

CHAPTER 3
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Authority

N.J.S.A. 18A:4-10, 18A:4-15, 18A:6-10, 18A:6-50, 18A:6-7A-1, 18A:7A-1.1, 18A:10-6, 18A:12-21 et seq., 18A:13-14, 18A:16-1, 18A:17-14 to 14.3, 18A:17-15, 18A:17-17, 18A:17-20, 18A:17-32, 18A:17-42 to 17-45, 18A:18A-4, 18A:18A-6, 18A:22-1, 18A:22-2, 18A:22-14, 18A:22-19, 18A:22-22, 18A:24-11, 18A:28-9 to 28-13, 18A:29-6 to 29-16, 18A:40-12.1 and 18A:49-1 to 49-8.

Source and Effective Date

R.1993 d.272, effective June 7, 1993.
See: 25 N.J.R. 1095(a), 25 N.J.R. 2249(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 22(1994), Chapter 3, School Districts, expires on December 7, 1999. See: 26 N.J.R. 3783(a) and 3942(a).

Chapter Historical Note

All provisions of this chapter became effective prior to September 1, 1969.

1975 Revisions: Amendments became effective April 9, 1975 as R.1975 d.98. See: 7 N.J.R. 97(a), 7 N.J.R. 203(a). Subchapter 2 became effective May 16, 1975 as R.1975 d.124. See: 6 N.J.R. 465(a), 7 N.J.R. 251(b).

1976 Revisions: Amendments became effective January 16, 1976 as R.1976 d.13. See: 7 N.J.R. 541(a), 8 N.J.R. 62(a). Subchapter 3, became effective September 8, 1976 as R.1976 d.286. See: 8 N.J.R. 458(a).

1977 Revisions: Amendments became effective March 7, 1977 as R.1977 d.68. See: 9 N.J.R. 11(a), 9 N.J.R. 167(a). Subchapter 4 became effective April 13, 1977 as R.1977 d.129. See: 9 N.J.R. 113(a), 9 N.J.R. 121(b). Further amendments became effective November 10, 1977 as R.1977 d.421. See: 9 N.J.R. 458(b), 9 N.J.R. 559(b).

1978 Revisions: Amendments became effective January 11, 1978 as R.1978 d.7. See: 9 N.J.R. 558(c), 10 N.J.R. 59(a). Amendments to Subchapter 2 became effective March 7, 1978 as R.1978 d.87. See: 10 N.J.R. 56(b), 10 N.J.R. 142(c). Further amendments became effective October 4, 1978 as R.1978 d.355. See: 10 N.J.R. 378(c), 10 N.J.R. 473(b).

1979 Revisions: Amendments became effective May 3, 1979 as R.1979 d.170. See: 11 N.J.R. 168(a), 11 N.J.R. 274(b). Further amendments became effective September 1, 1979 as R.1979 d.227. See: 10 N.J.R. 226(a), 10 N.J.R. 319(d). Further amendments became effective December 7, 1979 (operative September 1, 1980) as R.1979 d.480. See: 11 N.J.R. 536(b), 12 N.J.R. 7(a).

1983 Revisions: This chapter was readopted pursuant to Executive Order 66(1978) effective June 3, 1983 with amendments to the chapter effective June 20, 1983 as R.1983 d.248. See: 15 N.J.R. 376(a), 15 N.J.R. 1016(b). Subchapter 3 was readopted in compliance with Executive Order 66(1978) effective August 18, 1983 with amendments to the subchapter effective September 6, 1983 as R.1983 d.368. See: 15 N.J.R. 728(a), 15 N.J.R. 1468(c). Amendments to section 1.10 became effective June 20, 1983 (operative September 1, 1983) as R.1983 d.255. See: 15 N.J.R. 464(a), 15 N.J.R. 1017(a). Further amendments became effective December 5, 1983 as R.1983 d.563. See: 15 N.J.R. 1409(a), 15 N.J.R. 2034(a).

