education prior to completing the necessary coursework. The additional pedagogical coursework is gradually completed during a teacher’s provisional period. The existing pathways already create an expedited process for entering these hard-to-staff areas, thereby making an emergency certificate unnecessary. Existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4 and 11.5 already provide flexibility that is similar to the allowances of an emergency certificate.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13 creates an add-on endorsement for mathematics and science, which allows a teacher to teach in a new content area while gaining the necessary content knowledge to be fully certified in mathematics or science. The add-on endorsements will expedite the rate at which a teacher can begin teaching mathematics or science. Therefore, an emergency certificate is unnecessary.

Existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.4(e) authorizes an emergency school nurse/non-instructional endorsement.

27. **Comment:** The commenter suggested the Department allow flexibility in the coursework that qualifies a candidate for an instructional certificate with a bilingual education endorsement. The commenter stated that Spanish courses taken at universities outside of the United States do not count toward the bilingual education endorsement under existing regulations. The commenter also questioned why a foreign-language course completed in a Spanish-speaking country deemed less rigorous than a Spanish 101 course at a community college in the State. (4)

Response: The Department disagrees with the commenter and contends that the existing requirements for bilingual certification at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.5 allow for the flexibility in the coursework that qualifies a candidate for an instructional certificate with a bilingual education endorsement. The existing regulations permit the approved educator preparation program to determine the coursework that meets the required 12 credit hours of formal instruction in the topics required at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.5(b)1.

28. **Comment:** The commenter recommended that the Department provide flexibility regarding certificate categories at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B and to look for ways to broaden opportunities beyond mathematics and STEM certificates by creating broader certificates in middle school that would allow individuals to cover more classes, similar to the previous elementary K-8 generalist certificate. (2)

Response: The Department agrees with the commenter and maintains that the re-adoption with amendments of N.J.A.C. 6A:9, 9A, 9B, and 9C meet those goals. The Department proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.9(d) and (e) to add two new middle school with subject-matter specialization endorsements that are subject-matter specialization endorsement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and humanities. The proposed new endorsements will broaden the existing middle school endorsements and provide more flexibility for the school districts in placing educators in middle-grade classrooms.

29. **Comment:** The commenter stated that the new early literacy specialist endorsement proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.23 is too narrow and suggested that the Department focus on broadening certification categories. The commenter stated that the new endorsement is redundant and could cause confusion for candidates seeking the new early literacy specialist endorsement. The commenter stated that existing reading specialists have knowledge in early literacy and work primarily in early literacy settings and, therefore, their skills and understanding should be expanded via professional development. The commenter requested that, if the new endorsement is adopted, current reading specialists be allowed to continue serving preschool through grade three students. (3)

Response: The Department is not proposing to eliminate the existing reading specialist endorsements or limit the grade levels that holders are authorized to support. Therefore, existing endorsement holders will be able to continue to serve preschool through grade three students. It will be a school district's decision to employ the appropriately certified staff based on need.

- 30. Comment:** The commenter requested that N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.6 be amended to delete provisional certificates for the speech language specialist (SLS) endorsement. The commenter stated that a master’s degree, or its equivalent, is the recognized minimum requirement to effectively evaluate and treat students with speech-language impairments and should be applied uniformly throughout N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.6. The commenter further stated the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) prohibits the emergency, temporary, or provisional waiver of any certification or licensure requirements for related service providers. **(1)**
- Response:** The Department disagrees with the commenter that all SLS endorsement holders must have a master’s degree. The pathways outlined at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.6(d) leading to a CE with the SLS endorsement require an individual to be prepared to evaluate and treat students, as candidates must demonstrate a bachelor’s degree in speech language pathology, be matriculated in a master’s degree program, and demonstrate 18 to 24 graduate credits in speech language pathology/communication disorders. In certain cases, candidates must complete a graduate-level clinical practicum prior to earning the CE. The Department is choosing to maintain existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.6 to allow multiple opportunities for individuals to demonstrate preparedness in obtaining the endorsement and increase the number of eligible candidates.
- 31. Comment:** The commenter recommended that the Department clarify requirements for the mathematics and science add-on endorsement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13. The commenter stated that the proposed section will require teachers in educator preparation programs for the mathematics and science add-on endorsement to already have a CEAS or standard certificate and, upon completion of the educator preparation program, to be recommended for a standard certificate by the program. The commenter stated that the section should be changed to state that the teachers are earning an add-on endorsement to their current standard or provisional certificate. **(11)**
- Response:** The Department disagrees with the commenter’s suggestion to amend the rules to state that teachers are earning an add-on endorsement to their current standard or provisional certificate. Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13(e) states that the entire section refers to obtaining a standard certificate with a mathematics or science endorsement and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13(e)3 refers to the educator preparation program’s recommendation, which confirms that the certificate holder completed the necessary coursework for a standard certificate adding the new endorsement area. The certificate and/or endorsement that will be granted is at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13(e). The add-on pathway is available to teachers currently holding a CEAS or standard certificate and, therefore, the wording applies to both. A CEAS holder would be earning a standard certificate with the new endorsement area added, while a standard certificate holder would be adding the new endorsement to their standard certificate; therefore, the suggested change would not apply to both scenarios.
- 32. Comment:** The commenter suggested amending and/or removing specific coursework requirements for the administrator certificate with a school business administrator endorsement due to the shortage of school business administrator candidates. **(4)**
- Response:** The Department disagrees with the commenter. Existing requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7 provide flexibility such as holding a master’s or higher degree from an accredited college or university or being in possession of a certified public accountant license and completing at least 18 credits of graduate or undergraduate study.
- Furthermore, at proposal level, the Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(c)2iv, which outlines the requirements for a standard administrative certificate with a school business administrator endorsement, to add “minimum of” before “145 clock hours” to not limit the number of clock hours a candidate for a

standard administrative certificate with a school business administrator endorsement is required to take. Given the expanding breadth of a school business administrator's duties, the proposed amendment will provide flexibility to add content as necessary. Please see Agency-initiated Change 3 for additional details.

- 33. Comment:** The commenter suggested allowing a licensed practical nurse (LPN) to be eligible for an educational services certificate with a school nurse endorsement. **(4)**
Response: The Department declines to propose the commenter's suggestion to allow LPNs to be eligible for the school nursing endorsement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.3 and 14.4. In New Jersey, LPNs must be supervised by registered nurses (RNs) or licensed or otherwise legally authorized physicians or dentists. Most school settings usually have only one school nurse. An LPN who holds a school nurse endorsement may not receive the same level oversight or supervision by an RN that is provided in most healthcare settings. Also, the school nurse position includes required nursing functions that are not within the purview of an LPN license, such as assessing and treating students.
- 34. Comment:** The commenter recommended that the Department consider issuing emergency certificates for school nurses and the bilingual education endorsement. **(2)**
Response: The Department disagrees with the commenter's recommendation for emergency certificate for school nurses and the bilingual education endorsement. Currently, an emergency certificate is available for the school nurse non-instructional endorsement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14 and it allows the certificate holder to meet minimum requirements to begin serving as a non-instructional school nurse while providing additional time to meet all of the requirements for the endorsement. The emergency certificate is not available for the instructional school nurse endorsement. However, employing a noninstructional school nurse under an emergency certificate ensures that a school district is able to provide the necessary nursing services to students. The Department does not authorize emergency certifications for any instructional certificates, which includes the educational services certificate with a school nurse endorsement that allows a school nurse to provide instruction.
The Department also disagrees with the commenter's recommendation for emergency certification for bilingual education because existing rules allow certificate holders to obtain a CE with a bilingual education endorsement. Holders of a CE with a bilingual education endorsement gradually complete the additional pedagogical coursework during their provisional period. This pathway already provides an expedited process for entering this hard-to-staff area, which renders an emergency certificate unnecessary.
- 35. Comment:** The commenter stated that the Department should eliminate the requirement that teachers must have at least two years of teaching experience to qualify for an add-on endorsement at proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13. **(2)**
Response: The Department declines the commenter's suggestion because the proposed mathematics and science add-on endorsement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13 enables a certified teacher to earn a CE in a new endorsement area and begin teaching introductory courses in this new area while concurrently learning new content. To ensure teacher and student success, this unique pathway is designed for educators who have demonstrated effectiveness in the area through which they were initially trained. This prior experience and success indicate the candidate's preparedness to add another endorsement while concurrently teaching in a new content area. The Department is not prohibiting CEAS holders from adding endorsements, as there are existing pathways throughout N.J.A.C. 6A:9B that provide an opportunity for any certified educator to take additional

coursework and pass the appropriate assessment to obtain a new endorsement prior to teaching courses in the new endorsement area.

- 36. Comment:** The commenter asked that the Department not include additional steps or requirements for the educational services certificate with the school nurse endorsement. The commenter stated that schools already are experiencing difficulties hiring school nurses because they can earn more working in the medical profession and additional requirements will make it more difficult for schools to hire school nurses. **(12)**

Response: The proposed amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.4 will add substance abuse to the required topics covered by the educator preparation program for school nurses. The proposed amendment will align the section with N.J.S.A 18A:40-3.7. The Department disagrees that the additional requirement will have a negative impact on a school’s ability to hire school nurses. The proposed amendment will impact only the coursework that educator preparation programs must provide to school nurse candidates.

- 37. Comment:** The commenter requested that N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(e)4i(1) be amended to add the New Jersey Association of School Librarians as a mentoring organization authorized to mentor school library media specialists by deleting “[w]here possible” and adding the following at the end of the subparagraph: “If no experienced SLMS is available within the school district to mentor the candidate, an appropriate experienced SLMS can be provided by the New Jersey Association of School Librarians established mentoring program.” The commenter stated that an experienced SLMS can provide appropriate professional support for a new SLMS unlike a classroom teacher with no school library experience or other educator. The commenter also stated that experienced SLMSs can assist new SLMSs with how to develop instructional activities and units for a school library and have the knowledge of how to develop a successful school library media program that benefits students and the entire school community. **(13)**

Response: The Department agrees with a portion of the commenter’s recommendation. The Department declines to designate the New Jersey Association of School Librarians as the sole provider of SLMS mentors in New Jersey. Instead, the Department proposes to allow all Commissioner-approved mentor programs to provide the services. The Department is proposing to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(e)4i(1) to allow a Commissioner-approved mentoring program to provide a SLMS mentor if no experienced SLMS is available within the school district to mentor the candidate. The Department is also proposing the same amendment at recodified N.J.A.C. 9B-14.15(f)3i(1) as shown in the response to Comment 29.

- (1) A school administrator, principal, or supervisor shall provide supervision**

during the candidate’s provisional year. [[Where possible, [the candidate shall

be mentored by] an]] *An* experienced school library media specialist shall

mentor the candidate throughout the residency. *If no experienced SLMS is

available within the school district to mentor the candidate, an experienced

SLMS may be provided by a Commissioner-approved mentoring program.*

38. **Comment:** The commenter recommended that the associate school library media specialist endorsement (ASLMS) at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15 be discontinued. The commenter recommended phasing out the ASLMS endorsement, providing adequate time for individuals currently enrolled in programs to complete the requirements and earn this endorsement. Also, when established, ASLMS were to serve under the supervision of a school library and media specialist (SLMS) while the ASLMS worked to complete a master's level program for certification as a SLMS endorsement to build a pipeline of library media professionals. The commenter stated that the SLMS and ASLMS requirements and job responsibilities overlap, making ASLMS redundant and no longer necessary. The commenter confirmed that research supports preparation at the master's degree level for SLMS as opposed to the 18 graduate credits required for ASLMS. Phasing out this redundant endorsement will provide clarity and streamline roles and responsibilities of the SLMS. Finally, the commenter stated that several New Jersey colleges are educating students enrolled in a master's level program and who will graduate as school library media specialists, fully prepared to provide an instructional program that includes the mastery of content and curriculum standards outlined in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. (13)

RESPONSE: The Department agrees with the commenter's recommendation and proposes the following new rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(a) and (l). As a result of the proposed new rules, N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(a) through (j) are recodified as N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(b) through (k).

***(a) Effective September 1, 2027, the Department will no longer issue the associate school library media specialist (ASLMS) endorsement.**

- 1. A candidate who is matriculated and enrolled in classes in a State-approved education preparation program prior to June 1, 2023, and is recommended by their educator preparation program no later than August 31, 2027, shall be eligible for the ASLMS endorsement.**
- 2. Applicants in possession of a written evaluation completed by the Office prior to June 1, 2023, shall have until August 31, 2027, to complete the requirements set forth in the written evaluation. A candidate who does not apply to the Office by August 31, 2027, shall not be eligible for the ASLMS endorsement. ***

[[a)] ***(b) *** The [[associate school library media specialist (])ASLMS[)]

endorsement authorizes the holder to serve as a school library media specialist in

preschool through grade 12 under the supervision of a certified school administrator, principal, or supervisor. The functions include: delivery of instruction in information literacy skills; the development and coordination of school library media programs and resources; and instruction in the evaluation, selection, organization, distribution, creation, and utilization of school library media. These media are defined as all print, non-print, and electronic resources, including the technologies needed for their use.

[[(b)]] * (c) * To be eligible for [the ASLMS] a CE **with the ASLMS endorsement**, a candidate shall have completed a bachelor's degree from [a regionally] an accredited college or university and one of the following:

1. A Department-approved graduate program that specifically prepares the candidate for the certificate; or
2. A program of graduate studies consisting of at least 18 semester-hour credits in a coherent sequence of studies, including the following:
 - i. Access, evaluation, selection, and utilization of library media resources;
 - ii. Organization and coordination of school library media programs, resources, and instruction to provide [K-] **preschool through grade 12** students with a sequential course of studies;
 - iii. Children's literature and young-adult literature;
 - iv. Design, development, and integration of information literacy skills throughout the school curriculum;
 - v. Design and development of multimedia materials;
 - vi. Utilization of current and emergent technologies in all phases of school library media programs; and
 - vii. A clinical experience that includes instruction and management. This experience [must] **shall** be completed in a school library media center.

[[c]] **(d)** To be eligible for [the ASLMS] a CEAS **with an ASLMS endorsement**, a candidate shall complete the requirements [in] **at** [[b]] **(c)** above and one of the following:

1. Hold a standard New Jersey or out-of-State instructional certificate. A military science endorsement shall not satisfy this requirement;
2. Complete a State-approved college educator preparation program with or without clinical practice; or
3. Complete a coherent college program at [a regionally] **an** accredited college or university that includes a minimum of nine semester-hour credits in educational theory, curriculum design and integration, teaching methodology, student/learning development, and behavior management.

[[d]] **(e)** To be eligible for a provisional educational services certificate with an ASLMS endorsement, the candidate shall:

1. Possess an [ASLMS] CE or CEAS **with an ASLMS endorsement**; and
2. Obtain an offer of employment in a position that requires the ASLMS endorsement.

[[e]] **(f)** To be eligible for the standard educational services certificate with an ASLMS endorsement, a candidate shall:

1. Possess a provisional educational services certificate with an ASLMS endorsement pursuant to [[d]] **(e)** above;
2. Complete a coherent college program at [a regionally] **an** accredited college or university that includes a minimum of nine semester-hour credits in educational theory, curriculum design and integration, teaching methodology, student/learning development, and behavior management.

Holders of [the ASLMS] a CEAS **with an ASLMS endorsement** are exempt from the study requirements; and

3. Complete a year-long school-based residency program in a school library media center. [A certified school administrator, principal, or supervisor shall provide supervision during the candidate's provisional year.] The residency program shall:

i. Consist of a supervised residency that includes professional experiences in the delivery of instruction in information literacy skills and the development and coordination of school library media programs and resources. In addition, the residency includes the delivery of instruction in the evaluation, selection, organization, distribution, creation, and utilization of school library media[.];

(1) A certified school administrator, principal, or supervisor shall provide supervision during the candidate's provisional year. [[Where possible, [the candidate shall be mentored by] an]] *An* experienced school library media specialist shall mentor the candidate throughout the residency*. If no experienced SLMS is available within the school district to mentor the candidate, an experienced SLMS may be provided by a Commissioner-approved mentoring program*; and

ii. Be agreed upon through a Department-issued residency agreement outlining the responsibilities as set forth in this section and entered into by the Department, the employing school, the candidate, and the [State-approved] residency supervisor.

[[f)] *g)* The [State-approved] residency supervisor shall have primary responsibility to assure the candidate receives appropriate training, support, mentoring, practicum experiences, and professional opportunities in the critical

job responsibilities specified [in this section] at [(a)] (b) above. The residency supervisor also shall evaluate and verify the completion of all required experiences according to the residency agreement's terms and conditions.

[(g)] (h) Upon the residency period's completion, the supervisor shall complete a comprehensive evaluation report on the candidate's performance based on the candidate's ability to complete the job [duties in] responsibilities at [(a)] (b) above and to implement the theoretical concepts [in] at [(b)2] (c)2 above. The supervisor shall discuss the evaluation report with the candidate and both shall sign the report. The **supervisor shall submit the** completed evaluation [shall be submitted] to the Office. The evaluation on each candidate shall include one of the following recommendations:

1. Approved: Recommends issuance of a standard educational services certificate with an ASLMS endorsement;
2. Insufficient: Recommends a standard educational services certificate with an ASLMS endorsement not be issued, but the candidate be allowed to continue the residency or seek admission to an additional residency. Except for candidates who receive approval pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.13(d), a candidate who receives a second insufficient recommendation shall be precluded from continuing or re-entering a residency; or
3. Disapproved: Recommends a standard educational services certificate with an ASLMS endorsement not be issued. The candidate [who is disapproved] shall be precluded from continuing or re-entering a residency.

[(h)] (i) If the candidate disagrees with the residency supervisor's recommendation, the candidate may appeal the recommendation [pursuant to] **in accordance with** N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.12.

[[i)] **(j)** * [An] **Upon the executive county superintendent’s request, the Office may issue an** emergency certificate [may be issued] to a candidate who completes a bachelor’s degree from [a regionally] **an** accredited college or university and a minimum of six graduate semester-hour credits in school library media.

[[j)] **(k)** * Policies governing the ASLMS endorsement are as follows:

1. The holder of a standard or permanent New Jersey teacher-librarian or the associate educational media specialist endorsement shall be eligible for the ASLMS endorsement.
2. The holder of the teacher-librarian or associate educational media specialist endorsement shall be eligible for an extension of the authorization to [include] **carry out** the functions of the ASLMS authorization.

(l) **Any certificate holder who holds the standard ASLMS endorsement prior to August 31, 2027, and the endorsement remains in good standing, may be employed under the endorsement, as authorized. ***

- 39. Comment:** The commenter suggested bringing back previously offered endorsements, including the teacher of the handicapped (K-12), general science, and elementary K-8. The commenter stated that doing so would allow for greater flexibility in staffing. **(4)**
Response: The Department disagrees with the commenter’s recommendation. The Department discontinued offering the teacher of the handicapped (K-12), general science, and elementary K-8 endorsements to the instructional certificate because they do not ensure adequate content and pedagogical skills for educators in the same manner as the existing endorsements.
- 40. Comment:** The commenter suggested the Department create subject specific K-6 endorsements. The commenter stated that a subject-specific endorsement for K-6 in mathematics, social studies, English language arts (ELA), and science could open the door for more teachers to enter elementary classrooms. **(4)**
Response: The Department disagrees that the commenter’s suggestion would be beneficial. The existing elementary school (K-6) endorsement regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2 already allow a holder to teach a variety of subjects such as ELA, mathematics, science, computer and information literacy, world languages, and social studies. Creating subject-specific endorsements would limit the subjects that the holder of an elementary endorsement can teach.

41. **Comment:** The commenter requested to be notified when the guidance for the alternative measures of basic skills for career and technical education (CTE) teachers, as required by P.L. 2021, c. 420, is released. **(14)**

Response: The Department proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(a)3i regarding alternative measures to the basic skills assessment for CTE teachers. To be eligible for a standard certificate with a CTE endorsement, provisional certificate holders must 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;
- (2) Holding a master’s or terminal degree from an accredited institution of higher education;
- (3) Holding an occupational license or certification or industry certificate or registration; or
- (4) Completing a portfolio of work products through an approved educator preparation program, as approved by the employing school district’s superintendent, or the superintendent’s designee.

Since the proposed amendments are still undergoing the rulemaking process and are not yet in position to be adopted by the State Board of Education, the Department has not yet issued guidance on the proposed rules. The Department will provide guidance to school districts and stakeholders through a Department broadcast when appropriate.

42. **Comment:** The commenter requested that significant consideration be given to the role of speech-language specialists (SLSs) in working with children with autism when the issue of an applied behavior analyst (ABA) personnel is revisited. The commenter cited reports from members of New Jersey Speech-Language Hearing Association (NJSHA) raising concerns that ABA personnel often develop programs, including speech-language goals and objectives, with little to no input from SLSs. The commenter further stated that SLSs are members of the child study team for students with language impairments and should be considered by the Department as key members for students with autism. **(1)**
- Response:** The comment is about N.J.A.C. 6A:14, Special Education, which is outside scope of this rulemaking.

