

(b) The district shall provide training to SMT members in all WSR schools during the 1999-2000 school year in consultation with the SRI Team.

1. The training shall include, but not be limited to, instruction regarding the roles, relationships and responsibilities of the SMT, development and implementation of the WSR implementation plan, needs assessment, particularized need, curriculum and instruction, teamwork, and consensus building.

2. The training, if necessary, shall also include personnel and school-based budgeting.

(c) The Chief School Administrator shall notify the SRI Team in writing when an SMT member has attended a training program that satisfies the training requirement.

(d) The Chief School Administrator shall remove an SMT member who has not fulfilled the training requirement. Any member so removed may appeal by filing a petition with the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:24.

1. The Chief School Administrator shall notify the SRI Team in writing when SMT members have been removed pursuant to this provision.

SUBCHAPTER 3. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

6:19A-3.1 Early childhood general provisions

These rules will assist the Department in reaching its goal to ensure that all children in Abbott districts enter kindergarten ready to learn. The purpose of these rules is to ensure that quality early childhood programs are established in New Jersey. There is overwhelming evidence that an early childhood education will have long-term benefits for children, especially in disadvantaged districts. To ensure quality early childhood programs, districts are required to provide developmentally appropriate programs, under the supervision of master teachers, for the 1999-2000 school year, and the Department will provide districts, by the 2000-2001 school year, with specific guidance on developmentally appropriate standards/ expectations to provide uniform quality.

6:19A-3.2 Full-day kindergarten

The board shall offer a full-day kindergarten program to all five-year-old students.

6:19A-3.3 Preschool programs

(a) The board shall offer a half-day preschool program to all three- and four-year-old students for the 1999-2000 school year.

1. The board shall determine age eligibility for enrollment in preschool programs provided pursuant to this

subchapter using the same date it uses in determining age eligibility for kindergarten programs.

2. The board shall offer preschool programs, once implemented, for the duration of the school year.

(b) The board shall cooperate with or utilize a DHS-licensed child care provider whenever practical to implement required preschool programs and shall not duplicate programs or services otherwise available in the community. When the board enters into a contract with a DHS-licensed child care provider for the 2000-2001 school year, the contract shall be in a form provided by or approved by the Department. The board shall contract with a DHS-licensed child care provider to provide services to preschool students during the 1999-2000 school year when that provider agrees to meet the following standards:

1. Provide one teacher and one aide for every 15 students, or one teacher and two aides for every 20 students;

2. In consultation with a master teacher, provide age and developmentally appropriate expectations that are aligned with the Core Curriculum Content Standards and are integrated with the WSR model(s), or the whole school alternative program design(s) utilized in the district;

3. Require existing teachers to:

i. Work toward a bachelor's degree in six years and the proposed preschool-3 certificate, if the teacher already has Child Development Associate (CDA) or Certified Childcare Professional (CCP) credentials; or

ii. Enroll in a CDA/CCP program, attain CDA/CCP credentials within two years and work toward an associate's degree in early childhood and a bachelor's degree within six years and the proposed preschool-3 certification, if the teacher does not have a CDA/CCP or any degree;

4. Require any newly hired teachers to:

i. Have a bachelor's degree, enroll in the Department's provisional teacher program and obtain appropriate early childhood education courses, and obtain the proposed preschool-3 teacher certification by September 2001;

ii. Have an associate's degree in early childhood education and enroll in a bachelor's degree program that would lead to a teacher certification in early childhood education by September 2004; or

iii. Have a K-8 teacher's certificate, enroll in early childhood courses now, and seek the proposed preschool-3 certificate as soon as it becomes available; and

5. Encourage all teacher assistants, both new hires and existing staff to:

i. Pursue an associate's degree in early childhood education, if they already have CDA/CCP credentials; and

ii. Pursue either the CDA or the CCP credential if they do not have CDA/CCP credentials;

6. Provide one family worker for every 40 children being served by the center. The family worker shall work with the center and the parents to ensure that the parents and their children obtain necessary health and social services.