1984 Revisions: Amendments became effective July 2, 1984 as R.1984 d.265. See: 16 N.J.R. 785(a), 16 N.J.R. 1718(a). New rule

promulgated at N.J.A.C. 6:3-1.23 as R.1984 d.504, effective November 5, 1984 (operative July 1, 1985). See: 16 N.J.R. 1850(a), 16 N.J.R. 3008(a).

1985 Revisions: Amendments became effective April 1, 1985 as R.1985 d.151. See: 17 N.J.R. 143(a), 17 N.J.R. 811(a). Further amendments became effective August 5, 1985 as R.1985 d.397. See: 17 N.J.R. 1033(b), 17 N.J.R. 1874(a). Further amendments became effective October 21, 1985 as R.1985 d.527. See: 17 N.J.R. 650(a), 17 N.J.R. 2540(a).

1987 Revisions: Amendments to Subchapter 2 became effective May 4, 1987 as R.1987 d.209. See: 19 N.J.R. 333(a), 19 N.J.R. 749(a).

1988 Revisions: Amendments to Subchapter 2 became effective May 2, 1988 as R.1988 d.199. See: 20 N.J.R. 133(b), 20 N.J.R. 978(b). Amended by R.1988 d.367, effective August 1, 1988. See: 20 N.J.R. 1027(b), 20 N.J.R. 1879(b). New Rule promulgated at N.J.A.C. 6:3-1.23 as R.1988 d.491, effective October 17, 1988. See: 20 N.J.R. 1320(c), 20 N.J.R. 2567(a).

1989 Revisions: Subchapter 5 was adopted as R.1989 d.193, effective April 3, 1989. See: 21 N.J.R. 3(b), 21 N.J.R. 892(a). Subchapter 6 was adopted as R.1988 d.354, effective July 3, 1989. See: 21 N.J.R. 817(a), 21 N.J.R. 1824(b).

1990 Revisions: N.J.A.C. 6:3-1.18 repealed by R.1990 d.47, effective January 16, 1990. See: 21 N.J.R. 2915(a), 22 N.J.R. 174(a). Amendments by R.1990 d.380, effective August 1990. See: 22 N.J.R. 1302(a), 22 N.J.R. 2344(a). N.J.A.C. 6:3-1.11 and 1.12 repealed by R.1990 d.510, effective October 15, 1990. See: 22 N.J.R. 1873(a), 22 N.J.R. 3240(a). Subchapter 7 was adopted as R.1990 d.615, effective December 17, 1990. See: 22 N.J.R. 2630(a), 22 N.J.R. 3734(b).

1992 Revisions: Amended by R.1992 d.490, effective December 7, 1992. See: 24 N.J.R. 3038(a), 24 N.J.R. 4362(a).

1993 Revisions: Chapter 3, School Districts, was repealed and replaced by new rules pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978) as R.1993 d.272, effective June 7, 1993. See: Source and Effective Date. Subchapter 9, School Ethics Commission, was adopted as R.1993 d.394, effective August 2, 1993. See: 25 N.J.R. 1924(a), 25 N.J.R. 3511(a).

See section annotations for specific rulemaking.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. BOARDS OF EDUCATION

6:3-1.1 Board of school estimate

In any district board of education operating under N.J.S.A. 18A:9-2, the mayor of the municipality comprising the school district shall be the presiding officer of the board of school estimate, and in the event of the absence of the mayor at any meeting of the board of school estimate, the members thereof present at such meeting shall proceed to elect a presiding officer pro tem.

Case Notes

Failure to rehire recovered disability retiree was within school board's discretion. *Bublin v. Board of Education of the Borough of Point Pleasant*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 768.

School board's policy to ban backpacks in interest of safety constituted valid exercise of discretion. *Board of Education of Bernards Township v. C.M.*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 762.

Post-referendum change from two-story plan to one-story plan for new school was within school board's discretion. *Shuster v. Montgomery Township Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 670.