43. **Comment:** The commenter recommended that the Department utilize data to implement innovative policies. The commenter provided, as an example, the data collected pursuant to P.L. 2021, c. 394, which requires the Department to collect data from local education agencies on teaching positions, retention rates and projections, to implement innovative policies. The commenter suggested that the Department consider innovative models like the one in Tennessee that is designed to address teacher shortages by using “grow your own” program partnerships between school districts and educator preparation programs. The commenter also suggested the Department explore, encourage, and financially support school districts and school partnerships with organizations such as the Trio Network and the New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning because the programs create pathways to encourage additional individuals who are already working in schools to enter the teacher pipeline. **(2)**
- Response:** The Department thanks the commenter for the suggestions. In compliance with State ethics provisions, the Department is not able to support any one entity over another. However, the Department continues to encourage school districts to find innovative ways, whether through partnerships or locally derived initiatives, to encourage

individuals to enter the teaching pipeline. Additionally, the Department continues to encourage individuals to enter the teaching workforce through the Minority Teacher Development Grant and the Minority Teacher Quality and Retention Grant, as well as embarking on a Statewide recruitment campaign in spring and summer 2023.

44. **Comment:** The commenter requested that the Department consider reinstating the teacher of the handicapped endorsement, even if only temporarily for two or three years. The commenter stated that bringing back this endorsement will provide teachers the flexibility to cover more grades without needing the additional middle school endorsements or high school subject endorsements. (2)

Response: The Department declines the commenter's suggestion to reinstate the teacher of the handicapped endorsement, as the teacher of students of disabilities endorsement aligns to the vision of creating an inclusive environment for students. Individuals holding the teacher of students with disabilities endorsement receive training to support students with special needs through accommodations and modifications within the mainstream classroom, as well as teaching in a self-contained environment within their co-endorsement content area.

45. **Comment:** The commenter stated that many charter school candidates do not enter a CEAS educator preparation program and, therefore, must go the alternate route to earn a CE. The commenter stated that the Department should be working with stakeholders to ensure the teaching profession is more attractive to potential candidates, while removing unnecessary barriers to entry. The commenter also stated that the teacher vacancy crisis will continue to worsen without bold action. The commenter contended that public schools throughout New Jersey cannot find qualified candidates and will be forced to eliminate key academic programs necessary for college and career readiness.

The commenter further stated that the rulemaking process for N.J.A.C. 6A:9, 9A, 9B and 9C presents opportunities to implement the bold policy changes necessary to increase the number of qualified teacher candidates and remove unnecessary, burdensome barriers to certification. (4)

Response: Through this rulemaking, the Department has attempted to reduce the teacher shortages in New Jersey by proposing many flexibilities to encourage individuals to enter the field of teaching. The Department has continuously met with stakeholders regarding N.J.A.C. 6A:9B and has folded many of the recommendations into this rulemaking. The Department will continue to engage stakeholders in this important work.

46. **Comment:** The commenter stated that there is an immense challenge for teachers and schools due to the lack of responsiveness and turnaround for certification applications by the Department. The commenter requested the Department urgently re-evaluate its current systems for managing certification and licensing because there are many schools that want to hire qualified individuals but cannot get teachers into classrooms due to delays in the processing of certificate applications. (2)

Response: While the certification operational process is not codified, the Department works diligently to ensure the qualifications of teachers entering classrooms in New Jersey meet the codified requirements. In May 2022, the Department launched a new online certification system, NJEdCert, which has expedited and streamlined the certification process. This process, which issued more than 40,000 certificates during the 2021-2022 school year, requires thorough evaluations of certification applications in a timely manner. The Department's current turnaround timeline ranges from four to six weeks. Candidates nominated for a certificate by approved educator preparation programs receive their certificates within 24 hours of paying for, and claiming, their

nominations. School districts with emergent hires can request an expedited review through the county office of education; turnaround time for such requests is less than one week. The Department continues to examine and improve processes.

47. **Comment:** The commenter suggested that the Department amend its contract with Educational Testing Service (ETS) to waive fees for candidates seeking an endorsement in a shortage area who must retake the Praxis Core and/or Praxis II. **(5)**

Response: ETS sets policies regarding fees for the Praxis Core and Praxis II.

48. **Comment:** The commenter stated that schools are experiencing staffing shortages and, as a result, are increasing class sizes at a time when schools need to be doubling down on best practices to accelerate learning. The commenter stated that it is paramount that students have teachers and especially teachers who represent them. The commenter commended the Department for proposing some flexibilities and stated that there also needs to be a focus on policies that diversify the workforce.

The commenter further stated that the Department and other relevant State agencies must commit to collecting and sharing publicly data. The commenter also stated that P.L. 2021, c. 394 requires school districts to collect and submit data on staffing, vacancies, and anticipated retirements by October 15 of each year and the 2022-2023 school year will be the first year the State will publicize data with this level of detail. The commenter further stated that it is imperative that the data collected under that law be used to drive smart, cohesive State policies to move the needle on teacher shortage. The commenter also stated that the Department must prioritize education workforce data now, more than they have ever before, to be responsive to the needs of New Jersey students. The commenter further stated that the existing partnership with the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, and the Department is perfectly positioned to create data-driven incentives, inform certification pathways, and modernize the industry. **(5)**

Response: The Department thanks the commenter for the information. The Department's Office of Data Management has begun collecting the data required by P.L. 2021, c. 394. The data will be made available to the public.

Agency-Initiated Changes

1. At proposal level, the Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(c)1 and 2, 6A:9B-10.15(d), and 6A:9B-11.2(b)1 and 2 to include "or equivalent" after "credits" to allow educator preparation programs to modify their curricula to align with the new requirements and remain in compliance with statutory requirements of the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. Adding "or equivalent" will provide flexibility for educator preparation program to design the new curriculum to align with their current approved curricula.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2

- (c) A candidate who enters an educator preparation program for a CEAS with an elementary school (K-6) endorsement, on or after September 1, 2025, shall complete either (b)1 or (b)2i above and at least 30 credits as documented on a**

transcript from an accredited college or university, in the following coursework and/or clinical experiences:

1. Six to nine credits ***or equivalent*** that focus on developing the pedagogical content knowledge for teaching mathematics to elementary students and that shall focus on the following:
2. Nine to 12 credits ***or equivalent*** that focus on developing the pedagogical content knowledge for teaching reading and literacy to elementary students and that shall focus on the following:

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15

- (d) All candidates for the computer science endorsement pursuant to (a) and (b) above shall complete, or have completed, a minimum of three semester-hour credits ***or equivalent*** in a methods of teaching computer science course offered by an accredited college or university within 12 months of the initial computer science teaching assignment.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2

- (b) Candidates seeking a CEAS with a preschool through grade three endorsement who enter an educator preparation program on or after September 1, 2025, shall complete the requirements at (a)1 above and a preschool through grade three educator preparation program that includes at least 30 credits as documented on a transcript from an accredited college or university in the following coursework and/or clinical experiences:
 1. Six to nine credits ***or equivalent*** that focus on developing the pedagogical content knowledge for teaching mathematics to preschool and elementary students and that shall focus on the following:
 - i. – v. (No change from third discussion.)

2. Twelve to 15 credits ***or equivalent*** that focus on developing the pedagogical content knowledge for teaching reading and literacy to preschool and elementary students. The courses shall include the following:

i. (No change from third discussion.)

2. At proposal level, the Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(a)3i, which sets forth that provisional teachers holding a CE with a preschool through grade three endorsement must complete child development and learning coursework, among other topics. The proposed amendment will replace “equity” with “equitable opportunities” to clarify that the coursework will include the creation of a climate that fosters and nurtures diversity and equitable opportunities that address each student’s needs, without expecting that all students will demonstrate equal outcomes. The proposed amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(a)3i is as follows

i. Child development and learning, including studies designed to foster understanding of the dynamic continuum of development and learning in children from birth through age eight. Required topics are cognitive and linguistic factors that affect learning and development; the creation of a climate that fosters and nurtures diversity and **[[equity]] *equitable opportunities*** for all children, including [those] **children** who are limited English proficient and [those] **children** with [special needs] **disabilities**, and that addresses multiple intelligences and diverse learning styles; the integration of play; and language and literacy across the curriculum;

3. At proposal level, the Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(c)2iv to add “minimum of” before “145 clock hours” to not limit the number of clock hours a candidate for a standard administrative certificate with a school business administrator endorsement is required to take. Given the expanding breadth of a school business administrator’s duties, the proposed amendment will provide flexibility to add content to the one-year Commissioner-approved school or school district residency program while employed under a provisional certificate, as necessary.

(c) To be eligible for the standard administrative certificate with a school business administrator endorsement, the candidate shall:

1. (No change from third discussion.)

2. Complete a one-year Commissioner-approved school or school district residency program while employed under a provisional [certification] **certificate**. The residency shall:

i. – iii. (No change from third discussion.)

iv. Provide professional experiences, training, and ***a minimum of*** 145 clock hours of formal instruction in the areas of standards [listed in] **at** (c)2i above; school plant planning, construction, and maintenance; school financial and legal practices, including budget planning and administration and double entry accounting (GAAP); pupil transportation; labor relations and personnel; insurance/risk administration; and food service administration[.]; **and**

4. At proposal level, the Department proposes to delete the first sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(e), which requires a school business administrator’s mentor to form an advisory panel of practicing educators and to convene the advisory panel on at least three occasions for purposes of reviewing the candidate’s progress and soliciting advice concerning candidate’s certification. The proposed amendment will result in the deletion of N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(e) in its entirety because the Department proposed, at first discussion, to delete the regulation’s second sentence. The existing regulation is unnecessary in the mentoring process and is a burden to practicing educators (school business administrators) because it is an unrealistic expectation of the residency provider considering that each school district employs only one school business administrator. Additionally, the advisory panel is impractical to convene and members are uncompensated. The Department maintains that the monthly meetings and frequent, informal daily and weekly interactions between the mentees and mentors are sufficient. As a result of the proposed deletion, N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(f) through (j) are recodified as N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(e) through (i), respectively.

[[e)] Each mentor shall form an advisory panel of practicing educators and shall convene it on at least three occasions for purposes of reviewing the candidate’s progress and soliciting advice concerning the candidate’s certification.]] [The mentor may seek the informal input of the employing district board of education concerning the candidate’s standard certification.]

[[f)] ***e*** The mentor shall meet with the candidate at least once a month during the residency. The mentor shall be available on a regular basis to provide assistance

or advice upon the candidate's request. [The Department may require a candidate to pay fees to the program provider to cover the cost of the training and mentoring services that will qualify him or her for certification and employment.]

[[g)]] *(f)* [Standard certification of school business] **Each candidate for the standard** administrator certificate [candidates] **with a school business administrator endorsement** shall be approved or disapproved pursuant to the following procedures:

1. – 6. (No change from third discussion.)

[[h)]] *(g)* A candidate who receives a “disapproved” recommendation or two or more “insufficient” recommendations may appeal to the Board of Examiners pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.13.

[[i)]] *(h)* The requirements [listed in] **at (a)** through [[h)]] *(g)* above shall not apply to persons who hold standard administrative certificates with the following endorsements issued before September 1, 1991: school business administrator, assistant superintendent for business, or assistant executive superintendent with specialization in business administration. Holders of those endorsements shall be entitled prospectively to apply for all positions in the general category of business administration.

[[j)]] *(i)* Board secretaries who lack certification but were assigned prior to September 1, 1991, to perform **the** business administration functions [as described in] **at** N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.3(d) shall be permitted to retain indefinitely their positions in the **school** districts in which they were employed prior to September 1, 1991.

[[k)]] The requirements listed in (a)1 above shall not apply to persons who hold a standard administrative certificate or CE with a school business administrator endorsement.]



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

Proposal Level
November 9, 2022

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

ANGELICA ALLEN-MCMILLAN, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner

To: Members, State Board of Education

From: Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner

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

Reason for Action: Readoption with Amendments and New Rules

Authority: N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:6-34 and 38, and 18A:26-1, 2.7, and 10; and P.L. 2012, c. 11.

Sunset Date: November 11, 2022

Summary

The Department proposes to readopt N.J.A.C. 6A:9B, State Board of Examiners, with amendments. The chapter governs the professional development of active teachers and school and school district leaders, as well as mentoring of novice teachers.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9, Professional Licensure and Standards, was first adopted in 2004 and readopted in 2009. The chapter set forth the rules governing the preparation, licensure, and professional development of educators required by their positions to be certified. It also contained rules governing the approval of educator preparation programs and their content. Finally, it contained the rules delineating the organization of, powers of, duties of, and proceedings before the State Board of Examiners. On August 4, 2014, the chapter was recodified into four chapters – N.J.A.C. 6A:9, 6A:9A, 6A:9B, and 6A:9C – via a notice of administrative changes. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B was most recently readopted in 2015. New rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11A to establish the teacher leader endorsement to the instructional certificate were adopted in May 2019. New rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A and amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.6 that became effective on July 5, 2022, implement the limited certificate of eligibility (limited CE) and limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing (limited CEAS) pilot program.

Existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B sets forth the State’s system of certifying educators, including teachers, school and school district administrators, and educational services personnel. The chapter authorizes the issuance of instructional, administrative, and educational services certificates. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B includes the requirements for a candidate to be eligible for a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS), often called the “traditional route,” or a certificate of eligibility (CE), often called the “alternate route.” Both the CE and CEAS enable certificate holders to seek and obtain employment in a public school in New Jersey. Upon employment, CE

and CEAS holders receive a provisional certificate and enter the provisional teacher program. CE holders also are required to enter an educator preparation program at this time. A standard certificate, which does not expire, is issued upon successful completion of the provisional teacher program. The CE, CEAS, provisional, and standard certificates are all issued with at least one endorsement that allows the certificate holder to teach a specific grade level or subject.

Other certificates available include those for school administrators, school business administrators, principals, and supervisors. There is a three-step certification process for school administrators, school business administrators, and principals: obtaining a CE, receiving a provisional certificate (legalizing employment and induction), and undergoing mentoring and a residency to earn a standard certificate and, therefore, become permanently certified.

Educational services certificates are issued to support service personnel, including, but not limited to, school social worker, school psychologist, learning disabilities teacher-consultant, student assistance coordinator, and school nurse. For most educational services certificates, the only option is to apply for a standard certificate. The three areas of exception are student assistance coordinator, associate library media specialist, and school library media specialist, for which candidates may apply for a CE, CEAS, or standard certificate.

The chapter also contains rules about reciprocity for individuals who hold a teaching certificate issued by another state, substitute teacher certificates, and the State Board of Examiners' authority and proceedings.

The amendments proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B in this rulemaking and at N.J.A.C. 6A:9, 6A:9A, and 6A:9C in separate, simultaneous rulemakings are intended to provide options to certain candidates for an instructional certificate. The proposed amendments also will implement several recently enacted State laws that created new endorsements for instructional certificates or altered the requirements for existing endorsements. Coupled with the new rules that establish a five-year pilot program to issue the limited CE or limited CEAS to eligible candidates to work in participating school districts, the Department anticipates that the proposed amendments to all four chapters will encourage more individuals to apply for an instructional certificate while maintaining the high quality of the State's teacher workforce. The proposed amendments to the State's system of educator preparation, certification, mentoring, and professional development also will help alleviate existing teacher shortages that have been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and will further the Department's efforts to increase diversity in the education workforce.

Unless specified in this Summary, all other amendments are proposed for clarity, stylistic or grammatical improvement, or to add or update cross-references to the New Jersey Administrative Code or the New Jersey Statutes Annotated.

Subchapter 1. Scope and Purpose

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-1.1 Scope

This section provides the chapter's scope, which is to set forth the rules governing the licensure of educators or candidates required to be certified. The chapter also contains the rules regarding the organization, powers, and duties of the State Board of Examiners and its proceedings.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-1.2 Purpose

This section sets forth the chapter's purpose, which is to establish a licensure system based on professional standards for pre-service preparation and certification that continuously serves to improve the quality of instruction for New Jersey's children to prepare them for college and careers. The licensure system functions along a continuum of rigorous pre-professional preparation, certification, and professional development to better prepare educators to support improved student achievement of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS).

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-1.2(a) to replace "college and careers" with "post-secondary education and/or careers." The proposed amendment will better reflect the paths available to students after graduating high school.

Subchapter 2. Definitions

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

This section provides that the definitions at N.J.A.C. 6A:9-2.1 also apply to this chapter.

Subchapter 3. State Board of Examiners

This subchapter sets forth who comprises the Board of Examiners and its general organization, as well as its duties and powers.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.1 General

This section contains rules governing the composition of the Board of Examiners, the duration of appointment for members, the appointment of committees, and the Board of Examiners' required meetings.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.2 Powers and duties

This section describes the powers and duties of the Board of Examiners.

The Department proposes to recodify N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.2(a) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.2(a), (a)1, 2, and 3, and (b) for clarity. The rules allow the Board of Examiners to issue, revoke, or suspend certificates and to refuse to issue a certificate.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.2(b), which allows the Board of Examiners to suspend or revoke certificates pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.4, because it is repetitive of new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.2(a)2, as proposed for amendment.

The Department proposes at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.2(c)5, which allows the Board of Examiners to maintain reciprocal agreements with other states and territories concerning the certification of educational practitioners. The Department proposes to replace "educational practitioner" with "teaching staff member" to ensure the broader group of staff members are included. "Teaching staff member" also is a defined term at N.J.A.C. 6A:9-2.1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.3 Board of Examiners procedure

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.3 to establish rules regarding the procedures of the Board of Examiners.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.3(a) states that public meetings of the Board of Examiners shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th Edition), as amended and supplemented.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.3(b) states requires regular meetings of the Board of Examiners to be held at such time, place and on such dates as established by the Board of Examiners. The proposed subsection also requires notice of such meetings to be made in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the Open Public Meetings Act.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.3(c) allows special meetings to be called by the Board of Examiners chairperson at any time or at the request of any three members. The proposed regulation also requires three days' notice of any special meeting to be given to each member of the Board of Examiners. The proposed regulation further requires the Board of Examiners to provide "adequate notice" of special meetings as that term is defined at N.J.S.A. 10:4-8.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.3(d) states that a quorum shall consist of a majority of the number of currently seated voting members of the Board of Examiners.

New N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-3.3(e) will allow the Board of Examiners, by majority vote, to remove a member of the Board of Examiners who is absent from three consecutive public meetings without good cause.

Subchapter 4. State Board of Examiners' Proceedings

This subchapter sets forth the procedures that the Board of Examiners and a candidate for certification or a certificate holder must follow regarding the suspension or revocation of a certificate and the barring of a candidate from receiving a certificate.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.1 Conduct barring candidate from certification

This section allows the Board of Examiners to refuse to issue a certificate to a candidate who meets all certification requirements if the Board of Examiners determines, based on the record before it, that the candidate is not suitable for employment as a teaching staff member in the public schools for reasons set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.4.

The Department proposes at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.1 to add "[t]his refusal shall be known as a blocked application." The Board of Examiners cannot revoke a license that has not been issued. However, the proposed amendment will codify the Board of Examiners' ability to prevent applicants denied a certificate due to prior misconduct from seeking certification in the future.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.2 Candidates to provide information regarding criminal history

This section establishes the requirements a candidate for a certificate must follow to disclose a criminal conviction.

The Department proposes to amend the second sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.2(b), which requires the Board of Examiners to review all information the candidate provides and determine whether the candidate's criminal history is such that the candidate should not receive a certificate. The Department proposes to add "or designee" after "Board of Examiners." At times, the Board of Examiners relies on experts in law and certification to review criminal histories and make recommendations.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3 School district and candidate reporting responsibility

This section sets forth when a chief school administrator must disclose to the Board of Examiners information regarding a certificate holder's criminal indictment or conviction. This section also establishes a school district's responsibility to cooperate with the Board of Examiners in proceedings that arise from the information the school district provided. This section further requires school districts to notify all employees new to the school district and to notify, annually, all employees of the specific requirements for reporting their arrest or indictment for any crime or offense.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3(a)1, which requires the chief school administrator to notify the Board of Examiners when tenured teaching staff members who are accused of criminal offenses or unbecoming conduct leave or retire from their positions. The Department proposes to replace "or retire with "retire, are suspended, or are placed on administrative leave." The proposed amendment will require the chief school administrator to notify the Board of Examiners for reasons other than resignation or retirement.