(c) The board may request a waiver from the Department to contract with a DHS-licensed child care provider that cannot meet (b)4 above, if the provider agrees to hire new teachers with CDA/CCP credentials. To be eligible for a waiver, the board shall demonstrate that teachers with a bachelor's degree or an associate's degree in early childhood education are not available.

(d) The board shall provide a master teacher at a recommended ratio of 1 to every 20 preschool classrooms. The master teacher shall coordinate and facilitate early childhood programs and assist in the provision of early childhood professional development.

(e) The board shall ensure that family referral services are available for district-operated preschool programs.

6:19A-3.4 Early childhood program operational plan

(a) The board shall operate its early childhood program consistent with its early childhood plan approved by the Department, which plan was developed pursuant to requirements specified in N.J.A.C. 6:19-3.2(e)2. The board shall amend its plan so that all four-year-olds and all three-year-olds are offered full-day, full-year preschool by the 2001-2002 school year. The district shall provide any necessary information to the Department to ensure that the program implementation is consistent with that plan.

(b) No additional early childhood programs or services shall be approved unless a particularized need is demonstrated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:19A-5.

SUBCHAPTER 4. WHOLE SCHOOL REFORM

6:19A-4.1 Adoption of whole school reform model

(a) Except as provided pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:19A-4.2, each elementary school shall adopt a whole school reform (WSR) model by June 2000. All WSR model developers must align all instructional materials and all instructional processes in the model with the Core Curriculum Content Standards. The presumptive model shall be Success for All—Roots and Wings (SFA/R&W). Permission to use other models may be granted by the Department where the choice of such model is justified. If any elementary school shall fail to select a model or have a design approved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:19A-4.2 by June 2000, the Commissioner shall assign an intervention team to work with the school, and if, after the intervention, the school fails to select a model or have a design approved, the Commissioner shall direct the school to implement the presumptive model.

(b) Except as provided pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:19A-4.2, any elementary school that is not a WSR school shall submit an application to the Department to participate in the implementation of WSR for the 2000-2001 school year. Any secondary school that has not implemented WSR may submit an application to the Department to participate in the implementation of WSR for the 2000-2001 school year. Application forms, including instructions and timelines, shall be provided by the Department for this purpose.

1. To implement an approved model, a school shall have the agreement of the developer.

2. A separate application is required for each school.

(c) Any secondary school that is not a WSR school shall submit to the Department for approval, with a copy to the board, a plan for implementation of a research-based WSR model, or a whole school alternative program design, or a comprehensive strategy that utilizes research based supplemental programs that address the Core Curriculum Content Standards no later than May 2000.

(d) Each of the following elements of whole school reform shall be addressed in a WSR model adopted by a school in an Abbott district:

1. Improved Student Performance: The model shall lead to improved student achievement focused on the Core Curriculum Content Standards, as measured by the State assessment program (Elementary School Proficiency Assessment, Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment, and High School Proficiency Test/High School Proficiency Assessment).

2. Research-Based Program: Each school shall provide a research-based program of curriculum and instruction supported by, and integrated with, an appropriate array of research-proven supplemental strategies (for example, SFA/R&W).

3. School-Based Leadership and Decision Making: The school shall maintain its own planning and decision-making structure, including establishment of an SMT pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:19A-2, and shall be led by a strong, effective principal. The principal shall involve parents and teaching staff members in setting annual student achievement targets. School staff and members of the community shall be committed to working together in a comprehensive, concerted effort to ensure that each child achieves success and maintains his or her self-confidence and enthusiasm for learning.

4. Integration and Alignment of School Functions: The school shall use a comprehensive approach, rather than a piecemeal one, to assure effective school-level implementation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:19A-4.3. All school functions shall collectively support student attainment of the Core Curriculum Content Standards. The school shall have an effective and compatible program of curriculum and instruction, supported systematically by a well-planned school budget pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:19A-4.4.