Appointment of school board member by lame-duck mayor with less than one month remaining in his term. *Cordasco v. Board of Education of the Town of West New York*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 661.

Open Public Meeting Act was not violated by socializing after board of education meeting. *Kesselman v. Edison, Township Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 436.

School board member not entitled to legal expenses incurred for personal reasons rather than in line of duty. *Quick v. Old Bridge Township Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 116.

Employment as deputy fire chief did not place individual in conflict of interest so as to disqualify him from seeking election to school board. *Battiloro v. Westfield Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 445.

Functions and duties as school business administrator and as mayor were inherently antagonistic and warranted administrator's suspension for conflict of interest. *Irvington Municipal Council v. Steele*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 123.

Bus driver for transportation company under contract with district board was not automatically ineligible for board membership. *Union Board of Education v. Andrews*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 350.

Submission date for nominating petitions for school board membership; insufficient signatures and subsequent registration of signers. *Jones v. Peddle*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 362.

Local school boards could not aggregate health coverage. *Millstone Township Teachers Association v. Millstone Township Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 802.

Police officer assigned as security officer at high school was not disqualified from membership on board of education. *Ubal dini v. Cancel*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 457.

Board employee and union official not qualified to seek election to Board. *Board of Education of Township of Howell v. Suchcicki*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 157.

No disqualifying conflict of interest between police officer's membership on board of education and providing security services. *North Brunswick Township Education Association v. Board of Education of Township of North Brunswick*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 74.

Board of education membership; conflict of interest; law suit. *Board of Education of Township of Jackson, Ocean County v. Acevedo*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 163.

6:3-1.2 Special meetings of district boards of education

In every school district of the State, it shall be the duty of the secretary of the board of education to call a special meeting of the board whenever requested by the president of the board to do so or whenever there shall be presented to such secretary a petition signed by a majority of the whole number of members of the district board of education requesting the special meeting. Public notice of such special meeting shall be made pursuant to law and regulation. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:10-6 and N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the public notice shall include the date, time, location, and purpose(s) of the special meeting.

Case Notes

School board acted improperly and in violation of open meeting requirements by discussing public business after meeting had officially ended. *Davis v. Willingboro Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 352.

Cancellation of public forum; school board policies and Open Public Meetings Act. N.J.S.A. 10:4-12. *Fuhrmann v. Board of Educ. of the Borough of Middlesex*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 416.

6:3-1.3 Minimum bond requirements for treasurer of school moneys

(a) The minimum requirements for the surety bond for the treasurer of school moneys shall be such percentage of the current year's school budget as is required in the schedule set forth below:

Total School Budget	Minimum Bond Required
Up to \$100,000.00	10 percent of budget (Minimum \$5,000)
\$100,000.01 to \$250,000.00	\$10,000 plus eight percent of all over \$100,000
\$250,000.01 to \$500,000.00	\$22,000 plus six percent of all over \$250,000
\$500,000.01 to \$750,000.00	\$37,000 plus four percent of all over \$500,000
\$750,000.01 to \$1,000,000.00	\$47,000 plus two percent of all over \$750,000
\$1,000,000.01 to \$2,000,000.00	\$52,000 plus one percent of all over \$1,000,000
\$2,000,000.01 to \$5,000,000.00	\$62,000 plus 1/2 percent of all over \$2,000,000
\$5,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000.00	\$77,000 plus 1/4 percent of all over \$5,000,000
\$10,000,000.01 and upwards	\$89,500 plus 1/8 percent of all over \$10,000,000

(b) In fixing such minimum bond, the nearest even \$1,000 shall be used.

(c) The independent school auditor shall verify the adequacy of the treasurer's surety bond which is required by N.J.S.A. 18A:17-32 and shall include appropriate comment, and a recommendation, if needed, in the annual school audit report.