The Department proposes at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3(a)2, which requires the chief school administrator to report to the Board of Examiners all nontenured teaching staff members, including substitute teachers, who are accused of criminal offenses or unbecoming conduct and they resign, retire, or are removed from their positions. The Department proposes to add "and any certificate holders working in school buildings as volunteers or as employees of a third-party vendor" after "teachers." This reporting is a safety measure to minimize the risk of the same individual seeking employment or access to students in other public school buildings.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3(a)3, which requires the chief school administrator to report to the Board of Examiners a certificate holder who fails to maintain any license, certificate, or authorization that is mandated pursuant to this chapter for the holder to serve in a position. The Department proposes to replace "certificate holder" with "teaching staff member" because the latter term is more appropriate for the regulation. "Certificate holder" includes individuals who hold a CE or CEAS with an instructional endorsement but have yet to secure employment. The Department proposes the same amendment throughout the chapter, where necessary.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3(b), which requires a school district to cooperate with the Board of Examiners in any proceeding arising from an order to show cause issued by the Board of Examiners and based on information about the certificate holder that the school district provided. The Department proposes to replace "in any proceeding arising from an order to show cause issued by" with "as requested to assist." The Department also proposes to replace "and based on information about the certificate holder that the school district provided" with "in executing its functions." The Department further proposes to add "[c]ooperation shall include, but not be limited to, providing documents, videos, emails, and investigative notes." The proposed amendments will expand the type of proceeding beyond an order to show cause for which a Board of Examiners may need assistance from the school district. The proposed amendments also clarify the type of information that may be requested.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3(c)3 to require a certificate holder to report to their chief school administrator the suspension or revocation of any other license, certificate, or authorization issued by a state or Federal agency or body. The proposed paragraph also will require the report to be made within seven calendar days of the notification date of the suspension or revocation of the license, certificate, or authorization. The proposed regulation will

provide critical notice to the chief school administrator as agencies outside the Department do not always notify the Board of Examiners regarding revocations of licenses that fall outside of education (for example, a registered nurse license).

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.4 Grounds for revocation and suspension of certification

This section establishes when the Board of Examiners can revoke or suspend a certificate.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.5 Revocation or suspension of certificates

This section sets forth the responsibilities of both the Board of Examiners and the certificate holder when charges to suspend or revoke a certificate are brought against a certificate holder.

The Department proposes to replace the section heading with “Process for initiating action against educator certificates” to better reflect the section’s content.

The Department proposes to recodify N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.5(a)4, which allows the Board of Examiners to issue an order to show cause to a certificate holder if it determines the holder’s conduct warrants the revocation or suspension of the certificate(s) because the Board of Examiners receives notice that a teaching staff member who is certified in New Jersey and who also holds a teaching certificate in another state has had action taken against the certificate by the other state, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.5(a)4 and (a)4i and ii with amendments for clarity. The Department proposes to reorganize the regulation to state that the Board of Examiners can issue an order to show cause when notified when another state has taken action against a teaching staff member’s certificate in that state and that teaching staff member also holds a certificate in New Jersey.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.5(a)8, which allows the Board of Examiners to issue an order to show cause when the Commissioner recommends to the State Board of Examiners the revocation of the certification of the superintendent, assistant superintendent, or school business administrator based on information received from a school district in which the certificate holder is employed. The Department proposes to add “or an individual operating in such capacity as authorized pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.3” after “assistant superintendent” to allow the Board of Examiners to issue an order of show cause to an individual working in an administrative capacity authorized at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.3.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6 Procedures for revoking or suspending a certificate

This section establishes the procedure after a charge has been brought to suspend or revoke a certificate holder’s certificate.

The Department proposes to amend the second sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(b), which states that the answer shall not generally deny the charges but shall respond specifically to each allegation. The Department proposes to delete “shall not generally deny the charges, but.” The Department also proposes to add at the end “[t]he Board of Examiners shall not accept general denials and shall deem them an admission.” The proposed amendments will require certificate holders to address each accusation in detail to provide adequate information for the Board of Examiners to make a decision on a suspension or revocation. Without information provided by the certificate holder, the assumption will be that there is an admission of the charge. The proposed amendment will ensure the Board of Examiners’ process is widely available to the public and individuals impacted.

The Department proposes to amend the second sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(e), which requires the certificate holder to submit an original and 18 copies of all response papers within 30 days from the hearing notice's mailing date. The Department proposes to delete "an original and 18 copies of" because the Board of Examiners has moved to electronic communication. The Department proposes the same or similar amendments throughout the chapter.

The Department proposes recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(j) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(i). The subsection sets forth the process for the certificate holder to request and receive an extension of time for filing an answer or hearing brief, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(c) and (e), respectively, as long as the application for the extension is submitted in writing prior to the expiration of the 30 days for filing the answer or the hearing brief. This action would occur before the Office would review or refuse to issue a new certificate as set forth at recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(j).

The Department proposes to amend recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(j), which allows the Office to refuse to issue a new certificate to a certificate holder who is otherwise eligible for the additional certificate if the holder is the subject of pending action to revoke or suspend the holder's certificate(s). The Department proposes to add new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(j)2, 3, and 4, to include "[a] blocked application, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.1," "[a] criminal action in any state or jurisdiction," or "[a]n administrative action or investigation by a state or Federal agency or other governmental body" as additional circumstances for which the Office may refuse to issue a new certificate to a certificate holder who is otherwise eligible. The proposed amendments will ensure that the Board of Examiners is not obligated to issue new certificates while an applicant is subject of pending criminal chargers, administrative action, or other concerning conduct.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.6(k) to state that all filings made pursuant to this section shall be accepted via electronic submission.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.7 Revoked and suspended certificates

This section sets forth the procedures after the Board of Examiners orders the revocation or suspension of a certificate.

The Department proposes to amend the section heading as "Return of certificates and notification after revocation or suspension of certificates" to reflect the section's content more accurately.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.7(a), which requires a certificate holder who has had a certificate revoked or suspended by the Board of Examiners to surrender the certificate to the Secretary within 30 days after the mailing date of the revocation or suspension order. The Department proposes to add "if the certificate holder was issued a paper certificate" at the end because the Department stopped issuing paper certificates approximately seven years ago.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.7(c), which allows the Board of Examiners to reinstate a suspended certificate at the end of the suspension period, provided the certificate holder has met all conditions that the Board of Examiners established. The Department proposes to add "in the suspension decision" after "established" to specify where the conditions can be found. The Department also proposes to require the certificate holder must notify the Board of Examiners, in writing, of the outcome of the underlying criminal matter if a suspension is pending an outcome of an underlying criminal proceeding. The notification

requirement will ensure that the Board of Examiners will make an appropriate and timely suspension decision. The Department also proposes to add that the pending suspension shall continue until the certificate holder presents new information relating to the disposition of the criminal charge and the Board of Examiners takes action upon the new information. The proposed amendment will prevent the Board of Examiners from reinstating a certificate that may require future action dependent upon the outcome of outstanding charges.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.7(d) to require “[a]ll decisions of the State Board of Examiners shall be published and publicly available. Decisions contain detailed information on the nature of the conduct and the penalty for such conduct.” The new regulation will provide notice to certificate holders that all final Board of Examiners decisions, which are public documents, are posted online.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.8 Suspension of certificates for failure to give notice of intention to resign

This section allows the Commissioner to suspend the certificate of a district board of education employee who ceases, without the district board of education’s consent, to perform the teacher’s duties prior to the expiration of employment.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.9 Application for certification after revocation

This section governs when an individual who has had a certificate revoked can and cannot apply for, and be issued, a new certificate.

The Department proposes to amend the section heading by adding “or block” after “revocation.”

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.9(c)3, which prohibits the Board of Examiners from issuing a new certificate to any candidate who is ordered to forfeit certification as part of a plea bargain. The Department proposes to replace “certification” with “a certificate(s) or public employment” to prevent individuals removed from employment due to misconduct from seeking a certificate in the future, even if they do not hold a certificate issued by the Board of Examiners at the time misconduct occurred.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.9(c)6, which prohibits the Board of Examiners from issuing a new certificate to any candidate who is barred from teaching for any reason. The Department proposes to replace “teaching” with “employment in a school” to include administrators and educational services personnel.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.9(d) to create a process that requires explicit Board of Examiners approval before an applicant whose certificate was revoked or blocked can apply again. New N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.9(d) states that a candidate shall not be eligible to apply for a certificate after the Board of Examiners has blocked a prior application. unless the candidate seeks, by written application, leave from the Board of Examiners to apply. The candidate also will be required to meet the following criteria:

- At least one calendar year has passed since the Board of Examiners blocked the candidate’s prior application;
- The candidate demonstrates rehabilitation for the unbecoming conduct, incompetence, or other cause for the block;
- If the block was due to the conviction of a crime that is not disqualifying under N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq., the candidate has submitted evidence that the candidate has been fully rehabilitated in accordance with N.J.S.A 2A:168A-2 and that issuing a certificate to the candidate would not be detrimental to the public welfare;

- If the block arose from a criminal matter involving the candidate, the candidate provided evidence that the candidate has satisfied any condition imposed by the court, probation, plea bargain agreement, or any other entity; and
- If the block arose from action taken against the candidate’s out-of-State educator certificate(s), the candidate satisfied any condition associated with an action against out-of-State certificate(s).

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.10 Relinquishment of certificate without order to show cause

This section sets forth the procedure that an individual must follow to relinquish a certificate when an order to show cause has not been issued by the Board of Examiners.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.10(e), which requires the certificate holder to return all certificates to the Board of Examiners. The Department proposes to replace “[t]he certificate holder” with “[i]f the certificate holder was issued a paper certificate(s), the holder” and to add “paper” before “certificates.” The proposed amendment will ensure that certificate holders who were issued paper certificates prior to the transition to electronic certificates return the paper certificates to the Board of Examiners. The Department proposes the same amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.11(c).

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.11 Voluntary surrender of certificates and endorsements

This section establishes the procedure for when an individual who has not worked under a certificate for the preceding 10 years seeks to surrender a certificate.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.11(e) to state that the Board of Examiners shall not accept a voluntary surrender when the certificate holder seeking to surrender the certificate(s) or endorsement(s) has a pending order to show cause issued against the certificate(s) or endorsement(s). The proposed regulation will prohibit certificate holders who are in the middle of an order to show cause litigation process from surrendering a certificate and, thereby, interrupting the litigation process and avoiding the public record of the case.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.12 Appeals of Office certification decisions

This section sets forth the process for a candidate who does not meet all of the requirements for a certificate to request to substitute alternate education and/or experience.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.13 Appeal of a “disapproved,” two “insufficient” recommendations, or ineligibility for standard certification

This section establishes the procedures for a candidate to initiate an appeal to the Board of Examiners when a school district notifies the Office that the candidate is permanently ineligible for a renewal of the provisional certificate pursuant to the standard certificate evaluation requirements for the candidate’s position. The section also states that, if an individual has received two “insufficient” recommendations, only the second adverse recommendation shall be the subject of the appeal.

The Department proposes to amend the section heading and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.13(a) to replace “‘insufficient’ recommendations” with “‘partially effective’ or ‘ineffective’ evaluations.” The proposed amendments will align the section with educator evaluation procedures at N.J.A.C. 6A:10, Educator Effectiveness, and required at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.6.

The Department also proposes throughout this section to add “or the Secretary’s designee” after “the Secretary” to signify that the Board of Examiner’s may assign a staff member who has the same authority as the Secretary of the Board of Examiners.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.14 Motions

This section sets forth the rules governing the submission of motions to the Board of Examiners and to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.15 Motions for reconsideration

This section states a candidate’s right to file a motion for reconsideration with the Board of Examiners and describes on what terms the Board of Examiners can reconsider decisions.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.16 Motions for stay

This section sets forth the procedures for filing motions for a stay and the required standards for the brief in support of the motion if the motion is to be granted.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.16(a) to state that “[a] determination of revocation and/or suspension decisions shall be effective upon the date contained within the decision. To stay the decision’s effective date, the Board of Examiners must grant a motion to stay the decision.” The proposed regulation will clarify that the decision remains effective during the pendency of the motion application.

The Department proposes to recodify the first sentence at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.16(a), which requires a party to make a motion for a stay of the Board of Examiners’ decision pending appeal to the State Board in accordance with the procedures in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.14, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.16(a)1. The Department also proposes to amend new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.16(a)1 to replace “State Board” with “Commissioner” to reflect that Board of Examiner decisions can be appealed to the Commissioner rather than the State Board. The Department further proposes to recodify the second sentence at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.16(a), which requires the moving party to file the motion for a stay within 30 days of the mailing date of the Board of Examiners’ decision that is at issue, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.16(a). The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.16(a)3 to require the Board of Examiners to meet to hear the motion to stay within 20 days of the date the motion is filed. The proposed regulation also states that a written decision on the motion shall not be required, but the Board of Examiners shall notify the moving party of the decision within five days of reviewing the motion and any opposition. The proposed amendments will specify the timeline for review and ensure a timely process for the motions to stay.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.17 Briefs and exceptions

This section establishes the format for briefs and exceptions to be filed with the Board of Examiners and/or the OAL.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.18 Appeal of Board of Examiners decisions

This section states that a party may appeal adverse revocation and suspension decisions in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:4, Appeals. This section also states that a party may appeal all other Board of Examiners’ decisions to the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes.

Subchapter 5. General Certification Policies

This subchapter sets forth the policies governing educator certification in the State.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.1 Certificate required

This section requires any person employed as a teaching staff member to hold a valid and appropriate certificate during the entirety of the person's employment. The section also requires a certificate holder to obtain any license, certificate, or authorization required by State or Federal law, a licensing board, or N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.1 and 4.2 to serve in a position.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.1(d), which allows the Board of Examiners to consider revoking or suspending the certificate holder of any individual who fails to maintain a the license, certificate, or authorization required at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.1(b). The process is proposed to be included at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.2 Types of certificates or credentials

This section states that candidates for licensure may apply for the following certificates or credentials: CE; CEAS; provisional certificate; standard certificate; emergency certificate; limited certificate for foreign teachers; and/or substitute credential.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.2(a)8, 9, and 10 to add "Limited certificate of eligibility," "Limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing," and "Nonresident military spouse temporary instructional certificate" as new types of certificates, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2b and 2.14."

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.3 Issuance of a certificate

This section states that the Board of Examiners shall issue three categories of educational certificates: instructional, administrative, and educational services. This section requires the Board of Examiners to issue the appropriate certificate upon a candidate's completion of all certificate requirements in effect at the time the Office receives the application. This section also requires the Office to issue a written evaluation identifying the deficiencies for certification if a candidate is ineligible for a certificate sought.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.3(b)1, which requires the certificate holder to maintain possession of the original certificate, because the Department no longer issues paper certificates. All certificates are now available in only a digital format.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.4 Certification responsibilities of the district board of education

This section sets forth school district responsibilities regarding the verification of teaching staff members' certificates prior to, and throughout, employment. This section also requires the chief school administrator to report to the Department, annually, the names and teaching assignments of all teaching staff members. This section further requires a teaching staff member's contract or engagement to cease and terminate if the employing district board of education is notified in writing by the executive county superintendent, or otherwise ascertains, that the teaching staff member is not, or has ceased to be, the holder of an appropriate certificate required for employment.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.5 Assignment of titles

This section contains the rules regarding the Department-recognized position titles that can be assigned to teaching staff members.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.6 Fees

This section establishes a schedule of nonrefundable fees for the issuance of certificates, evaluation of credentials, and other routine Office services.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.6(a), which states that the fee schedule at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.6(b) shall be in addition to any tuition and fees that higher education institutions may charge for courses and credits offered in connection with State-approved training programs. The Department proposes to delete “that higher education institutions may charge” and to replace “State-approved training programs” with “Department-approved educator preparation programs and/or assessments required for certification.” The proposed amendments will update the terminology and streamline the section. The proposed amendments also will clarify that the determination of fees for provisional teacher training is determined by district boards of education and fees for educator preparation are separate from the fees for issuance of a certificate issuance to include in the provisions at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.6(d), which is proposed for deletion.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.6(b)10, which states that an application fee for a qualifying academic certificate, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-41, is \$30.00. The Department proposes to replace “[a]n application fee for a qualifying academic certificate” with “[f]or an academic qualifying credential” to reflect the proposed name change for the credential at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-15.1.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.6(c), which allows the State Board to “establish in this section a fee schedule for services related to the issuance of certificates that includes, but is not limited to, fees charged by district boards of education to provisional teachers to pay for their training.” The Department also proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.6(d), which states that the fee schedules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.6(b) and (c) shall be in addition to any tuition and fees for courses and credits offered in connection with Department-approved educator preparation programs and/or assessments required for certification. The subsection’s provisions will be included at N.J.A.C.6A:9B-5.6(a), as proposed for amendment.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.6(c) to waive certification application fees for an initial application for military personnel and nonresident active-duty military spouses. The proposed new subsection will reduce unnecessary burdens on military personnel and their spouses. Reducing costs for military personnel and spouses of nonresident active-duty military personnel honors their service and acknowledges that they can be burdened with fees in multiple states as a result of having to move multiple times. The proposed subsection also will implement N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.14.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.7 Citizenship requirement

This section specifies the circumstances under which an individual who is not a United States citizen can receive a certificate.

The Department proposes to delete the second sentence at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.7(a)1, which allows the noncitizen certificate of a holder who has not become a United States

citizen within the initial five-year certification period to be renewed for an additional five-year period upon demonstration that an application for citizenship is in process but has not yet been granted. The regulation is proposed for deletion to streamline the language, as renewals of noncitizen certificates is addressed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.7(a)1i. The Department also proposes to recodify the third sentence at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.7(a)1, which allows a nonresident certificate that has been expired after the second five-year period to be renewed for a third and final time upon demonstration that an application for citizenship continues to be in process and has been actively pursued by the applicant but has not yet been granted, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.7(a)1i. The Department further proposes to allow the noncitizen certificate to be renewed up to three times, not to exceed 20 years, instead of the existing allowance that the noncitizen certificate can be renewed for a total of three five-year periods. The proposed amendment will provide ample time for noncitizens to obtain citizenship without a negative impact on their ability to maintain a certificate and employment. The Department proposes to recodify the fourth sentence at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.7(a)1, which allows the Board of Examiners to revoke a noncitizen certificate if satisfied that the certificate holder has abandoned efforts to become a United States citizen or has become disqualified for citizenship.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.8 Minimum degree and age requirement

This section requires applicants for teaching certificates to be at least 18 years old, have graduated from an approved high school or have an equivalent education as determined by the Board of Examiners, and have received a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited higher education institution. This section also states that the requirement of a bachelor's degree shall not apply to applicants for career and technical education, educational interpreter, or military science endorsements.

The Department proposes to delete "regionally" before "accredited higher education institution" to align with the United States Department of Education position that regionally accredited institutions are only a subsection of nationally accredited institutions, which are recognized by the United States Department of Education, and that it is unnecessary to limit the candidates seeking certification to only regionally accredited institutions. The proposed amendment will also expand the potential candidate pool for individuals seeking a certificate in New Jersey. The Department proposes the same amendment throughout the chapter, where necessary.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.9 Examination in physiology, hygiene, and substance abuse issues requirement

This section requires all candidates for instructional certificates to pass an examination in physiology, hygiene, and substance abuse issues.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.10 Certification of veterans

This section allows for veterans to continue working under a previous evaluation for certification if they request reinstatement of the preservice status and provide the discharge paperwork. The rules also explain the length of time a veteran can work under the previous evaluation for certification.

The Department proposes to amend the section heading by replacing "veterans" with "military personnel" and adding "and nonresident active-duty military spouses" at the end. The proposed amendments will expand the eligibility to all military personnel, rather than only to veterans, and to spouses of nonresident active-duty personnel. The Department also proposes to replace "veterans" with "military personnel" throughout the section.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C.6A:9B-5.10(a) to state that the section applies to former and current United States military personnel, including, but not limited to, veterans, active-duty, National Guard, and reserves.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C.6A:9B-5.10(a) and (b) as new N.J.A.C.6A:9B-5.10(b) and (c), respectively.

The Department proposes to amend recodified N.J.A.C.6A:9B-5.10(b), which allows military personnel who received an evaluation for certification before entering the military to continue under that evaluation if a copy of an honorable discharge from service is submitted. The Department proposes to replace “an honorable discharge” with “a note of discharge or release under conditions other than dishonorable” to ensure that all discharged military personnel who were not dishonorably discharged are eligible for issuance of a certificate under this section.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C.6A:9B-5.10(d) to require a candidate to prove military status by submitting either a copy of a DD214 with a note of discharge or release under conditions other than dishonorable or a copy of a valid military identification card.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C.6A:9B-5.10(e) to allow a nonresident active-duty military spouse to apply for a temporary instructional certificate that authorizes employment as a teacher in New Jersey in accordance with the eligibility requirements and process at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.10. The proposed regulation will align the section to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-14.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.11 Exchange teachers

This section sets forth the rules governing the exchange of teachers from another state or country for up to one school year.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.11(b), which requires a teacher who is a foreign national to file with the district board of education, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7, a non-citizen oath of allegiance to the effect that the teacher will support the Constitution of the United States during the period of his or her employment within the State. The Department proposes to replace “file with the district board of education, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7, a non-citizen oath of allegiance to the effect that he or she will support the Constitution of the United States during the period of his or her employment within the State” with “comply with the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.7(a)2.” The language proposed for deletion is repetitive of the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.7(a)2.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.12 Emergency certificate for candidates for educational services certificates

This section allows an emergency certificate for educational services to be granted for a candidate in authorized educational services areas if the chief school can demonstrate the inability to locate a suitable certified candidate due to unforeseen shortages or other extenuating circumstances. This section also sets forth other parameters for the emergency certificate.