6:3-1.4 Local district responsibility for employment of staff

(a) State certification requirements are those structured training and competency evaluation requirements that are prescribed by the State Board of Education in order to protect the public. In addition, the teaching and other background experiences of candidates for professional positions may often be important considerations in the local selection of specific staff for specific positions. Each district board of education shall determine the types of background experiences and personal qualities, if any, that the district requires or prefers successful candidates for specific positions to possess in addition to appropriate State certification. Such local requirements shall be based upon a careful review of the position in question, and the requirements shall emphasize the nature of experience and the quality of

individual achievement desired, rather than only the amount of experience.

(b) No teaching staff member shall be employed in the public schools by any board of education unless he or she is the holder of a valid certificate (see N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2). In addition, district boards of education should exercise their right and responsibility to require job candidates to present other, more detailed documentation of their competency. Such documentation includes resumes, references, records of past experiences, college transcripts, certification test scores, assessment reports, internship evaluations, and other documentation of competency relevant to the specific position.

(c) District boards of education shall assign to administrative positions those functions which are consistent with the individual qualifications of the position occupant, and shall support the establishment of structures for making instructional decisions that take administrator qualifications into account.

Case Notes

Excessive absenteeism warranted withholding of employee's salary increment. *Webb v. Board of Education of the Town of West Orange*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 782.

Tenured employee's excessive absenteeism, neglect of duty, and misbehavior constituted sufficient cause for termination. In the *Matter of Deal*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 703.

Board of Education employee failed to establish entitlement to 60 days notice that her position would be eliminated. *Allen v. Newark Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 688.

School custodian with criminal record was qualified for employment when proof of rehabilitation was shown. In the *Matter of the Disqualification From School Employment of McCullough*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 680.

Board of Education must provide analysis of job duties for newly created teaching position to determine reasonableness of dual certification requirement. *Kopko v. Board of Education of the Borough of Cateret*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 665.

Bus driver was properly dismissed after she was charged with narcotic possession, despite fact that charges were dropped upon driver's completion of pre-trial intervention program. *Fagan v. Toms River School District Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 622.

Hearing disability consultant who demonstrated rehabilitation was not disqualified from school employment despite drug conviction. *Kalapos v. New Jersey State Department of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 617.

Custodian with drug use record was not disqualified from school employment when rehabilitation was proven. *Pruden v. New Jersey State Department of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 602.

Custodian's discharge for neglect of duty and unexplained absence from work was upheld. *Jimenez v. City of Paterson School District*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 600.

Applicant seeking certification as New Jersey school principal must have master's degree or substantial equivalent course work. *Fisher v. State Board of Examiners*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 561.

Bus driver with three ten-year-old drug convictions not precluded from school employment where evidence demonstrated rehabilitation. *Seifred v. Department of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 558.

School employee was properly disqualified from employment due to past drug charges and convictions. In the Matter of the Disqualification from School Employment of Ali, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 551.

Criminal history supported employment disqualification of teacher's aide. In the Matter of the Disqualification from School Employment of Chester, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 547.

School custodian provided sufficient evidence of rehabilitation after drug conviction to overcome disqualification from public school employment. In the Matter of the Disqualification from School Employment of Lawrence, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 532.

Single prior conviction coupled with rehabilitated lifestyle supported qualification for employment as public school security guard. In the Matter of the Disqualification from School Employment of Henderson, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 530.

Insufficient evidence of rehabilitation after drug conviction supported disqualification of applicant for teacher's aide position from public school employment. In the Matter of the Disqualification from School Employment of Gowan, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 528.

School employee's refusal to accept responsibility for criminal conduct supports disqualification from employment. Marshall v. Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 521.

Insufficient time of drug-free status after long criminal history precludes finding of rehabilitation and supports school custodian's disqualification from employment. Butler v. Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 517.

Bus driver's criminal history does not bar school employment where rehabilitation shown by clear and convincing evidence. Marcelle v. Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 515.

Tenured school board employee's continuous refusal to comply with board employment policy justifies termination. In the Matter of the Tenure Hearing of Powers, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 508.