The Department proposes to amend the first sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.12(c), which allows a chief school administrator to apply to the executive county superintendent for an emergency certificate for a candidate in authorized educational services areas if the chief school administrator can demonstrate the inability to locate a suitable certified candidate due to unforeseen shortages or other extenuating circumstances. The Department proposes to replace “suitable certified candidate” with “qualified candidate with the required certificate for the position” to clarify that “suitable

certified” refers to candidates who are certified for the position for which they are being hired. The same amendment is proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.14(b) and (b)3.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.13 Interstate contracts

This section allows the Commissioner and the Secretary to enter into contracts with other states to allow reciprocity of teachers’ credentials, in accordance with NASDTEC Interstate Contract.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.14 Limited certificate for foreign teachers

This section contains the rules governing the limited certification of foreign teachers.

The Department proposes to amend the section’s heading by replacing “foreign” with “noncitizen” to update terminology. The proposed amendment is made throughout this section. The Department also proposes to replace “foreign government” with “non-United States government” throughout the section.

The Department proposes to recodify the second sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.14(c)2, which allows the teacher to teach his or her native language upon demonstration of oral language proficiency as certified by the agency, as the second sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.14(c)6. World language teacher requirements are different than other requirements in this section, therefore, the proposed recodification will group together the world language teacher provisions.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.14(d), which allows the holder of a limited certificate for noncitizen teachers to teach in bilingual education programs in the language that was the medium of instruction in the certificate holder’s educator preparation program and in the content area and/or grade level of preparation in the certificate holder’s country of origin, provided the certificate holder meets the English language proficiency test requirement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.14(c)7. The Department proposes to delete “provided he or she meets the English language proficiency test requirement in (c)7 above” to remove redundancy in demonstrating English language proficiency. Demonstration of English language proficiency is part of the requirements in the educator preparation program in the applicant’s county of origin.

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 chief school administrators report the qualifying coaches in their school districts each year.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.16 Athletics personnel

This section describes who may be hired as a coach or organizer of games, events, or contests in physical education or athletics.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.17 Instruction in educational technology, computers, and other digital tools

This section requires every teacher to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of computers and other educational technology resources and tools as defined by the Professional Standards for Teachers. This section also requires all educators to integrate into their classrooms appropriate technology resources. This section sets forth who may be assigned to instruct students in the use of technologies, computers, and other digital tools.

The Department proposes to amend the section’s heading by replacing “[i]nstruction in educational technology” with “[e]ducational technology.” The Department also proposes to replace “computers, and tools” with “resources and tools.” The Department proposes the same amendments throughout this section for consistency. The Professional Learning Standards at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-9.3 do not mention computers or refer to teaching technology; but rather focus on the use of technology as educational tools and resources.

Subchapter 6. College Courses and Certification

This subchapter governs when college coursework, including coursework taken outside of the United States, may be accepted toward the course requirements for a candidate to attain a CEAS.

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 a regionally 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 to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-6.1(a), which requires a candidate for certification to hold a bachelor’s degree or higher from a regionally accredited college or university or a foreign higher education institution recognized by international accreditation agencies. The Department proposes to add “at the time of degree conferral” at the end to ensure that candidates are not unfairly penalized if the institution from which they received a degree loses its accreditation.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-6.1(a)1, which states that a New Jersey college approved by the State Board for the preparation of teachers is one of three approved entities at which a candidate for a CEAS can complete a CEAS educator preparation program and coursework. The Department proposes to replace “State Board” with “Commissioner” because the authority to approve educator preparation programs lies with the Commissioner. The Department also proposes in this paragraph and throughout the section to add “or university” after “college” to clarify that universities also can provide the requisite instruction.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-6.1(b)3, which allows the CEAS educator preparation program and coursework to be taken at accredited two-year colleges provided the courses are accepted toward meeting the requirements for certification by a college approved by the Department and such courses appear on the official transcript of a regionally accredited four-year college. The Department proposes to delete “and such courses appear on the official transcript of a regionally accredited four-year college.” The Department also proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-6.1(b)3i, which states that no more than six semester-hour credits in professional education are completed on the two-year college level, except as provided for in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18. The proposed amendments will allow candidates’ courses to be listed on a two- or four-year college transcript and will help relieve the burden and cost on some candidates to transfer credits from one institution to another. The proposed amendments also will clarify that all required courses for certain certificates such as school business administrator and school nurse can be completed at a two- or four-year institution. The proposed amendments, which align the section with N.J.S.A. 18A:62-46, will allow approved educator preparation programs to have the discretion to accept more credits from two-year institutions and enable stronger partnerships between two- and four-year institutions.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-6.2 Recognition of advanced standing in college

This section states that advanced work completed in secondary school that is assigned college credit by the higher education institution the candidate attends counts toward meeting the requirements for certification. This section also allows the Department to accept, as college credit for purposes of certification, the courses that were waived for which a regionally accredited college or university grants advanced standing but does not award college credit.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-6.3 Course information

This section allows courses completed by correspondence or distance learning to be accepted for certification purposes only if the courses are completed through a regionally accredited college or university and appear on an official transcript from the college or university. This section also states that teaching a course in a regionally accredited college or university shall be deemed the equivalent of having presented the course on a college transcript.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-6.4 Equivalency of coursework completed in other countries

This section requires an applicant for a CE or CEAS who has completed college-level study in a country other than the United States to present to the Office an equivalency report of that study from a Department-approved credentials evaluation agency. This section also sets forth the requirements for equivalency reports.

Subchapter 7. Substitute Credential

This subchapter includes the requirements and procedures for attaining a substitute credential. This subchapter also sets forth the rules governing when a substitute teacher can work in place of a full-time teacher and the allowable duration.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.1 Issuance of substitute credential for positions requiring instructional certificates

This section governs the issuance of a substitute credential and the assignment of substitute teachers to fill full-time teacher vacancies.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.1(b), which permits the Board of Examiners to issue and revoke a substitute credential. The Department proposes to add “or suspend” after “revoke” to clarify that the Board of Examiners has the authority to also suspend a substitute credential in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.4.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.1(d), (e), and (f), which set forth the process of how a school district must fill a vacancy, to new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.7, Fulfilling teacher vacancies and absences, for organizational clarity.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.1(d) to require holders of a CE with a career and technical education endorsement or a standard certificate with a career and technical education endorsement to obtain a substitute credential before serving as a substitute teacher. The proposed subsection will ensure that a holder of a career and technical education endorsement has the full review of credit requirements for the substitute teacher licensure before the holder serves as a substitute teacher in an instructional course.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.2 Substitute credential application and approval process

This section governs the application and approval process for the substitute credential.

The Department proposes to amend the section heading to replace “application and approval process” with “requirements” to more accurately reflect the section’s content.

The Department proposes to relocate N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.3(a), which requires a candidate for a substitute credential to present a minimum of 60 semester-hour credits completed at a regionally accredited college or university at the time of applying for the credential, unless the candidate qualifies for the career and technical education substitute credential exception, to new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.2(b). The proposed relocation will group all substitute credential requirements together. The Department also proposes to reduce the minimum number of required semester-hour credits to 30 from the existing 60, which will allow students earlier in their college experience to substitute. The proposed amendment also will codify the provisions at N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.29 that provided an alternative substitute pathway due to the substitute teacher shortage caused by the COVID-10 public health emergency. As that temporary pathway is only available to candidates until June 30, 2023, this rule codifies the reduction of credit requirements for all candidates. The Department anticipates that the reduction in required semester-hour credits will provide additional opportunities for aspiring educators to work and engage in school communities to promote their experience and interest in education. The Department also proposes to replace “60” with “30” credits throughout the subchapter, where necessary.

The Department proposes to relocate N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.3(b), which provides that the substitute credential is valid for up to five years from the date of issuance, to new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.2(d). The proposed relocation will group all substitute credential requirements together.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.3 Requirements for substitute credential

This section requires a candidate for a substitute credential to present a minimum of 60 semester-hour credits completed at a regionally accredited college or university, unless the candidate qualifies for the career and technical education substitute credential. This section also states that a substitute credential shall be valid for five years from the date of issuance. This section further allows a candidate to renew the credential within six months of its expiration.

The Department proposes to relocate the provisions in this section to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.3 as already described.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.4 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 to recodify this section as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.3.

The Department proposes to amend recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.3(b), which permits holders of specified qualifications to substitute for no more than 40 instructional days in the same classroom per year. The Department proposes to add “in any school district” after “to substitute” and “school” before “year,” respectively. The proposed amendments will clarify that the holder of a substitute credential may serve in as a substitute teacher for no more than 40 instructional days in the same classroom per school year.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5 Career and technical education substitute credential

This section establishes the requirements for the issuance of a substitute credential for career and technical education.

The Department proposes to recodify this section as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.4.

The Department proposes to amend the first sentence at recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.4(a)1, which applies all requirements at N.J.A.C. 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3 to this credential except the 60 general semester-hour credits requirement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.2(b). The Department proposes to add “except the 30 general semester-hour credits requirement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.2(b),” which establishes the credit requirement exception for career and technical education substitute credential holders, before “shall apply.” The Department also proposes to delete “except the 60 general semester-hour credits requirement in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.3(a).” The proposed amendments will align the section with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.2, as proposed for amendment.

The Department propose amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.4(a) to add “or teaching” after “work” to allow teaching experience to count toward the work experience required for the substitute credential. The Department also proposes to delete “within the past five years” to eliminate the time limits for work or teaching experience. In the last sentence, the Department proposes to delete “work” and add “State or out-of-state” after “valid.” The proposed amendments will expand that pool of eligible candidates for a career and technical education substitute credential by expanding the experience, extending the time for qualified experience, and expanding the valid occupational licenses to include out-of-state. The proposed amendments also align to the proposed amendments to the career and technical education endorsement rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.6 Substitute credential for positions not requiring instructional certificates

This section governs the issuance of a substitute credential for school nurse/non-instructional and educational interpreter positions. The section also establishes the length of time a holder of a substitute credential for the positions can serve in a school district per year.

The Department proposes to recodify this section as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5.

The Department proposes to amend new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5(a), which allows the executive county superintendent to issue a substitute credential to serve as a substitute school nurse/non-instructional to the holder of a valid New Jersey registered professional nurse license. The Department proposes to delete “[t]he executive county superintendent may issue a substitute credential to serve as.” The Department also proposes to add “credential may be issued” before “to the holder.” As indicated in the summary of N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.1, the Board of Examiners is responsible for issuing the substitute certificates and not the executive county superintendent. The same amendment is proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5(b); a similar amendment is proposed at new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.6.

The Department proposes to amend the first sentence at recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5(b), which allows the executive county superintendent to issue a substitute credential to serve as a substitute educational interpreter to candidates with a high school diploma or GED and who have completed the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) with a minimum score of three. The Department proposes to replace the existing educational requirement of “a high school diploma or GED” with “an associate or higher degree. The Department also proposes to increase the score on the EIPA to 3.5 from the existing 3.0. The Department further proposes to add, at the end of the sentence, “or demonstrated interpreting skills as evidenced

through the possession of a sign language certificate from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or other Department-approved national accrediting agency for sign language interpreting.” The Department also proposes to amend the second sentence at recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5(b), which allows substitute educational interpreters to serve for up to one academic year. The Department proposes to replace “one academic year” with “six months during the academic year” to promote the continuity of services. The proposed amendments will increase the minimum score required, but also will provide more pathways for candidates to demonstrate eligibility. The proposed amendments also will shorten the time the substitute can serve to promote the hiring of fully credentialed educational interpreters.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.7 Substitute credential for exchange teachers

This section governs the issuance of a substitute credential to a teacher from another country serving as an exchange teacher.

The Department proposes to recodify this section as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.6.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.7 Fulfilling teacher vacancies and absences

This proposed section will outline the policies and procedures for fulfilling teacher vacancies and absences.

For organizational clarity, the Department proposes to relocate N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.1(d), (e), and (f) to new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.7(a), (b), and (c), respectively. The reorganization will place all guidelines for school districts filling long-term vacancies in the same section. The proposed reorganization will clearly delineate between certification requirements and authorizations for serving in certain roles to provide clarity for school districts.

The Department proposes at new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.7(a)2i, which allows the executive county superintendent to extend, at the school district’s request, to 60 calendar days the requirement to permanently fill the vacancy. The Department did not include “[f]or good cause shown and” before “[a]t the school district’s request” as in existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.1(d) to eliminate redundancy; N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.3 addresses time limitations for substitute teachers and details the process through which districts request extensions. The Department also proposes a new provision at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.7(a)2ii to require school districts filling long-term vacancies with CE or CEAS holders under this subchapter to register certificate holders for a provisional certificate pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4. The proposed regulation will allow the time served to count toward the educator’s provisional years, which will provide a pathway to a standard certificate for certificate holders who serve as long-term substitutes.

Subchapter 8. Requirements for Instructional Certification

This subchapter sets forth the requirements for a candidate to attain a CE, CEAS, or standard instructional certificate.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.1 Instructional certificate

This section provides the basic requirements governing the sequence and issuance of the three types of instructional certificates – CEAS or CE, provisional, and standard. The section also allows candidates for an instructional certificate to apply directly to the Department or the educator preparation program in which the candidate is enrolled can submit the requisite information on the candidate’s behalf.

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 to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)3, which requires a candidate to achieve at least a 3.0 GPA when a GPA of 4.00 equals an A grade for candidates graduating on or after September 1, 2016, in a baccalaureate or higher degree program or a State-approved post-baccalaureate certification program with a minimum of 13 semester-hour credits. The Department proposes to delete “with a minimum of 13 semester-hour credits” because the credit minimum is unnecessarily limiting for different programs, which meet all other requirements set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:9A. The Department proposes the same amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c)1 and 8.3(a)1 and (b)1.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c)2, which exempts a candidate from the 3.00 GPA requirement if the candidate graduates on or after September 1, 2016, with a GPA that is below 3.00, but at least 2.75 when a GPA of 4.00 equals an A grade, and exceeds the passing score on the appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge by 10 percent or more. The Department proposes to delete “who graduates on or after September 1, 2016.” The Department also proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c)2i, which allowed candidates graduating before September 1, 2016, to meet the former GPA requirement of 2.75 if the candidate had a GPA of at least 2.50 and exceeded the passing score on the appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge by 10 percent or more. The provisions proposed for deletion are no longer necessary because the implementation date has passed and candidates for a CEAS will have graduated after September 1, 2016. The Department further proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c)2ii, which states that the alternative requirement shall not be construed as a waiver under N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.12(c), because the GPA exemption at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c)2i is proposed for deletion. The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(b)2i and ii for the same reason.

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 amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5, which requires a candidate to achieve, after September 1, 2015, a Department-established minimum score on a Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills. The Department proposes to delete “after September 1, 2015” because the date has passed.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5i(1), which requires the Department to maintain on its website a list of qualifying minimum scores for the SAT, ACT, or GRE that will exempt the candidate from having to demonstrate proficiency on a Commissioner-approved proficiency test. The regulation also requires the qualifying minimum score to be approximately equal to the top-third percentile score for all test takers in the year the respective test was taken, for each year such data is available. The Department proposes to replace “approximately equal to the top-third percentile score” with “the top-half percentile score.” The Department has worked with assessment vendors and reviewed data that revealed SAT, ACT, and GRE percentile scores in the top half of all scores to be more comparable to a passing score on the Commissioner-approved proficiency assessment. The proposed amendment will eliminate the need for candidates to pay for, and take, the proficiency assessment when they have demonstrated English language and mathematics proficiencies through the SAT, ACT, or GRE.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5ii to provide another exception to the requirement that a candidate must demonstrate proficiency by passing a Commissioner-

approved proficiency assessment. The Department proposes to allow a candidate who applies for a CE to demonstrate proficiency in the use of the English language and/or mathematics by holding a master's or terminal degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0 from an accredited institution of higher education. The proposed exception will eliminate the need for candidates changing careers to enter education to pay for, and take, the proficiency assessment when they have demonstrated basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills through obtainment of an advanced degree.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)6, which requires candidates applying for a CE prior to academic year 2017-2018 to demonstrate knowledge of basic pedagogical skills, including, but not limited to, classroom management, lesson planning, introduction to the NJSLs and Professional Standards for Teachers, and assessment of student progress by successfully completing a minimum of 24 hours of study offered through a Department-authorized provider or through equivalent coursework documented on a transcript from accredited college or university. The regulation is no longer necessary because academic year 2017-2018 has passed.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(b)3, which describes the GPA exception for candidates who graduate on or after September 1, 2016, and are sponsored by a CE educator preparation program and are employed at the time of participating in the program. The Department proposes to delete “who graduates on or after September 1, 2016,” because the date has passed. The Department also proposes to add at the end “[t]he candidate shall submit to the Department documentation of enrollment with the candidate’s other certification documentation.” The proposed amendment will clarify the expectation of document submission and facilitate faster review of credentials.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(d), which applies the GPA requirements and their exceptions at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(b) to all relevant sections at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 and 11. The Department proposes to replace “at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 and 11” with “at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 through 11” because the GPA requirements and exceptions also apply to Subchapter 8A, Limited Instructional Certificate of Eligibility and Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing Pilot Program, Subchapter 9, Instructional Endorsements, and Subchapter 10, Additional Requirements or Exceptions to Requirements for Instructional Endorsements for Certification.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4 Requirements for the provisional certificate

This section sets forth the requirements for a candidate to be eligible for a provisional certificate.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(a)3, which requires a school district to submit to the Office documentation that demonstrates that a candidate for a provisional certificate has been registered in the district mentoring program upon employment and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4. The Department proposes to delete “and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4” because professional development and mentoring are not required to obtain a provisional certificate.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(a)4ii, which requires the CE educator preparation program in which the candidate is enrolled to ensure that the candidate is enrolled in bilingual/bicultural courses immediately upon starting and throughout the program. The Department proposes to add “and attending” after “enrolled in” to ensure that educators earning a bilingual/bicultural endorsement receive program supports and professional learning.

The Department to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(b), which states that the effective date of the provisional certificate issuance is the date on which the CE or CEAS holder begins

employment with the district board of education in a certified position in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2 and 18A:27-4a. The Department proposes to also require the employing school district to register the teacher within 60 days of the date the CE or CEAS holder begins employment. The proposed amendment will ensure the Department can maintain an accurate record of educators in the provisional teacher program by specifying that the district board of education has the responsibility for reporting newly employed CE or CEAS holders.

The Department proposes to relocate N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(e), which requires the annual summative evaluation rating(s) from each prior employing school district to constitute part of the record on which a principal shall base the standard certification determination, to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.6 because that section is a more appropriate location for the regulation.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(f) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(e).

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(f) to allow a candidate holding a temporary instructional certificate issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.10 who meets all requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(a) above, except N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(a)1, to be eligible for a temporary provisional certificate in an appropriate instructional endorsement area. The proposed subsection also states that the temporary provisional certificate shall expire concurrent with the expiration of the temporary instructional certificate. The proposed subsection further states that the temporary provisional certificate in the specific endorsement area shall not be renewed. The proposed subsection also states that the time a candidate is employed under the temporary provisional certificate shall count toward a candidate's total allowable provisional period, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(c). The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(f)1 to state that a candidate holding a temporary instructional certificate who has already completed an educator preparation program shall be issued a temporary provisional certificate without being required to enroll in another educator preparation program. The proposed regulation will align the section with new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.10, which is the proposed section regarding the nonresident military spouse temporary instructional certificate. The temporary certificate provides flexibility for nonresident military spouses to be employed as a teacher. The proposed time limitation will ensure that the temporary instructional certificate is not used to circumvent New Jersey's educator certification requirements.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5 Renewal of the provisional certificate

This section governs the renewal of provisional certificates.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(c), which states that the two-year provisional certificate may be renewed once for a maximum provisional period of four years or may be renewed twice for a maximum provisional period of six years if the candidate fulfills one or more of the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(c)1, 2, and 3, in addition to the renewal requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(b). The Department proposes to delete "may be renewed once for a maximum provisional period of four years or" because this occurs when a certificate holder fulfills the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(b).

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(c)2, which allows candidates who are issued the provisional certificate after February 1 of the first school year to renew their provisional certificate twice. The proposed deletion will allow provisional teachers more time to complete the requirements for their standard certificate.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(c)3 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(c)2.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(d) to state that a candidate who is issued a temporary instructional certificate is not eligible for a renewal of a temporary provisional certificate in the specific endorsement area issued. The proposed subsection will align the section with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.10, which is the proposed section for the nonresident military Spouse temporary certificate.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.6 Evaluation of a provisional teacher for the standard certificate

This section sets forth the procedures that principals or their designees must follow when evaluating provisional teachers.

The Department proposes to relocate existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4(e), which requires the annual summative evaluation rating(s) from each prior employing school district to constitute part of the record on which a principal shall base the standard certification determination, to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.6(f), as previously described.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7 Requirements for the standard certificate

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

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 new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(a)1i to exempt 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 from having to complete a CEAS educator preparation program that includes clinical practice and endorsement in a subject that is also issued in New Jersey. The proposed regulation will eliminate the requirement to complete an additional clinical practicum for candidates who satisfied that requirement as part of their initial certification.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(a)3, which requires candidates applying for reciprocity who begin teaching academic year 2017-2018 to pass 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. The Department proposes to delete “[e]ffective for candidates who begin teaching academic year 2017-2018” because the date has passed and the requirement now applies to all candidate cohorts.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(c), which states that candidates who have been issued an out-of-State CE shall meet all requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3 with the exception of N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(b) and (e). The Department proposes to incorporate the exceptions at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(f) and new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(h), (i), and (j).

The Department proposes to amend the first sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(e), which states that a candidate who has a valid standard certificate issued by another state, including an endorsement in a subject area or grade level also issued by the Office, but does not meet the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(d)1 shall be issued a CE. The Department proposes to

replace “CE” with “CEAS.” The Department also proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(e)1 through 4, which require the candidate to meet all requirements for provisional and standard certificates at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4 and 8.7, respectively, but exempts the candidate from CE certification requirements; the provisional certificate requirement to be enrolled in a CE educator preparation program; the renewal of provisional certificate requirement to be enrolled in, or to have completed, a CE educator preparation program; and the standard certification requirement to complete a CE educator preparation program. The proposed amendment and deletions account for the candidates who have completed educator preparation programs in their home states, which qualifies them for a CEAS. Out-of-State teachers must complete only evaluations and mentoring for a standard certificate.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(h) to establish that the Office will issue an instructional CE to candidates who enroll in an educator preparation program participating the Alternate Route Interstate Reciprocity Pilot Program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.7; hold an equivalent, valid CE or provisional instructional certificate issued by another state; pass a subject-matter test to receive an out-of-State endorsement or the appropriate New Jersey subject-matter test; have at least one year of effective teaching experience as documented by a letter from the candidate’s former supervisor, principal, or employing school district’s human resource officer; and demonstrate good standing during previous teaching experience under an out-of-State certificate.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(i) to require candidates participating in the Alternate Route Interstate Reciprocity Pilot Program to meet all of the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4 to be eligible for a provisional certificate.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(j) to establish that the Office will issue a standard certificate to candidates who complete a CE educator preparation program while participating the Alternate Route Interstate Reciprocity Pilot Program; 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 meet the requirements for a standard certification, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7. New N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8(j)3i states that a candidate who successfully completes CE educator preparation program participating in the Alternate Route Interstate Reciprocity Pilot Program may apply to the Office to have up to one year of effective teaching experience earned out-of-State, as documented by a letter from the candidate’s former supervisor, principal, or employing school district’s human resource officer, apply toward the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.6(b).

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.9 Requirements for non-public school training programs

This section sets forth requirements for nonpublic schools that choose to provide a mentoring program for novice teachers.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.9(a)2, which requires a participating nonpublic school to assign, as a mentor, a teacher on staff in a non-administrative, non-supervisory capacity who holds a standard New Jersey instructional certificate. The Department proposes to also allow the nonpublic school to assign a non-staff member who meets the criteria at N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.2 as the mentor. The proposed amendment will align the rule for participating nonpublic schools with the requirements for mentors in public schools and allow retired educators to serve as mentors.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.10 Nonresident military spouse temporary instructional certificate

This proposed section will establish the requirements for a nonresident military spouse to be eligible for a temporary instructional certificate, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.14.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.10(a) will require an applicant for the nonresident military spouse temporary instructional certificate to do the following:

- Be ineligible for any other instructional endorsement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.1 through 8.8;
- Document nonresident active-duty spouse status by submitting a military dependent identification card;
- Hold a valid and current license or certificate to teach issued by another State for which there is an equivalent and currently issued New Jersey endorsement; and
- Demonstrate competency in teaching via demonstration of either three years of successful out-of-State teaching under a validly issued out-of-State teaching license or meeting the GPA requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2. The candidate shall submit a letter of experience from a past supervisor or authorized school district representative and/or a completed Record of Professional Experience form.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.10(b) states that the temporary instructional certificate shall be valid for one year from issuance date and shall not be subject to renewal. The proposed subsection also will require certificate holders to apply and be eligible for a certificate pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 through 13 to continue teaching upon expiration of the temporary instructional certificate.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.10(c) states that the temporary instructional certificate shall be issued for a specific instructional content area endorsement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.10(a)3 to ensure that certificate holders are placed in classrooms for which they have appropriate content knowledge.

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

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.1 Scope

This section establishes the scope of the five-year pilot program created pursuant to P.L. 2021, c. 224, as well as general provisions for the creation and issuance of the limited CE and limited CEAS in an instructional area.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.2 School district participation

This section sets forth the criteria for Commissioner approval of school districts to participate in the limited CE and limited CEAS pilot program, as well as criteria for their continued participation.

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

This section contains the eligibility criteria for the limited CE and limited CEAS in an instructional area. The section requires a candidate for a limited CEAS in an instructional area to meet all the requirements for a CEAS pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2, with the exception of one of the following: the minimum grade point average (GPA) requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C.

6A:9B-8.2(a)3 and its exceptions at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c); or 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 exceptions at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)2. The section also requires a candidate for a limited CE in an instructional area to hold a bachelor's or an advanced degree and to 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 exceptions at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(b); 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) the minimum 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 exceptions at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)2.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.4 Provisional and standard certificate requirements for certificate holders with a limited CE or CEAS in an instructional area

This section sets forth the criteria and requirements for holders of a limited CE and CEAS in an instructional area to earn a provisional certificate. This section states that the limited CE or limited CEAS in an instructional area satisfies the CE or CEAS requirement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.1(a) for purposes of obtaining a provisional certificate until November 1, 2027. This section also requires a certificate holder with a limited CE or limited CEAS in an instructional area to meet all requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4 to be eligible for a provisional certificate and to meet all provisional certificate requirements by no later than September 1, 2027. This section further requires a provisional certificate holder hired under the pilot program to meet all requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7 to be eligible for a standard certificate.

Subchapter 9. Instructional Endorsements

This subchapter sets forth the basic requirements for an endorsement in a subject area, describes what the endorsements authorize the holder to instruct, and provides a list of the subject areas for which the Department can issue an endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1 Endorsement requirements

This section sets forth the basic requirements that apply to nearly all available 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 new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.2(a)7 to state that “[h]olders 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 through grade 12 shall hold a computer science endorsement issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15.” The proposed paragraph will align the section with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.26, which authorizes the creation of a computer science education endorsement to the instructional certificate.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.3 Department-issued endorsements and authorizations

This section provides a comprehensive list of the endorsements issued by the Department. The endorsements are grouped within the relevant NJSLS or by specific populations, subjects, ages, and/or grade levels.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.3(a)1iv, which states that the speech arts and dramatics endorsement authorizes the holder to teach speech arts and dramatics in all public schools. The Department proposes to delete “and dramatics” because there is a separate theater endorsement that is equivalent to dramatics. Therefore, “and dramatics” is no longer necessary and is being deleted throughout this chapter, where necessary.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.3(a)2iv, which states that the Swimming and water safety instructor endorsement authorizes the holder to teach swimming, diving, and water safety in all public schools. The Department proposes to delete “instructor” for consistency with the other endorsements listed. The proposed amendment also will implement part of a petition for rulemaking from the American Red Cross to adjust the names of safety certificates and other language related to qualifications for teaching swimming, diving, and water safety in New Jersey public schools (see 54 N.J.R. 720(a)).

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.3(a)9 to state that the computer science endorsement authorizes the holder to teach computer science, as described in Standard 8.1 of the NJSLS, in all New Jersey public schools. The proposed paragraph will align the section with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.26, which authorizes the creation of a computer science education endorsement to the instructional certificate.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.3(b)1, which provides that the bilingual/bicultural endorsement authorizes the holder to teach bilingual/bicultural education in all public schools. The Department proposes to add that the bilingual/bicultural endorsement also authorizes a holder to provide consultative services and supportive resource programs, including modification and adaptation of curriculum and instruction to English language learners. The proposed amendment will enable holders of the bilingual/bicultural endorsement to provide services beyond instruction.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.4 21st century life and careers and career and technical education endorsements and authorizations

This section sets forth the business education and career and technical education (CTE) endorsements and authorizations, which differ from other endorsements in Subchapter 9.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.4(a)1ii, which authorizes holders of the business: accounting endorsement to teach accounting, bookkeeping, finance and investment, business mathematics, and exploration of related careers. The Department proposes to delete “bookkeeping” because bookkeeping is part of accounting responsibilities and the terminology is no longer used in the profession.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.4(c)7, which authorizes holders of the government and public administration endorsement to teach in CTE programs that prepare students for careers related to governance, national security, foreign service, revenue and taxation, regulation, and management and administration at the local, State, and Federal levels. The Department proposes to delete “foreign service” because the CTE career cluster prepares students for careers in state and Federal government rather than for a career in foreign service.

Subchapter 10. Additional Requirements or Exceptions to Requirements for Instructional Endorsements for Certification

This subchapter contains additional requirements and rules that apply to specific endorsements.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.1 General provisions

This section states that the subchapter includes, in addition to the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 and 9, requirements for the instructional endorsement, including specific coursework required for programs leading to an endorsement for any subject referenced in the subchapter and approved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9A.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2 Elementary school (K-6)

This section requires a candidate for the elementary school (K-6) endorsement to complete a liberal arts, science, dual-content, or interdisciplinary academic major or a minimum of 60 semester-hour credits in liberal arts and/or science to satisfy the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)1iii.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(a) to state that candidates for an elementary school (K-6) endorsement must complete all of the certification requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 and 9, with the exception of N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)1. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 and 9 apply to all endorsement areas.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(a) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(b) with amendments. The Department proposes to delete “[t]o meet the endorsement requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)1iii” because that subparagraph requires all candidates for an instructional endorsement to complete 30 content credits aligned to one subject area with 12 credits at the advanced level, which is unnecessary for elementary educators who teach all subject areas. The proposed amendments will allow for a combination of content knowledge and pedagogical content knowledge more appropriate for the elementary school (K-6) endorsement. The Department additionally proposes to add “also” before “shall complete” to specify that a candidate for the elementary school (K-6) endorsement must complete the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(a) and (b)1 or 2.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(b)2, which requires a candidate for the elementary (K-6) endorsement to complete a minimum of 60 semester-hour credits in liberal arts and/or science if the candidate did not complete a liberal arts, science, dual-content or interdisciplinary major. The Department proposes to add “for a candidate who begins a CEAS education preparation program on or before August 31, 2025,” at the beginning to require candidates who apply on or before that date to meet existing requirements. The Department also proposes to add new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(b)2i to explain the requirements for candidates entering the program on or after September 1, 2025. The inclusion of dates will allow candidates currently enrolled in programs to complete the existing requirements through August 31, 2025, while providing time for educator preparation programs to make the necessary program adjustments and require candidates entering programs after September 1, 2025, to meet the new requirements. At new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(b)2i, the Department proposes to reduce the number of semester-hour credits to 30 in core-content areas, including English, mathematics, social studies/history for candidates that begin educator preparation programs on or after September 1, 2025. Reducing the number of content credits will give educator preparation programs more opportunity to focus on candidates’ pedagogical content knowledge. The 30 semester-hour

credits may encompass a sequence of classes in the core content areas, while also including classes that could be applied to an academic major, in addition to core classes that may be required at the college or university.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(c) to establish the required pedagogy coursework and/or clinical experiences for all candidates for a CEAS with an elementary school (K-6) endorsement who enter educator preparation programs on or after September 1, 2025, while also delineating the specific requirements for building pedagogical content knowledge in core content areas for elementary teachers. Currently, the Department does not specify pedagogical coursework required in educator preparation programs that lead to an elementary school (K-6) endorsement. The Department also proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(c)1, 2, and 3 to ensure that all candidates who obtain the endorsement are explicitly trained in pedagogical content knowledge for teaching mathematics, literacy, science, and social studies with an emphasis on the integration of literacy across all content areas, which will align with the Department's focus on robust literacy instruction for all students, especially early learners.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(c)1 and 2 to include "or equivalent" after "credits" to allow educator preparation programs to modify their curricula to align with the new requirements and remain in compliance with statutory requirements of the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. The proposed amendment will provide flexibility for educator preparation programs to design the new curriculum to align with their current approved curricula. The Department proposes the same amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15(d) and 11.2(b)1 and 2.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(d) to require a holder of a CE with an elementary school (K-6) endorsement who begins teaching provisionally on or after September 1, 2025, to complete a Department-approved New Jersey college or university program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2(c)1 through 3. The proposed new rule will hold all candidates to the same expectations.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.3 Health and physical education

The section sets forth the requirements for the health and physical education endorsement.

The Department proposes to change the section's heading to "Health and physical education and physical education" to clarify the requirements set forth in this section apply to two endorsements -- health and physical education and physical education.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.3(a)1, which requires the candidate for the health and physical education endorsement to complete a 30-credit coherent sequence of courses in health and a minimum of 15 credits in physical education, which must include the study of individual, dual, and team sports. The Department proposes to delete "dual" because dual sports are included in "team sports." The Department also proposes to add "adaptive physical education" to ensure that physical education teachers are equipped to work with students of all levels of ability.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.4 Physical science

The section establishes the requirements for the physical science endorsement.

The Department proposes to replace the section heading with “Science” because this section applies to the new add-on endorsement proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13, as well as the physical science endorsement.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.4(b) to require candidates holding a CEAS or standard certificate with a science endorsement seeking an additional CEAS or standard certificate with a science endorsement to complete 15 credits in the corresponding content area with six credits at the advanced level and pass the State test of subject matter knowledge. Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.4(b)i states that the GPA flexibilities pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(c) and 8.3(b) shall not apply. The proposed subsection will eliminate a redundancy in content requirements to obtain an additional science endorsement. The candidates have already met the general science requirements and have taken the subject-matter assessment for general science.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.5 World languages

The section sets forth the requirements for the world languages endorsement.

The Department proposes to delete which exempts a candidate who matriculated and enrolled in classes in a world language educator preparation program no later than spring semester 2005 and who met the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.2 and completed the program by N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.5(c), September 1, 2007, from being required to complete the linguistic competency requirement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.5(a)1 above. The Department also proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.5(c)1, requires a candidate who meets the section’s requirements but applies to the Office after March 1, 2008, to complete the linguistic competency requirement. The subsection is no longer necessary because these dates have passed and the requirements are now applicable to all candidates.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.6 Technology education

This section contains the requirements for the technology education endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.7 Art

The section sets forth the requirements for the art endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.8 Speech arts and dramatics

The section establishes the requirements for the speech arts and dramatics endorsement.

The Department proposes to repeal the section because dramatics is no longer an endorsement and replaced by existing theater endorsement. Speech arts requires only 30 credits or a major in speech, which is an existing requirement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)1iii.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.9 Social studies

The section sets forth the requirements for the social studies endorsement.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.9 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.8.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.10 Family and consumer sciences

The section contains the requirements for the family and consumer science endorsement.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.10 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.9.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.11 Comprehensive business

This section sets forth the requirements for the comprehensive business endorsement.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.11 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.10.

The Department proposes to amend new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.10(a)1, which requires a candidate for the comprehensive business endorsement to complete, at a two- or four-year regionally accredited college or university, 12 semester-hour credits in bookkeeping or accounting. The Department proposes to instead require six semester-hour credits in only accounting. Reducing the number of credits enable will increase candidate access to this endorsement while maintaining the minimum requirements, which will increase the number of educators in an area of high need. The Department is also proposing to delete “bookkeeping” as it is outdated content that is no longer used in the business profession. The Department proposes to delete “bookkeeping” through the chapter, where necessary.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.12 Computer applications and business-related information technology

This section establishes the requirements for the computer applications and business-related information technology endorsement.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.12 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.11.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.13 Finance, economics, and law

This section sets forth the requirements for the finance, economics, and law endorsement.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.13 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.12.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.14 Keyboarding and data entry

This section requires a candidate for the keyboarding and data entry endorsement to complete, at a two- or four-year regionally accredited college or university, a course in keyboarding and/or word processing applications.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.14 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.13.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15 Office administration and office systems technology

This section sets forth the requirements for the office administration and office systems technology endorsement.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.14.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.16 Individuals enrolled in degree programs prior to January 7, 2008

This section requires a candidate who matriculates and enrolls in a State-approved educator preparation program in accordance with the applicable subsection at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.6 through 10.10, on or after January 7, 2009, to complete all requirements of the applicable subsection effective as of January 7, 2008. This section also requires a candidate who is matriculated and enrolled in an out-of-State approved educator preparation program in

accordance with the applicable section at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.6 through 10.10, prior to January 7, 2009, and applied to the Office for certification no later than January 7, 2010, to complete all requirements under former N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2, as effective January 6, 2008. The section further requires a candidate who did not apply to the Office for certification by January 7, 2010, to fulfill the applicable requirements under N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.6 through 10.10 in this section.

The Department proposes to repeal existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.16 because the dates have passed and the requirements are now applicable to all candidates.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15 Computer science

This proposed section will establish the requirements for a stand-alone endorsement in computer science.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15(a) will require candidates holding a standard instructional certificate in another endorsement area to meet the following requirements to be eligible for the computer science endorsement: complete 15 credit hours of computer science coursework and pass the appropriate State test of computer science content knowledge.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15(b) will require candidates for a standard instructional certificate in computer science to complete all certificate requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 and the endorsement requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15(c) states that candidates who hold standard certificates and teach computer science as of September 1, 2024, shall be eligible for the computer science endorsement if the candidates have received two effective or highly effective ratings in teaching computer science within the last four years and pass the appropriate State test of computer science content knowledge.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15(d) will require all candidates for the computer science endorsement to complete, or have completed, a minimum of three semester-hour credits in a methods of teaching computer science course offered by an accredited college or university within 12 months of the initial computer science teaching assignment. Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10.15(d)1 states that the methods course may be included in the 15 credit hours of computer science coursework pursuant to (a)1 above or the 30 credit hours required to fulfill endorsement requirements pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)1iii.

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

This subchapter sets forth the additions to, and exceptions from, certification requirements for the following special endorsements: preschool through grade three; career and technical education; students with disabilities; bilingual and bicultural education; English as a second language; driver education; military science; elementary school with subject matter specialization; teacher of supplemental instruction in reading and mathematics, grades K-8; and the charter school CE.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.1 General provisions

This section states that the subchapter includes additional requirements or exceptions for the instructional certificate with special endorsements. This subchapter also includes specific

coursework required for programs leading to an endorsement in any subject covered in this subchapter and approved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9A.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2 Preschool through grade three

This section sets forth the requirements for the preschool through grade three endorsement.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(a)1ii(1) to require a candidate for the preschool through grade three endorsement who enters an educator preparation program on or after September 1, 2025, to complete at least 30 semester-hour credits in core-content subject areas, including English, mathematics, social studies/history, and/or science. The proposed new rule will reduce the number of liberal arts credits required to provide more opportunity for educator preparation programs to include meaningful pedagogical content-based courses for candidates for the preschool through grade three endorsement.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(a)2 to make the existing rules applicable to candidates who enter an educator preparation program on or before August 31, 2025. The Department also proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(a)2i to require CEAS candidates who enter a preschool through grade three educator preparation program on or after September 1, 2025, to complete the requirements at new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(b). The proposed paragraph will require candidates to complete subject-matter requirements for preschool through grade three and the preschool through grade three pedagogy to ensure that every student, school, and school district have access to well-trained, effective educators who meet the needs of their communities. The inclusion of dates will allow candidates currently enrolled in programs to complete the existing requirements through August 31, 2025, while providing a timeframe for educator preparation programs to make the necessary program adjustments and to require candidates entering programs after September 1, 2025, to meet the new requirements.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(a)2 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(a)3. The regulation requires, effective academic year 2017-2018, that provisional teachers holding a CE with a preschool through grade three endorsement complete either 350 hours of formal instruction, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.4(a)1, or 24 semester-hour credits of preschool through grade three pedagogy at a Department-approved New Jersey college or university program. The Department proposes to amend recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(a)3i to replace “equity” with “equitable opportunities.” The proposed amendment will clarify that the coursework will include the creation of a climate that fosters and nurtures diversity and equitable opportunities that address each student’s needs, without expecting that all students will demonstrate equal outcomes.