School bus driver demonstrated clear and convincing evidence of rehabilitation sufficient to overcome disqualification from school employment for prior criminal history. Gambale v. Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 505.

School custodian demonstrated rehabilitation by clear and convincing evidence and removed disqualification from employment for conviction for possession of marijuana. Trisuzzi v. Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 493.

Dismissal of teacher aide upheld where aide failed to demonstrate rehabilitation from past drug use. Chester v. Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 456.

Tenured school district employee properly dismissed for using his position to defraud federal government. In the Matter of the Tenure Hearing of Morton, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 440.

Past drug convictions render school custodian unfit for school employment. Campbell v. Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 431.

School custodian demonstrated rehabilitation from criminal lifestyle and fitness for school employment. McCullough v. Department of Education, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 420.

School employee working as audiovisual library technician entitled to tenure protection accorded clerks because job duties were primarily clerical. Roach v. South Orange-Maplewood School District, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 370.

School custodian properly terminated for poor performance and unbecoming conduct. In the Matter of the Tenure Charges Against Nathan Purcell, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 364.

Tenure rights were not violated where decision to abolish school district assistant purchasing agent's position was found to be reasonable. Dearden v. Board of Education of the City of Trenton, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 321.

Tenured school board employee's rights not affected by school board's recoupment of salary overpayment in non-tenured position. Sklute v. Board of Education of the City of Trenton, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 264.

Payroll supervisor for school board properly removed from position for unbecoming conduct after arranging for negative withholding on his own paycheck. In the Matter of the Tenure Charges Against Morton, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 236.

School information systems control specialist not tenured clerical position. In the Matter of Dempster, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 120.

School board may abolish tenured grounds and building director's position and terminate his employment based on appointed fiscal monitor's directive. Wollman v. Board of Education of the City of Trenton, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 20.

Equally entitled candidates for position of acting assistant principal and recognition was given to local school board's choice. Chamings v. Rockaway Township Board of Education, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 891.

6:3-1.5 Support residencies for regularly-certified, inexperienced first-year principals

(a) Regularly-certified, inexperienced first-year principals are individuals who:

1. Acquired regular New Jersey school principal endorsements pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:11-9.5 prior to September 1, 1989;
2. Have not previously held full-time employment as principals, vice-principals, or in other positions for which the principal endorsement is required in New Jersey or elsewhere; and
3. Have been offered employment as principals or vice-principals in a New Jersey public school district.

(b) Each district employing a regularly-certified, inexperienced first-year principal shall enter into an agreement to provide a principal residency program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:11-9.5, including a pre-residency experience, except that:

1. Entry requirements in N.J.A.C. 6:11-9.5 shall not apply to regularly-certified, inexperienced first-year principals;
2. Special certification evaluations as described in N.J.A.C. 6:119.5(c)5iv shall not be conducted for regularly-certified, inexperienced first-year principals, and no evaluations or recommendations concerning their certification shall be presented to the State Department of Education; and
3. As part of the support residency, the district shall require the new principal to undergo an assessment of performance at a State-approved center during the pre-residency phase. The sole purpose of this assessment shall be to provide a diagnosis of strengths and weaknesses as a basis for designing continuing education and support exercises.

(c) The State Department of Education shall monitor local districts to determine compliance with this section.

SUBCHAPTER 2. CHIEF SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATOR

Case Notes

6:3-2.1 Chief school administrator defined

Whenever the phrase "chief school administrator" is used throughout Title 6, it shall mean the superintendent of schools, or, if there is no superintendent, the administrative principal. The term "administrative principal" means the principal who works directly with the board of education in a district which has no position of superintendent of schools.

School board was authorized to rescind initial three-year contract and to renegotiate new five-year contract with superintendent. *Graham v. Kearny Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 510.

Authority was vested in school board to extend employment contract with superintendent while existing contract was still in effect. *West Village Civic Club v. Manchester Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 115.