The Department proposes to delete “[e]ffective academic year 2017-2018” and existing N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-11.2(a)3 because all provisional teachers holding a CE with a preschool through grade three endorsement in the 2017-2018 academic year have either been issued a standard certificate or have exceeded the time allowed to earn a standard certificate and, therefore, are no longer eligible to teach in public schools under the preschool through grade three endorsement. Existing N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-11.2(a)3 requires provisional teachers holding a CE with a preschool through grade three endorsement who enter a CE educator preparation program prior to academic year 2017-2018 to complete either 200 hours of formal instruction, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.4(b), or 13 semester-hour credits of preschool through grade three pedagogy at a Department-approved New Jersey college or university program.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(b) to delineate the requirements for candidates seeking a CEAS with a preschool through grade three endorsement who enter an

educator preparation program on or after September 1, 2025. The proposed requirements include at least 30 credits in coursework and/or clinical experience in developing the pedagogical content knowledge for teaching mathematics to preschool and elementary students; developing the pedagogical content knowledge for teaching reading and literacy to preschool and elementary students; developing the pedagogical content knowledge for teaching science and social studies to preschool and elementary students and that emphasizes the integration of literacy skills in science and social studies; addressing child development and learning, including studies designed to foster understanding of the dynamic continuum of development and learning in children from birth through age eight; addressing understanding family and community, including studies designed to foster an understanding of the significant roles of families and communities; and addressing curriculum and assessment, including studies designed to foster an understanding of the importance of implementing developmentally appropriate principles and practices.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(b)1 through 6 will establish required pedagogy coursework and/or clinical experiences for all candidates for the preschool through grade three endorsement entering educator preparation programs on or after September 1, 2025. Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(b)1 will require candidates to have six to nine credits that focus on developing the pedagogical content knowledge for teaching mathematics to preschool and elementary students and that include cognitively guided mathematics instruction; assessment of, and remediation for, difficulties in mathematics; the use of mathematical practices in instruction; building the underlying mathematical conceptual knowledge of educators; and the integration of literacy skills in mathematics. Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(b)2 will require candidates to complete 12 to 15 credits that focus on developing the pedagogical content knowledge for teaching reading and literacy to preschool and elementary students and that include developing the pedagogical content knowledge and conceptual framework for teaching early literacy skills or foundational reading skills, including, but not limited to, phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, reading comprehension, fluency, and concepts of print; strategies for teaching reading comprehension, writing, speaking, and listening to preschool and elementary students; multicultural, multilingual, and diverse children's literature; assessment for, and planning of, remedial instruction to address reading problems for early and emergent readers, and assessment and screening of early reading difficulties; and foundations of speech language development, including screening and support of students with speech/language, articulation, and communication disorders. Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(b)3 will require candidates to also complete coursework that focuses on developing the pedagogical content knowledge for teaching science and social studies to preschool and elementary students that emphasizes the integration of literacy skills in science and social studies. The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(b)4 to require candidates to also complete coursework that addresses child development and learning, including studies designed to foster understanding of the dynamic continuum of development and learning in children from birth through age eight. Proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(b)5 will require candidates to complete coursework that addresses understanding family and community, including studies designed to foster an understanding of the significant roles of families and communities. Proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(b)6 will require candidates to complete coursework that addresses curriculum and assessment, including studies designed to foster an understanding of the importance of implementing developmentally appropriate principles and practices. The proposed coursework requirements will ensure that all candidates who obtain the preschool through grade three endorsement are explicitly trained in pedagogical content knowledge for teaching mathematics, literacy, science, and social studies with an emphasis on the integration of literacy across all content areas, which will align with the Department's focus on robust literacy instruction for all students, especially early learners. Due to the overlap in the grade levels taught by elementary and preschool through grade three teachers, the proposed content-based pedagogy topics are similar.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(c) to require a holder of a CE with preschool through grade three endorsement who begins teaching under a provisional certificate on or after September 1, 2025, to complete a Department-approved New Jersey college or university program pursuant to new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(b).

The Department proposes to amend recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(d), which, in part, allows a teacher holding a standard elementary school endorsement valid in preschool through grade eight issued no later than March 1, 2008, with the equivalent of two academic years of full-time experience teaching three- and four-year-olds under the certificate to teach children in preschool in a public school or a Department of Children and Families facility if the teaching experience was in a position that would require the preschool through grade three endorsement. The Department proposes to also require teachers meeting this criteria to present documentation that supports the preschool teaching experience when newly employed in a school district or a Department of Children and Families facility. The proposed amendment will ensure that current educators have been exposed to the specialization of preschool through grade three education and are updated on recent pedagogy. The proposed amendments will ensure that every student, school, and school district have access to well-trained, effective educators who meet the needs of their communities.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.2(e), which states that a standard certificate with a preschool through grade three endorsement authorizes the holder to teach preschool and kindergarten in all school districts. The Department proposes to replace “and kindergarten” with “through third grade” to reflect the proper grade span.

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 combine N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(a)1 and 2, which require candidates for the instructional certificate in a career and technical education endorsement to complete the applicable CE or CEAS requirements, at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(a)1. The Department also proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(a)3 and 4 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(a)2 and 3, respectively.

The Department proposes to amend recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(a)3, which requires candidates for the instructional certificate in a career and technical education endorsement to complete the 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. The Department proposes to delete the requirement for candidates who have not yet completed the Department-approved basic skills assessment or achieved a minimum score on an alternate assessment listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3(a)5 to complete the basic skills assessment prior to becoming eligible for a standard certificate. The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(a)3i to require holders of a provisional certificate with a career and technical education endorsement seeking a standard certificate to demonstrate proficiency in the use of English language and mathematics by: 1) passing the Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills; 2) holding a master’s or terminal degree from an accredited institution of higher education; 3) holding an occupational license or certification or industry certificate or registration; or 4) completing a portfolio of work products through an approved educator preparation program, as approved by the employing school district’s superintendent, or the superintendent’s designee. The proposed amendments will add alternative measures for the basic skills assessment for CTE teachers and will align the section with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-34.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(b)1, which sets forth how a candidate is deemed eligible for a CE with a career and technical education endorsement. N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(b)1 sets forth the experience-based endorsement requirements that include passing an examination in physiology, hygiene, and substance abuse issues, holding a State-issued occupational license, certificate, or registration if the candidate is seeking an endorsement in a regulated occupation for which a State-issued occupational license, certificate, or registration is required for employment in or practice of the occupation, and meeting one of the following: employment experience, self-employment experience, or military experience. The Department proposes to delete “the State issued” and add “issued by the State of New Jersey or other state or national authority.” The proposed amendments will expand the pool of eligible candidates for a career and technical education endorsement by changing the valid occupational licenses to include out-of-State licenses and national licenses. The Department also proposes an amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(b)1i(2), which states that the Department will identify industry credentials in consultation with experts from education and business. The Department proposes to add “annually review and” before “identify” to ensure that industry credentials are reviewed at least on an annual basis. The proposed amendment will ensure that qualified experience is up-to-date with industry credentials.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(c), which requires any school district that employs a novice teacher who has not yet passed basic-skills tests required at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(a)3 to provide ongoing support through the novice teacher's supervisor to ensure the novice teacher's students receive appropriate feedback on basic skills for their class work. The existing subsection also requires the school district to provide ongoing support to prepare the novice teacher to pass the basic-skills tests. The proposed deletion aligns with the additional alternative measures for CTE teachers; therefore, the subsection is no longer needed.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(d), (e), and (f) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.3(c), (d), and (e), respectively.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4 Teacher of students with disabilities

This section sets forth the requirements for the teacher of students with disabilities endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(a)1, which requires a candidate for a CE or CEAS with a teacher of students with disabilities endorsement to possess or be eligible for a CE, CEAS, or standard New Jersey instructional certificate with an endorsement appropriate to the subject or grade level to be taught. The Department proposes to delete “or be eligible for” because this endorsement requires the candidate to already possess a CE, CEAS or standard certificate.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(a)2, which requires candidates for the deaf or hard of hearing with sign language communication endorsement to achieve an intermediate or higher score on the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI). The Department proposes to replace “Communication” and “(SCPI)” with “Language” and “(SLPI),” respectively, and to add “or a score of three or higher on the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI).” The proposed amendments will provide more opportunities for candidates to meet the requirements to attain the endorsement, which will increase the number of educators in an area of high need.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(a)6 to exempt a candidate for a CE or CEAS with a teacher of students with disabilities endorsement from the clinical practice requirement, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(b). The proposed paragraph will eliminate the

requirement to complete an additional clinical practicum because the candidates satisfied the requirement while earning their initial certificate.

The Department proposes to amend the first sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(b), which requires a candidate for the CEAS with a teacher of students with disabilities endorsement who has met the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(a)1 to complete an educator preparation program. The Department proposes to add “that includes a minimum of 21 credit hours in the topics at (d), (e), (g), or (h) below” after “educator preparation program.” The Department proposes to amend the second sentence, which requires a candidate for the deaf or hard-of-hearing with sign language communication endorsement to also achieve an intermediate or higher score on the SCPI. The Department proposes to replace “SCPI” with “SLPI or a score of three or higher on the ASLPI.” The proposed amendments will eliminate the requirement to complete an additional clinical practicum because the candidates satisfied the requirement while earning their initial certificate.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(d)1ix to require provisional teachers who hold a CE with a teacher of students with disabilities endorsement to complete an educator preparation program that includes formal instruction in Autism spectrum disorders, in addition to the existing eight topics. The proposed subparagraph will align the endorsement requirements to P.L. 2017, c. 6.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(e)3, which exempts holders of the provisional certificate with a blind or visually impaired endorsement from the performance assessment, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B- 8.7(a)4. The proposed deletion will no longer require these candidates to duplicate the performance assessments they have already completed for their initial instructional certificate. The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(f)3 and (g)3, which exempts, from from the performance assessment, holders of the provisional certificate with a deaf or hard-of-hearing with oral/aural communication and holders of the provisional certificate with a deaf or hard-of-hearing with sign language communication endorsement, respectively, for the same reason.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(j) to require the holder of a provisional certificate with a teacher of students with disabilities endorsement to meet the following requirements to renew the provisional certificate: demonstrate successful completion of at least two courses per provisional period, as required of the approved educator preparation program, and be rated effective or highly effective during the year of the requested renewal. The proposed subsection codifies that teachers holding this endorsement and seeking a renewal of their provisional certificate must show annual progress toward meeting requirements for the standard certificate.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(j), (k), and (l) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(k), (l), and (m), respectively.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4(m), which allows holders of a standard teacher of the handicapped certificate to obtain additional instructional endorsements upon completion of the academic and test requirements listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2 and upon presentation of an original letter from a school official documenting a minimum of one year of experience teaching students with disabilities under a teacher of the handicapped endorsement. The subsection proposed for deletion is redundant and appears at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(b).

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.5 Bilingual/bicultural education

This section contains the requirements for the bilingual/bicultural 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 new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.6(c) to state that no holder of a provisional certificate shall be employed for more than six years in a position requiring an English as a second language endorsement, except as set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.5(c). The proposed subsection aligns to existing N.J.A.C.6A:9B-8.5.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.7 Driver education

This section establishes the requirements for a driver education endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.8 Military science

This section sets forth the requirements for the military science endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.9 Middle school with subject matter specialization

This section contains the requirements for the elementary school with subject-matter specialization endorsement.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.9(d) and (e) to add two new middle school with subject-matter specialization endorsements. As proposed, new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.9(d) will add a middle school with subject-matter specialization endorsement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). A middle school STEM endorsement will allow holders of a middle school with subject-matter endorsement in mathematics or science to demonstrate the content knowledge necessary to earn the STEM endorsement by passing an additional subject-matter content assessment without having to fulfill other endorsement requirements. Earning the additional endorsement will broaden the scope of middle school courses the holder could teach by allowing a holder of the middle school with subject-matter specialization endorsement in STEM to teach science and mathematics. The proposed new endorsement will help address the staffing issues that school districts are facing in finding and hiring middle school teachers. The proposed new endorsement will create a streamlined pathway for middle school teachers to be dually certified in STEM areas.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.9(e) to add a new middle school with subject-matter specialization endorsement in humanities. A middle school humanities endorsement will allow holders of a middle school with subject-matter endorsement in English language arts or social studies to demonstrate the content knowledge necessary to earn the humanities endorsement by passing an additional subject-matter content assessment without having to fulfill other endorsement requirements. Earning the additional endorsement will broaden the scope of middle school courses that a holder could teach by allowing a holder of the middle school with subject-matter specialization endorsement in humanities to teach English language arts, social studies and related literature, and social and civic engagement. The proposed new endorsement will help address the staffing issues that school districts are facing in finding and hiring middle school teachers. The proposed new endorsement will create a streamlined pathway for middle school teachers to be dually certified in humanities.

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 amendments to the section to implement parts of a petition for rulemaking from the American Red Cross to adjust the names of safety certificates and other language related to qualifications for teaching swimming, diving, and water safety in New Jersey public schools (see 54 N.J.R. 720(a)).

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)2, which requires candidates for the swimming and water safety endorsement to hold a valid Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation for Professional Rescuer Certificate issued by the American Red Cross or the YMCA. The Department proposes to replace “YMCA” with “American Heart Association.” The American Heart Association is an organization approved by the Department of Health to certify individuals in CPR, whereas the YMCA is not an approved organization for the CPR certificate.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)4, which requires candidates for the swimming and water safety endorsement to hold a valid Water Safety Instructor Certificate issued by the American Red Cross, the YMCA, or the Flotation Aided Swim Training Program (FAST Swim ProgramTM). The Department proposes to replace “Water Safety Instructor Certificate” with “water safety/swimming instructor certificate.” The proposed amendment will encompass the certificates issued by the three authorized entities.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(b)2, which chief school administrator of the employing district board of education to annually forward to the executive county superintendent copies of each valid American Red Cross or YMCA certificate identified at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)2 through 4 for every person assigned to teach swimming and/or diving. The Department proposes to delete “American Red Cross or YMCA” because the issuers of each certificate identified at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a)2 through 4 already are listed in the respective paragraph.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.11 Teacher of Supplemental Instruction in Reading and Mathematics, Grades K-8

This section establishes the requirements for the Teacher of Supplemental Instruction in Reading and Mathematics, Grades K-8 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 to recodify the second sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.11(d)2, which requires the charter school to provide written recommendation for the issuance of a standard charter school certificate, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.11(e).

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13 Requirements for mathematics and science add-on endorsement

This proposed section will establish the requirements for mathematics and science add-on endorsements for candidates who already hold a CEAS or standard instructional certificate in mathematics or science. For example, an individual who holds an instructional certificate with a science endorsement and teaches chemistry could earn an endorsement in physical sciences, in lieu of needed all 30 credits in the new subject area as required by the current rules.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13(a) states that “[a]ll endorsements authorized under this section shall be used only for employment in areas of mathematics and science in foundational courses in the subject area sequence.”

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13(b) to exempt candidates for a CE with a mathematics or science endorsement as an add-on from the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1 and, instead, to require the candidates to 1) hold a valid New Jersey CEAS or standard instructional certificate in mathematics or science; 2) complete at least six of the 30 credits of appropriate coursework in the subject area; 3) demonstrate at least two years of successful teaching under a valid New Jersey or out-of-State equivalent instructional teaching certificate, and 4) be enrolled in, and recommended for a CE by an educator preparation program.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13(c) to state that candidates holding and employed under a CE issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13(b) shall be eligible for a provisional certificate issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4. Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13(d) will require candidates to complete all requirements for a standard certificate with a mathematics or science area endorsement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a), 10, or 11, as applicable. The proposed regulations will align the section with eligibility requirements for provisional and standard certificates at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4 and at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a), 10, or 11, respectively.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13(e) will require candidates for a standard certificate with a mathematics or science endorsement who hold a CE issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.13(b) to do the following: 1) meet the coursework and subject matter knowledge assessment requirements for the endorsement area at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a), 2) successfully complete the educator preparation program approved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.6, and 3) be recommended for a standard certificate by the educator preparation program.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.14 Requirements for the early college high school certificate of eligibility

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.14 to effectuate P.L. 2021, c. 279, which authorized a CE for individuals who are qualified by education and experience to teach grades seven through 12 at an early college high school program. The State law established an alternate route to expedite the certification of eligible candidates and exempts them from the requirements governing a CE.

Currently, experienced college professors are required to obtain a teaching certificate prior to teaching in early college high school programs that offer dual enrollment opportunities to high school students. While experienced college professors have the content knowledge and teaching experience necessary to teach college courses, they do not always meet the requirements to obtain an instructional certificate in New Jersey. This alternate pathway will allow early college high school programs to continue to attract experienced college professors without requiring them to take additional coursework to teach college-level courses they have demonstrated teaching proficiency.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.14(a) states that all endorsements issued under this section authorize the certificate holder to teach grades seven through 12 only in an early college high school program.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.14(b) sets forth the requirements for a candidate to be eligible for the early college high school CE with an instructional endorsement. A candidate must hold an advanced degree for an accredited college or university in a field related to the

subject area being taught, have experience teaching students at any grade level, including postsecondary, and pass the appropriate State test of subject-matter knowledge.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.14(c) will require a candidate for the early college high school provisional certificate in an instructional area to show documentation that an early college high school intends to employ the candidate in a teaching position and enroll in the provisional teacher program.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.14(d) will require a candidate for the early college high school standard certificate in any instructional area to demonstrate the successful completion of at least four school years of teaching under an early college high school provisional certificate with annual summative evaluation ratings of “effective” or “highly effective” issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10 and required at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.6.

Subchapter 11A. Requirements for Teacher Leader Endorsement

This subchapter sets forth the requirements for the teacher leader endorsement to the instructional certificate.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11A.1 Purpose of requirements

This section requires a certificate holder with the teacher leader endorsement to be prepared to demonstrate the Teacher Leader Model Standards.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11A.2 Authorization

This section authorizes holders of the teacher leader endorsement to assume responsibilities that are consistent with the Teacher Leader Model Standards.

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.

Subchapter 12. Requirements for Administrative Certification

This subchapter sets forth the requirements for the Department’s approval of educator preparation programs for administrative and supervisory personnel, approving non-traditional programs for administrative and supervisory personnel, evaluating the eligibility of candidates for administrative or supervisory certification, and approving principal and school administrator residency programs.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.1 Purpose of requirements

This section states that the requirements for administrative certification shall apply when approving educator preparation programs for administrative and supervisory personnel, evaluating the eligibility of candidates for administrative or supervisory certification, and approving residency programs required of principal and school administrator candidates for certification.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.1(a)2 to replace “administrative or supervisory certification” with “an administrative certificate or an administrative certificate with a supervisor endorsement.” The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.1(a)3 to replace “principal and school administrator candidates for certification” candidates for an

administrative certificate with a principal or school administrator endorsement.” The proposed amendments will clarify the two types of endorsements for administrators.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.2 College degrees

This section requires all candidates for administrative certification, except for school business administrators, to hold a master’s degree or higher from a regionally accredited college or university.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.3 Authorizations

This section establishes what certificate holders can do under the school administrator, principal, supervisor, and school business administrator endorsements to an administrative certificate and which roles and responsibilities the certificate holder can assume.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.3(d)2, which authorizes the holder of a school business administrator endorsement to engage in facilities planning, construction and maintenance, personnel administration, administration of transportation and food services, and central data-processing management. The Department proposes to delete “construction and maintenance” because the two areas are covered by the a certified facilities manager certificate issued by the Department. A certified facilities manager whose is responsible for the oversight of construction and maintenance.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4 School administrator

This section sets forth the requirements for a candidate to be eligible for a school administrator endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend the section to streamline the requirements for a school administrator endorsement and to reorganize the requirements for mentors and the individualized mentoring plan.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(a)1ii, which requires a candidate for the school administrator CE to holds a master’s degree from an accredited college or university and complete a post-master's program resulting in a CEAS in educational administration and supervision. The Department proposes to replace “post-master's program resulting in a CEAS” with “graduate-level program.” The Department also proposes to replace “in educational administration and supervision” with “in educational leadership, curriculum and instruction, or one of the recognized fields of leadership or management.” The proposed amendments will streamline the requirements at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(a)1ii through v and (a)2 into one regulation. The proposed amendment will broaden the potential pool of educators eligible for the school administrator certificate by allowing candidates who have a master’s degree in another field to complete a graduate program that includes the relevant educational leadership coursework whether within, or in addition to, the master’s degree program.

The Department proposes to recodify N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(a)3, 4, and 5 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(a)2, 3, and 4.

The Department proposes to amend new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(a)3, which requires a candidate for a CE with a school administrator endorsement to pass a State-approved examination of knowledge acquired through study of the topics listed in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(a)2, aligned with the Professional Standards for School Leaders, and most directly related to

the functions of superintendents. The Department proposes to delete “of knowledge acquired through study of the topics listed in (a)2 above” because the topics have been updated and the requirements will align with the Professional Standards for School Leaders.

The Department proposes to delete the second sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(e), which allows a residency to be extended for medical or family leave if agreed upon by the Department and the employing school or school district. The proposed deletion codifies that residency program providers, instead of the Department, have the discretion to determine whether residency extensions are necessary. The same amendment is proposed at new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(e)2.

The Department proposes to recodify the last sentence at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(e)2 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(f) and to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(e)2i, ii, iii, and iv as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(e)1 through 5, respectively. The proposed recodifications will separate the candidate eligibility requirements for standard administrative certificate with a school administrator endorsement and the Commissioner-approved program residency requirements.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(e)2iv(1), (2), (5), and (6) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(g)1, 2, 4, and 5, respectively. The Department also proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(e)2iv(3) and (4) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(g)3. The proposed recodifications will relocate all mentor criteria and duties in one regulation.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(e)2v and (f) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(h) and (g), respectively.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(g), which requires each candidate for the standard administrative certificate to be evaluated by a mentor at least three occasions with the first two evaluations conducted mainly for diagnostic purposes, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(i). The Department proposes to amend the subsection to delete “[t]he first two evaluations shall be conducted mainly for diagnostic purposes.” The Department proposes to recodify the third sentence, which requires the final evaluation to be the basis for issuance of the candidate’s standard certificate, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(i)2. The Department also proposes to recodify the fourth and fifth sentences, which require all performance evaluations to be aligned with the Professional standards for School Leaders, the mentor to discuss each evaluation with the candidate, and the mentor and candidate to sign each report, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(i)1. The Department also proposes to delete the last sentence, which requires the mentor to send the completed report to the Department, accompanied by the recommendation for certification pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(j) because the provisions will be at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(j)1 and 2, as proposed for amendment.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(h), which requires each mentor to form an advisory panel of practicing educators and to convene the panel on at least three occasions for purposes of reviewing the candidate’s progress and soliciting advice concerning the candidate’s certification. The regulation also allows the mentor to seek the informal input of the employing district board of education concerning the candidate’s standard certification. The subsection proposed for deletion is no longer part of the mentor’s responsibilities, which are proposed for amendment at new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(g) and (h).

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(i), which states that the Department may require the candidate to pay fees to the program provider to cover the cost of the training and mentoring services that will qualify him or her for certification and employment. The proposed deletion is necessary because the educator preparation or residency programs set the fees for training and mentoring services rather than the Department.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(j)1, which requires the mentor to submit to the Department, before the end of the residency period, a comprehensive evaluation report on the candidate's performance. The section is no longer necessary because the Department requires a signed copy of the evaluation only after the candidate has received their copy pursuant to recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(j)2.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(j)2 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(j)1.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(j)3, which states that mentors act as agents of the Board of Examiners in formulating their certification recommendations and that the mentors' recommendations shall not be subject to review or approval by district boards of education. The mentors do not act as agents of the Board of Examiners, but rather make recommendations to the Board of Examiners related to the issuance of certificates. The same deletion is proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7, which relates to the school business administrator endorsement.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(j)5, which requires the mentor to provide the candidate with a copy of the signed evaluation report, and the mentor's recommendation, before submitting it to the Department, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(j)2.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(j)4 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(j)3.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.4(j)6, which allows a candidate who disagrees with the mentor's recommendation to appeal the recommendation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.13. The existing regulation is redundant and allowed under existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.13. A similar rule at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(g)6 is proposed for deletion for the same reason.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5 Principal

This section contains the requirements for a candidate to be eligible for the principal endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(a)1ii, which requires a candidate for the principal CE to hold a master's degree from an accredited college or university and complete a post-master's program resulting in a CEAS in educational administration and supervision. The Department proposes to replace "post-master's program resulting in a CEAS" with "graduate-level program." The Department also proposes to replace "in educational administration and supervision" with "in educational leadership, curriculum and instruction, or one of the recognized fields of leadership or management." The proposed amendments will streamline the requirements at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(a)1ii through v and (a)2 into one subparagraph. The proposed amendment will broaden the potential pool of educators eligible for the principal certificate by allowing candidates who have a master's degree in another field to complete a graduate program that includes the relevant educational leadership coursework whether within, or in addition to, the master's degree program.

The Department proposes to recodify N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(a)3, 4, and 5 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(a)2, 3, and 4.

The Department proposes to amend new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(a)3, which requires a candidate for a CE with a principal endorsement to pass a State-approved examination of

knowledge acquired through study of the topics listed in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(a)2 and most directly related to the functions of superintendents. The Department proposes to replace “study of the topics listed in (a)2 above” with “study aligned to the Professional Standards for School Leaders” because the topics have been updated and the requirements will align with the Professional Standards for School Leaders.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(e)3 and 4 to require candidates eligible for the standard administrative certificate with a principal endorsement to have been reviewed by the mentor, recommended by the mentor for a standard certificate, and has paid the program provider any fees that may be required by the Department to cover the cost of the training and mentoring services.

The Department proposes to recodify the last sentence at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(e)2 and (e)2i through iv, which require the Commissioner-approved program provider selected by the employing school or school district to implement the residency program and set forth program criteria as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(f)1 through 5. The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(e)2iv(1) through (6) and (e)2v as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(g) and (g)1 through 7. The proposed recodifications will separate the program provider requirements from mentor responsibilities.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(f)1, 2, and 3 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(f)5i, ii, and iii. The Department proposes to amend the second sentence of new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(f)5i, which requires principal mentors to have received a summative rating of “effective” or “highly effective” starting in academic year 2013-2014 and each year thereafter. The Department proposes to delete “[f]or principals practicing in New Jersey starting in academic year 2013-2014 and each year thereafter” because the date has passed and the provision now applies to all principal mentors. The Department also proposes at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(f)5i to add “in at least three years of service in a position requiring a principal endorsement” at the end of the second sentence to require the principal mentor to have effective or highly effective ratings for at least three years.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(h) to state that a mentoring plan shall take the place of the individualized professional development plan during the residency period. The proposed subsection also will require the mentoring plan to be individualized based on the candidate’s preparation, past work experience, and the unique leadership demands of the employing school or school district. The proposed subsection also will require the support for the candidate in areas established at new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(h)1 through 11 to be considered in developing the individualized plan. The proposed regulation will ensure that the individualized mentoring plan is based on the required criteria and is inclusive of specific areas of principal leadership such as collegial management, supervision and evaluation responsibilities, working with a district board of education, management of school district operations, and school law.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(g), which requires the Commissioner-approved program provider to base the candidate’s recommendation for the standard administrative certificate with a principal endorsement to be based on at least three reviews conducted by the mentor throughout each year during the two-year residency, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(i). The Department proposes to amend the subsection to replace “throughout each year during the two-year residency” with “in each year of the two-year residency for a minimum of six reviews” to clarify the number of total reviews that are required.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(h), which states that the Department may require a candidate to pay fees to the program provider to cover the cost of the training and mentoring services that will qualify him or her for certification and employment. The regulation proposed for deletion is duplicative of the new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(e)4.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(i) through (m) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(j) through (n), respectively.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(i)4 and 5, which require the program provider to provide the candidate with a copy of the written evaluation report and recommendation before submitting it to the Department and allows a candidate who disagrees with the program provider's recommendation to appeal the recommendation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.13. The existing paragraphs are redundant and already included at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.13.

The Department proposes to amend recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.5(k), which states that a candidate who receives a "disapproved" recommendation or two or more "insufficient" recommendations may appeal to the Board of Examiners pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.13. The Department proposes to replace "'disapproved' recommendation" with "'partially effective' or 'ineffective' evaluations" and to replace "'insufficient' recommendations" with "'ineffective' evaluations" to align at the subsection with N.J.A.C. 6A:10.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.6 Supervisor

This section sets forth the requirements for the supervisor endorsement.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.6(a)2ii(3), which requires a candidate for the supervisor endorsement to successfully complete 12 graduate-level semester-hour credits, including three elective credits in curriculum design and development. The Department also proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.6(a)2ii(4), which requires a candidate for the supervisor endorsement to successfully complete 12 graduate-level semester-hour credits, including three elective credits in instructional staff supervision and/or curriculum design and development, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.6(a)2ii(3). The Department proposes to amend new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.6(a)2ii(3) to require six elective credits in instructional staff supervision and/or curriculum design and development, rather than three, to account for the three credits required at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.6(a)2ii(3).

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7 School business administrator

This section establishes the requirements for the school business administrator endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(c)2iv, which outlines the criteria for a candidate to be eligible for the standard administrative certificate with a school business administrator endorsement. The Department proposes to add "minimum of" before "145 clock hours" to not limit the number of clock hours a candidate for a standard administrative certificate with a school business administrator endorsement is required to take. Given the expanding breadth of a school business administrator's duties, the proposed amendment will provide flexibility to add content to the one-year Commissioner-approved school or school district residency program while employed under a provisional certificate, as necessary.

The Department proposes to delete the first sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(e), which requires a school business administrator's mentor to form an advisory panel of practicing

educators and to convene the advisory panel on at least three occasions for purposes of reviewing the candidate's progress and soliciting advice concerning candidate's certification. The existing regulation is unnecessary in the mentoring process and is a burden to practicing educators (school business administrators) because it is an unrealistic expectation of the residency provider considering that each school district employs only one school business administrator. Additionally, the advisory panel is impractical to convene and members are uncompensated. The Department maintains that the monthly meetings and frequent, informal daily and weekly interactions between the mentees and mentors are sufficient. The Department proposes to recodify the second sentence at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(f), which requires a candidate for the standard administrative certificate with a school business administrator endorsement to pay to the program provider any fees that may be required by the Department to cover the cost of the training and mentoring services, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(c)3.

The Department proposes to recodify the second sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(e), which allows the mentor to seek the informal input of the employing district board of education concerning the candidate's standard certification, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(d)4.

As a result of the proposed amendments, N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(f) through (j) are recodified as N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(e) through (i), respectively.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.7(g)3, which states that mentors act as agents of the Board of Examiners in formulating their certification recommendations and that the recommendations shall not be subject to review or approval by district boards of education.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.8 Requirements for interstate reciprocity

This section sets forth interstate reciprocity rules for administrator certificates.

Subchapter 13. Acting Administrators

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-13.1 General provisions

This section contains rules governing the approval and appointment of acting administrators who do not hold the standard administrator certificate under circumstances that prevent a superintendent, assistant superintendent, school business administrator, principal, or vice principal from fulfilling the duties of the position.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-13.1(a) to add that the section does not apply to an individual who holds the CE required for the position, in addition to the standard certificate. An individual who holds a CE applicable to an administrator position would be eligible to serve as an acting administrator without Commissioner approval as specified in the section.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-13.1(b), which states that the Commissioner's approval under this section shall be for three months' duration and may be renewed for a period of three months at a time on a case-by-case basis upon application. The subsection also states that, if the acting status of the individual is to extend beyond a year, the Commissioner shall provide to the State Board a recommendation that the district board of education's application be granted. The Department proposes to amend the regulation to specify that, if the acting status of the individual is to extend beyond a year, the district board of education shall apply in writing to the Commissioner, through the executive county superintendent, for permission to employ the person in an acting capacity and state the reason(s)

why the action is necessary. The Department also proposes to amend the regulation to state that the Commissioner may recommend to the State Board whether to approve the application.

Subchapter 14. Requirements for Educational Services Certification

This subchapter establishes the requirements for candidates seeking educational services certifications.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.1 Qualifications/general provisions

This section sets forth the general requirements for the educational services certificate.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.1(a)3, which enables a candidate for an educational services certificate to fulfill one of four options by completing three years of successful full-time experience, or the equivalent in the appropriate field in another state under that state's standard certificate authorizing such service. The regulation also requires the candidate to hold a currently valid standard certificate from that state in the appropriate field and for the experience to occur in the seven years immediately prior to the application for the New Jersey educational services certificate. The regulation proposed for deletion is no longer necessary and is superseded by the reciprocity rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.21.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.1(a)4 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.1(a)3.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.2 Student assistance coordinator

This section explains the functions that a student assistance coordinator (SAC) endorsement authorizes a holder to carry out. This section also sets forth the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.2(b)1, 2 and 3. which establish three options to fulfill degree requirements for the SAC CE. The Department proposes to delete the last sentence in each regulation, which exempts the candidates utilizing this pathway from having to complete a college-supervised SAC practicum. The practicum will be required at recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.2(c)3. Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.2(e)2i will exempt candidates who hold a SAC CE from having to complete a college-supervised SAC practicum.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.2(c)2, which sets forth the required areas that must part of the minimum 21 semester-hour credits completed as part of a Department-approved graduate program, to update terminology.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.2(c)2vi, which requires the Department-approved graduate program to cover the coordination of research-based prevention program services in school and community settings. The provisions will be included at existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.2(c)2vi, as proposed for amendment.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.2(c)2vii and viii as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.2(c)2vi and vii.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.3 School nurse

This section states that the school nurse endorsement authorizes the holder to perform nursing services and to teach in areas related to health in public schools in preschool through grade 12. This section also contains the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.3(c), which sets forth the required areas that must part of the minimum 21 semester-hour credits completed as part of a program of studies. The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.3(c)8 to require the instruction to include substance abuse. The proposed amendment will align the section with N.J.S.A 18A:40-3.7. The Department proposes the same amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.4(c)7.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.4 School nurse/non-instructional

This section states that the school nurse/non-instructional endorsement authorizes the holder to perform nursing services in public schools in preschool through grade 12 but does not authorize the holder to teach in areas related to health. This section also sets forth the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.5 School social worker

This section explains the duties that a school social worker endorsement authorizes a holder to carry out. This section also specifies the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.5(c), which allows holders of a master's degree in social work from a regionally accredited college or university to be issued a standard educational services certificate with a school social worker endorsement. The subsection no longer is necessary because N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.5(b) sets forth the requirements for all candidates with a master's degree. The proposed amendments also will simplify the section and delineate educational services professionals such as SAC, guidance counselors, school psychologists, etc.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.5(d), which sets forth the requirements for an emergency certificate. as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.5(c). The Department also proposes to replace “[a]n emergency certificate may be issued” with “[u]pon the executive county superintendent’s request, the Office may issue” because the executive county superintendent receives and reviews the initial request for an emergency certificate.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.6 Speech-language specialist

This section establishes the functions that a speech-language specialist endorsement authorizes a holder to perform. This section also sets forth the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.6(d), which allows individuals holding a valid New Jersey speech correctionist endorsement to serve in a position requiring speech-language specialist certification until August 31, 2015, by which date the individuals had to obtain a speech language specialist endorsement or complete a Department-approved retraining program. The subsection is no longer necessary because the date has passed and all candidates for speech language specialist must meet the current requirements.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.7(e) through (i) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.7(d) through (h), respectively.

The Department proposes to amend new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.7(h), which states that an emergency certificate is not available for the speech-language specialist endorsement after July 31, 2013. The regulation also states that emergency certificates in effect on July 1, 2013 will remain valid until July 31, 2013. The Department proposes to delete “after July 31, 2013. However, emergency certificates in effect on July 1, 2013 will remain valid until July 31, 2013” because the dates have passed.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.7 Director of school counseling services

This section specifies the positions in which the holder of a director of school counseling services endorsement can serve. This section also sets forth the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.8 School counselor

This section establishes the services that the holder of a school counselor endorsement can perform. This section also sets forth the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.8(b)2vi, which requires the minimum 48 graduate semester-hour credits that are completed as part of a program of studies to include, among other areas, supervised counseling practicum in a preschool through grade 12 school setting: a minimum of six credits. The Department proposes add “as a school counselor” after “practicum” to clarify that the practicum must be specifically designed to prepare candidates for the role of a school counselor. The Department also proposes to require the practicum to be supervised by a person holding a standard New Jersey or out-of-State certificate with a school counselor endorsement. The proposed amendment will ensure that the practicum is completed in a school setting and incorporates all components of the coursework and experience that must be completed as a school counselor.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.9 School psychologist

This section states that the school psychologist endorsement authorizes the holder to serve as a psychologist in preschool through grade 12. This section also specifies the requirement for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.9(b)4 as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.9(c) to separate the guidelines for the externship from an alternative to the required 600 clock hours within the externship for those holding an emergency certificate .

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.9(c) and (d) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.9(d) and (e), respectively.

The Department proposes to amend new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.9(d)4, 5, and 6, which set forth tools that must be provided to an extern. The Department proposes to replace “the extern shall have” with “the college, university, or school district, as appropriate shall provide the extern with.” The proposed amendments will clarify the responsible entities for providing the tools necessary during an externship.

The Department proposes to delete the second sentence at new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.9(e), which states that the emergency certificate will be forwarded to the applicant if the executive county superintendent grants preliminary approval. The provision will be included at N.J.A.C.

6A:9B-14.1(d), as proposed for amendment. The same amendment is proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14 and 14.15.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.9(e), which states that the Board of Examiners will issue a standard New Jersey school psychologist certificate to holders of a currently valid Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) license, as N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.9(g) for organizational structure.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.10 Learning disabilities teacher-consultant

This section states that the learning disabilities teacher-consultant endorsement authorizes the holder to serve as a learning disabilities teacher-consultant in preschool through grade 12. This section also sets forth the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.10(c)2, which requires a candidate who meets the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.10(b) to complete a consultant-level master's degree in educational disabilities or two other options. The Department proposes to delete "consultant-level" because the term is not defined or utilized in practice.

The Department proposes to recodify the last three sentences at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.10(c)3ix as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.10(c)3ix(1) to separate the requirement for the candidate to complete the practicum from the required practicum content.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.11 School occupational therapist

This section states that a school occupational therapist endorsement is required for service as an occupational therapist in preschool through grade 12. This section also establishes the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.12 School physical therapist

This section states that a school physical therapist endorsement authorizes the holder to serve as a physical therapist in preschool through grade 12. This section also establishes the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.12(b)2, which requires an individual to complete a program in physical therapy from an approved school as one of three eligibility requirements for a school physical therapist endorsement. The Department proposes to replace "approved school" with "accredited college or university physical therapy program approved for the education and training of physical therapists by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education." The proposed amendment will align the degree and study requirements with all other endorsements offered by the Office.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13 Reading specialist

This section establishes the functions that the holder of a reading specialist endorsement can carry out. This section also sets forth the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(a), which establishes a reading specialist's functions, including "contributes to the evaluation of the reading achievement of students." The Department proposes to replace "evaluation of" with "the collection of

standardized data as a means of determining and monitoring.” The proposed amendments will provide clarity and precision around the reading specialist role by identifying the contributions of the reading specialist while acknowledging the collaboration necessary between the reading specialist and other experts to fully determine and monitor student achievement.

The Department proposes amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(b), which requires a candidate for the reading specialist endorsement to have completed a master’s degree from an accredited college or university, two years of successful teaching experience, and the requirement at either N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(b)1 or 2. The Department proposes to replace “[a] candidate for this endorsement” with “[a] candidate applying for this endorsement on or before August 31, 2025.” The inclusion of a date will allow candidates currently enrolled in programs to complete the existing requirements through August 31, 2025.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(c) to require candidates applying for the reading specialist endorsement on or after September 1, 2025, to have completed a master’s degree from an accredited college or university, three years of teaching experience, and the requirements at new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(c)1 or 2. The proposed subsection reflects the role of reading specialists, which includes serving as an instructional leader at the school or school district levels and may incorporate coaching and professional development initiatives. Requiring a candidate to have served three years in the classroom – instead of two years as currently required – will ensure that the reading specialist has the teaching experience necessary to serve as a school or school district instructional leader. Proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(c)1 will enable a candidate applying on or after September 1, 2025, to fulfill the third requirement by completing a Department-approved graduate-degree program in reading with a program of study or a program of graduate studies of 30 semester-hour credits, both of which must consist of the specified topics at new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(c)1i through ix.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(c)2 to enable a candidate applying for the reading specialist endorsement on or after September 1, 2025, to fulfill the third requirement by holding a master’s degree in literacy, reading, or another related field from an accredited college or university and by completing courses that cover the topics at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(c)1. The proposed option will create a pathway for individuals to gain the reading specialist endorsement without completing a full reading specialist program, as the necessary topics could be covered in a master’s degree program. The option also will enable out-of-State candidates to earn the reading specialist endorsement by using previous coursework.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(c), which sets forth the requirements for an emergency certificate with a reading specialist endorsement, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(d). The Department proposes to add that the existing requirements must be met by candidates applying for an emergency certificate on or before August 31, 2025.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(e) will set forth the requirements for candidates applying for an emergency certificate with a reading specialist endorsement on or after September 1, 2025. The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(e)1 through 3 to require a candidate applying for an emergency certificate with a reading specialist endorsement on or after September 1, 2025, to have a master’s degree from an accredited college or university, three years of successful teaching experience, and completed 12 graduate credits in the areas listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.13(c)1. The proposed amendments will ensure that candidates for the emergency reading specialist endorsement are well positioned to complete the necessary coursework to obtain the regular endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14 School library media specialist

This section explains the functions that the holder of a school library media specialist (SLMS) endorsement can perform. This section also establishes the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(b), which requires a candidate for a CE with a SLMS endorsement to hold a master's degree in library media studies and complete one of the three options at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(b)1, 2, and 3. The Department proposes to delete options one and three, which are a Department-approved graduate program that specifically prepares the candidate for the certificate and a program of graduate studies consisting of at least 36 semester-hour credits in a coherent sequence of studies. The Department proposes to delete the other option at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(b)2, which is to hold a master's degree in library media studies, and, instead, to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(b) to require the master's degree to be in library media studies. The proposed amendments will streamline the requirements. The Department proposes to recodify N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(b)3i through x as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(c)3i through x. The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(b)3xi, which requires a clinical experience that includes instruction and management and is completed in a school library media center. This regulation is no longer necessary because the regulation requires completion of coursework that already is taken during the candidate's time under a provisional certificate as part of the CE pathway and that is already required to obtain a standard certificate. The referenced clinical experience is completed during the CE preparation program.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(c), which requires a candidate for a CEAS with the SLMS endorsement to a Department-approved graduate program that specifically prepares the candidate for the certificate or a program of graduate studies consisting of at least 36 semester-hour credits in a coherent sequence of studies and one of the requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(c)1, 2, or 3. The Department proposes amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(c) to require the candidate to hold a master's degree from an accredited college and complete one additional requirement. The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(c)2, which states that the candidate may complete a State-approved college educator preparation program with or without clinical practice as one of the additional requirements. The requirement already is covered in the State-approved educator preparation program, which is an existing requirement for this endorsement. The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(c)2 to allow the candidate to complete a Department-approved graduate program that specifically prepares the candidate for the certificate. The Department also proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(c)3, which allows the candidate to fulfill the endorsement requirements by completing a coherent college program that includes a minimum of nine semester-hour credits in educational theory, curriculum design and integration, teaching methodology, student/learning development, and behavior management. Instead, the Department proposes to allow the candidate to complete a program of graduate studies consisting of a clinical experience that includes instruction and management, which shall be completed in a school library media center, and a minimum of 36 semester-hour credits in a coherent sequence of studies. The Department further proposes to recodify N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(b)3i through x as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(c)3i through x to appropriately align the requirements for the CEAS for the SLMS endorsement. The required course content is an existing requirement to obtain a CE, which is not appropriate.

The Department proposes to recodify the second sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(e)4, which requires a certified school administrator, principal, or supervisor to provide supervision during the candidate's provisional year, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(e)4i1. The Department also propose to recodify the last sentence with amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(e)4i, which requires, where possible, an experienced school library media specialist to mentor the candidate

throughout the year-long residency. as the last sentence at new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(e)4i(1). The Department proposes to allow all Commissioner-approved mentor programs to provide the mentoring services when an appropriate school staff person is not available. The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(e)4i(1) to allow a Commissioner-approved mentoring program to provide a SLMS mentor if no experienced SLMS is available within the school district to mentor the candidate. The proposed recodifications and amendments will improve the section's organization. The Department proposes the same amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(e)3.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.14(e)4ii, which requires the residency program to be agreed upon through a Department-issued residency agreement outlining the responsibilities as set forth in this section and entered into by the Department, the employing school, the candidate, and the State-approved residency supervisor. The Department proposes to delete "State-approved" because the residency program is responsible for approving the supervisor, rather than the Department. The Department proposes the same amendments throughout the section and at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15 Associate school library media specialist

This section sets forth the functions that the holder of an associate school library media specialist (ASLMS) endorsement can carry out under the supervision of a certified school administrator, principal, or supervisor. This section also sets forth the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to phase out the ASLMS endorsement, while providing adequate time for individuals currently enrolled in programs to complete the requirements and earn this endorsement. Currently, the SLMS and ASLMS requirements and job responsibilities overlap, therefore, making ASLMS redundant and no longer necessary. Research also supports preparation at the master's degree level for SLMS as opposed to the 18 graduate credits required for the ASLMS. Phasing out the ASLMS endorsement will provide clarity and streamline roles and responsibilities of the SLMS. Finally, several New Jersey colleges have students who are enrolled in a master's level program and will graduate as SLMSs, fully prepared to provide an instructional program that includes the mastery of content and curriculum standards outlined in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

The Department proposes the following new rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(a)1 and 2 to articulate the timeframe for which candidates remain eligible to obtain a ASLMS. New N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(a) states that, effective September 1, 2027, the Department will no longer issues an ASLMS endorsement. Proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(a)1 states that a candidate for the ASLMS endorsement who is matriculated and enrolled in a State-approved educator preparation program prior to June 1, 2023, and is recommended by the program no later than August 31, 2021, will remain eligible for the ASLMS endorsement. Proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(a)2 will allow a candidate who received an evaluation by the Office as of June 1, 2023, to complete the evaluation requirements by August 31, 2027, to obtain an ASLMS. A candidate who does not apply to the Office by August 31, 2027, will not be eligible for the ASLMS endorsement.

As a result of the proposed new rules, N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(a) through (j) are recodified as N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(b) through (k).

The Department proposes to amend recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(c)2ii, which requires a candidate to complete a program of graduate studies consisting of at least 18 semester-hour credits in a coherent sequence of studies, including organization and coordination of school library media programs, resources, and instruction to provide K-12 students with a sequential

course of studies. The Department proposes to replace “K-12” with “preschool through grade 12” to align the regulation with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(a).

The Department proposes to amend recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.1(f)3i(1) to allow a Commissioner-approved mentoring program to provide a SLMS mentor if no experienced SLMS is available within the school district to mentor the candidate.

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.15(l) to permit any certificate holder who holds the standard ASLMS endorsement prior to August 31, 2027, and the endorsement remains in good standing, to be employed under the endorsement, as authorized.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.16 School orientation and mobility specialist

This section states that the school orientation and mobility specialist endorsement authorizes the holder to serve as an orientation and mobility instructor to blind and visually impaired students in public schools in preschool through grade 12. This section also establishes the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend 6A:9B-14.16(b)2, which requires a candidate for the standard educational services certificate with a school orientation and mobility specialist endorsement to hold a valid Orientation and Mobility Specialist certification issued by the Academy for the Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP) or a Category A: University Preparation certification issued by the National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB). The Department proposes to replace “Category A: University Preparation certification issued” with “have successfully matriculated through a university program approved” to more clearly articulate the requirement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.17 School athletic trainer

This section states that the athletic trainer endorsement authorizes the holder to serve as a school athletic trainer in preschool through grade 12. This section also sets forth the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18 Educational interpreter

This section establishes that, effective September 1, 2005, the educational interpreter endorsement is required for individuals who provide educational interpreting services, sign language interpreting, oral interpreting, or cued speech transliteration to students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind in preschool through grade 12. This section also sets forth the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend the first sentence at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(a), which requires, effective September 1, 2005, individuals who provide educational interpreting services, sign language interpreting, oral interpreting, or cued speech transliteration to students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind in preschool through grade 12 to hold the educational interpreter endorsement. The Department proposes to delete “[e]ffective September 1, 2005,” because the date has passed and all individuals now providing educational interpreting services, sign language interpreting, oral interpreting, or cued speech transliteration to students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind in preschool through grade 12 must hold this endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(b), which sets forth the requirements for a candidate to be eligible for an educational interpreter-sign language

interpreting endorsement. The Department proposes amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(b)1i, which requires a candidate to hold an associate or higher degree and to pass the EIPA with a score of at least 3.0. The Department proposes to increase the required score to 3.5. The Department also proposes to require the candidate to pass the EIPA Written Test and Knowledge Standards. The proposed amendments will ensure that students in New Jersey receive interpreting services from a well-prepared educator. New Jersey is one of five states with a minimum score, of 3.0; all other states require higher scores. The Department proposes to increase the score on the EIPA throughout the section, where necessary.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(b)1ii, which requires the candidate to complete 15 semester-hour credits of professional education coursework that includes study in child development, language development, curriculum development, methods of instruction, interpreting for deaf-blind students, and legal and ethical issues for educational interpreters, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(b)2i. The Department proposes to decrease the semester hour-credits of professional education coursework to 12 semester-hour credits because the availability of the five required courses is limited. With the additional requirement to pass the EIPA Written Test, the Department is confident that the educators will continue to be well prepared for the classroom. The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(b)2ii to also allow a candidate for an educational interpreter-sign language interpreting endorsement to meet the requirement by holding a certificate of educational interpreting from an accredited two or four-year college. The proposed regulation will allow educational interpreters moving to New Jersey from other states to be eligible for a New Jersey certification, which may increase the pool of educational interpreters in New Jersey.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(b)2, which allows a candidate to be eligible for the educational interpreter-sign language interpreting endorsement by having the following: a high school diploma or a General Education Diploma (GED); demonstrated interpreting skills as evidenced through the possession of a sign language certificate from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, the National Association of the Deaf, or other Department-approved national accrediting agencies for sign language interpreting; a minimum score of 3.0 on the EIPA; and 15 semester-hour credits of professional education coursework in specified topics. The paragraph is no longer necessary because the Department is increasing minimum qualifications for this endorsement to align them with other states' requirements, which may increase the pool of educational interpreters in New Jersey.

The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(c), which sets forth the eligibility for the standard educational services certificate with an oral interpreting endorsement, because oral interpreting courses are no longer offered by institutions of higher education or as a certification by the Registry for Interpreters for the Deaf or the National Association of the Deaf.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(d) and (e) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(c) and (d), respectively.

The Department proposes to amend new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(c), which sets forth the eligibility requirements for the standard educational services certificate with an educational interpreter-cued speech transliteration endorsement. The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(c)1, which requires the candidate to have a high school diploma, a GED, or an associate or higher degree, to delete "a high school diploma, a GED, or." The Department proposes to delete N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(c)2, which requires candidates to demonstrate interpreting skills as evidenced through the possession of a cued speech transliteration certificate from a Department-approved accrediting agency. Instead, the Department proposes to require

candidates to achieve a minimum score of 3.5 on the EIPA for cued speech or possess Testing/Evaluation and Certification Unit (TECUnit) certification, as they meet the current national standards for educational interpreters. The Department proposes to delete the references to a high school diploma or GED throughout the rest of the section and, where necessary, replace the references with “an associate or higher degree.” Increasing the minimum education level for this endorsement will better align New Jersey’s requirements with stakeholders and the National Association of Interpreters in Education (NAIE) that recommend a bachelor’s degree; however, the Department is concerned that requiring a bachelor’s degree would limit the field of educational interpreters.

The Department proposes to recodify N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(c)3, which requires the candidate to complete 15 semester-hour credits of professional education coursework in specified topics, as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(c)2i to include it as one of two options to fulfill the third requirement for the endorsement. The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(c)2ii to include passing the EIPA Written Test, which covers the necessary content knowledge, as the other option. The proposed amendments will ensure that candidates are well prepared for the classroom and will increase the pool of candidates for this endorsement.

The Department proposes to delete existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(f), which allows an emergency educational interpreter certificate in oral interpreting to be issued to a candidate with a high school diploma or GED and an oral interpreting certificate from a Department-approved accrediting agency. The existing subsection also allows the emergency certificate to be renewed a total of three times. The subsection is proposed for deletion because an oral interpreting certificate is no longer offered in educator preparation programs or as a certification by the Registry for Interpreters for the Deaf or the National Association of the Deaf.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(g) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(e).

The Department proposes to amend the first sentence at new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.18(e), which allows an emergency educational interpreter certificate with a cued speech transliteration endorsement to be issued to a candidate with a high school diploma or GED and a cued speech transliteration certificate from a Department-approved accrediting agency. The Department proposes to replace “cued speech transliteration certificate from a Department-approved accrediting agency” with “minimum score of 3.5 on EIPA for cued speech or possess TECUnit certification” to align the regulation with current national standards.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.19 Cooperative education coordinator – hazardous occupations

This section explains the functions that the holder of a cooperative education coordinator (CEC) – hazardous occupations endorsement can perform. This section also establishes the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.19(b)2, which requires a candidate for the CEC – hazardous occupations endorsement to present evidence of two years of successful teaching under a certificate in career and technical education, plus specified training. The Department proposes to replace “certificate in career and technical education” with “standard certificate in career and technical education with a hazardous occupations endorsement.” The proposed amendment will clarify the type of certificate necessary to serve in this role, as a standard certificate holder has demonstrated successful teaching necessary to serve as a coordinator, thereby preventing an inexperienced teacher from filling such roles.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.20 Cooperative education coordinator

This section sets forth the duties that the holder of a cooperative education coordinator endorsement can carry out. This section also specifies the requirements for attaining the endorsement.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.20(b)2, which requires a candidate for a cooperative education coordinator endorsement to present evidence of completion of two years of teaching under a certificate in career and technical education. The Department proposes to add “standard” before “certificate” to clarify the type of certificate necessary to serve in this role, as a standard certificate holder has demonstrated successful teaching necessary to serve as a coordinator, thereby preventing an inexperienced teacher from filling such roles.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.21 Requirements for interstate reciprocity

This section contains the rules governing interstate reciprocity for educational services certificates.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.22 Bilingual language paraprofessional credential

This proposed section will set forth the duties that the holder of a bilingual language paraprofessional can carry out. This section also will establish the requirements for attaining the endorsement. Currently, bilingual paraprofessionals are utilized informally to interpret and support bilingual instruction. The proposed new credential acknowledges the work of bilingual paraprofessional and will provide a role to further support bilingual students in classrooms, increasing students’ access to content and instruction.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.22(a) states that the bilingual language paraprofessional credential may be utilized for individuals who provide bilingual instructional support services in preschool through grade 12.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.22(b) will require a candidate for the bilingual language paraprofessional credential to complete 60 semester-hour credits at an institution of higher education or hold an associate or higher degree from an accredited college or university and meet the test of subject-matter knowledge requirement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.1(a)2. Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.22(b)2 also will require candidates with an associate or higher degree to demonstrate oral and writing competence in English by: 1) passing a Department-approved, nationally recognized test of oral and written proficiency in English, or 2) establishing the candidate as a speaker of English who was primarily educated in English at the undergraduate or graduate level. The proposed paragraph also will require candidates with an associate or higher degree to demonstrate oral and writing competence in the target language by: 1) passing a Department-approved, nationally recognized test of oral and written proficiency in the target language, or 2) establishing the candidate as a speaker of the target language who was primarily educated in the target language at the undergraduate or graduate level. Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.22(b)3 will require the candidate to have six semester-hour credits of professional education coursework that includes study in language acquisition, developing literacy skills for a language learner, methods of teaching content in bilingual education, or theory and practice of teaching bilingual education. Such study may be part of, or in addition to, a degree program and may be completed at an accredited two- or four-year college.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.23 Early literacy specialist

The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.23 to create a new educational services endorsement to support early literacy at the school and school district levels. The proposed early literacy specialist endorsement is part of the Department's focus on literacy development for the early learners.

Currently, a number of individuals with varying levels of training and expertise support the State's youngest readers. Existing training equips reading specialists to support students in kindergarten through grade 12, but the training does not necessarily require a deep understanding of the foundational support necessary to serve students in preschool through third grade. The introduction of a new educational services endorsement specific to meeting the literacy development needs of young readers aligns to the Department's goals to create opportunities for all students to be reading at or above grade level by third grade. The proposed endorsement will increase support available to students to actualize this goal.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.23(a) states that the early literacy specialist endorsement authorizes the holder to serve as a reading specialist in preschool through grade three. The proposed subsection also states that an early literacy specialist conducts in-service training of teachers and administrators, coordinates instruction for students having difficulty learning to read, diagnoses the nature and cause of a student's difficulty in learning to read, plans developmental programs in reading for all students, recommends methods and materials to be used in the school district reading program, and contributes to collection of standardized data as a means of determining and monitoring the reading achievement of students. The proposed subsection further states that the holder of an early literacy specialist endorsement may serve as the primary general education interventionist for any student in preschool through grade three with a reading or literacy difficulty that is the result of dyslexia or dysgraphia.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.23(a)1 states that the early literacy specialist endorsement will be required for individuals to serve in roles that align with the authorizations N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.23(a) beginning at the start of the 2026-2027 school year. The proposed subparagraph will provide individuals currently serving in the roles with more than three years to obtain the new endorsement.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.23(b) sets forth the following requirements for a candidate to be eligible for the early literacy specialist endorsement: have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, demonstrate three years of successful teaching experience, and hold a standard New Jersey instructional certificate with a preschool through grade three or elementary school endorsement. In addition, proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.23(b)1 and 2 will require an eligible candidate to meet one of two criteria. Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.23(b)1 will enable a candidate to qualify by completing a Department-approved post-baccalaureate program that is a minimum of 18 semester-hour credits with a program of study that includes: advanced study of reading and structured literacy, including phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, reading comprehension, fluency, and concepts of print; diagnosis and correction of literacy problems of early learners, including a supervised clinical experience of at least 30 hours; organization of reading programs and professional development strategies to improve the teaching of literacy; supervised clinical internship in reading that focuses on the implementation of schoolwide literacy leadership, coaching/professional development, and the diagnosis, planning, and correction of reading problems in a supplemental/in-class setting; methodology that incorporates multi-sensory instructional approaches for teaching early literacy skills and that helps to remediate learning for students with dyslexia and/or dysgraphia; strategies for

remediation of writing for early learners with a focus on the development of fine-motor skills related to the process of writing; and advanced study of literacy strategies for supporting students with varying abilities and multilingual learners. Proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.23(b)2 will enable a candidate to qualify by holding a master's degree in early literacy, literacy, reading, or another related field from an accredited college or university and courses that cover the areas listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.23(b)1.

The proposed coursework and clinical experience will require candidates to complete training specific to the role of a reading specialist for early and emergent readers. This base of knowledge will prepare educators entering a role that supports students and their literacy development, as well as professional development for teachers and leaders. The Department contends that the coursework in the specified areas will best support the training and development of an early literacy specialist who can meet the needs of learners, help support teachers, and move the State towards the goal of universal literacy.

Subchapter 15. Qualifying Academic Credentials

The Department proposes to amend the title of this subchapter and the name of the credential to "Academic Qualifying Credentials." to reflect the title currently used in the field.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-15.1 Definition; procedure

This section describes what a Qualifying Academic Credential (QAC) is and how it can be obtained.

The Department proposes to recodify N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-15.2, which requires applicants for a mortuary science or chiropractic license to satisfy preliminary academic education criteria as required by the respective licensing authorities under the supervision of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, as new to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-15.1(b). The proposed recodification will improve the section's organization.

The Department proposes to recodify existing N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-15.1(b) and (c) as new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-15.1(c) and (d), respectively.

The Department proposes to amend new N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-15.1(d), which requires candidates to submit with their application a certified check or money order payable to the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey. The Department proposes to replace "a certified check or money order payable to the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey" with "payment of the fee as instructed in the application." The proposed amendment is necessary because the Office no longer accepts certified checks or money orders as payment. All fees are paid electronically by credit or debit card.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-15.2 Requirements

This section requires candidates for a mortuary science or chiropractic license to meet the requirements set forth by the respective licensing authorities under the supervision of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs.

The Department proposes to repeal this section because its contents will be included at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-15.1(b).

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 rules proposed for readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules will have a positive social impact on students, candidates for certification, school districts, and educator preparation programs. The rules proposed for readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules for the instructional certificates will create additional endorsements and pathways for in-demand subject areas.

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules include more options for candidates to meet the requirements of attaining endorsements and add-on certificates. The proposed changes will increase the number of educators in the field in high-need areas such as mathematics, science, and career and technical education. The proposed rules for readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules also will eliminate the duplicate clinical practice requirements for educators seeking reciprocity in certain endorsement areas.

The new rules allowing issuance of a temporary certification for spouses in the military will also have a positive social impact allowing fully qualified educators from out-of-State to work in New Jersey because of the temporary nature of their military appointments.

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules will clarify the Department's expectations to earn and maintain instructional certification. Finally, the rules proposed for readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules will streamline current rules so all existing and enhanced certification requirements are better understood by all candidates, school districts, and educator preparation programs.

Economic Impact

The Department does not anticipate the rules proposed for readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules will create additional costs for school districts and most individual educators. However, the Department is proposing to readopt certification and credential requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5 and 7 through 14, which currently result in costs for individual educators. Certification requirements remain an essential tool for determining whether a candidate is qualified to teach in New Jersey; therefore, the resulting costs are necessary to ensure all students receive a thorough and efficient education.

Jobs Impact

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules will not result in the generation or loss of jobs. The rules proposed for readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules will lead to more individuals qualifying for certificates required to serve in vacant positions in school districts.

Agriculture Industry Impact

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules will have no impact on the agriculture industry.

Federal Standards Statement

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and new rules will further align the chapter with Federal requirements under Every Student Succeeds Act (P.L. 114-95) and ensure New Jersey's public-school system prepares students for postsecondary education and the 21st century workplace. The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and new rules are in compliance with Federal regulations.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules do not impose additional recording, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements on small businesses, as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq. The rules proposed for readoption with amendments, repeals, and new rules mainly impact individuals seeking certification. The proposed amendments to reporting and compliance rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4 (for school district reporting to the Board of Examiners) and at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 (for school leaders who are recommending provisional teachers who have earned standard certification) will have minimal administrative cost and do not increase such costs for school districts. Approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSDs), which employ certified teachers, could be considered small businesses. APSSDs will also have to comply with the reporting rules and certification rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4, which requires APSSDs to report to the Department all arrests of certified teachers or if a candidate fails to maintain the appropriate certificate, and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8, which requires APSSDs to notify the Department when a teacher is newly hired so the teacher will be issued a provisional certificate and when the teacher has completed the requisite mentorship and evaluation. Certification and related reporting requirements are essential tools for protecting the health and safety of New Jersey students and for determining whether an individual is qualified to teach in New Jersey school districts. As APSSDs receive public funding for students placed by school districts, the Department sees no reason to differentiate the rules for APSSDs.

Housing Affordability Impact Analysis

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and new rules will have an insignificant impact on the affordability of housing in New Jersey. There is an extreme unlikelihood the rules proposed for readoption with amendments and new rules would evoke a change in the average costs associated with housing in the State, as the rules proposed for readoption with amendments and new rules impact solely on individual educators, candidates for a certificate, and school districts in New Jersey.

Smart Growth Development Impact Analysis

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and new rules will have an insignificant impact on smart growth. There is an extreme unlikelihood the rules proposed for readoption with 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 rules proposed for readoption amendments and new rules concern individual educators, candidates for a certificate, and school districts in New Jersey.

Racial and Ethnic Community Criminal Justice and Public Safety Impact

There is an extreme unlikelihood the proposed rules for readoption with amendments and new rules would have an impact on pretrial detention, sentencing, probation, or parole policies

concerning juveniles and adults in the State because the proposed amendments concern individual educators, candidates for a certificate, and school districts in New Jersey.

Full text of the rules proposed for readoption and the proposed amendments, new rules, and repeals follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus** or ***thus***; deletions indicated in brackets [thus] or [[thus]]):