

**CHAPTER 9A  
NEW JERSEY EDUCATOR  
PREPARATION PROGRAMS**

**Authority**

N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, 18A:4-15, 18A:6-34,  
18A:6-38, 18A:26-2.7, and 18A:26-10.

**Source and Effective Date**

R.2009 d.24, effective December 10, 2008.  
See: 40 N.J.R. 4856(a), 41 N.J.R. 128(a).

**Chapter Expiration Date**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1b, Chapter 9A, New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs, expires on December 10, 2015. See: 43 N.J.R. 1203(a).

**Chapter Historical Note**

Chapter 9A, New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs, was recodified from Subchapter 10, Standards for New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs in Higher Education, of Chapter 9, Professional Licensure and Standards, by administrative change, effective August 4, 2014. As part of the recodification, attendant technical changes were made to the rule text concerning cross-references and the applicability of current chapter definitions. See: 46 N.J.R. 1743(a).

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SUBCHAPTER 1. (RESERVED)

SUBCHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS

6A:9A-2.1 Definitions

The definitions set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-2.1 shall apply to the words and terms used in this chapter.

SUBCHAPTER 3. STANDARDS FOR NEW JERSEY  
EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS IN  
HIGHER EDUCATION

**6A:9A-3.1 Requirements and standards for the approval of professional education programs preparing educational personnel**

(a) The Department shall establish a three-tiered system of program approval to include program approval committees, a State Program Approval Council, and final approval through the Department as follows:

1. The Department shall appoint program approval committees for each certificate area to recommend appropriate action regarding the addition of a new or substantially revised certification program to the State Program Approval Council based on documents and evidence of meeting program standards as specified in this subchapter.

i. The program approval committees shall be comprised of three members representing higher education and K-12 school districts who have expertise in the certification program under review.

2. The Commissioner shall appoint a State Program Approval Council comprised of 11 members, including six higher education representatives and five P-12 practitioners.

i. The Council shall advise the Commissioner on matters pertaining to higher education teacher, administrator, and educational service personnel preparation quality issues;

ii. The Council shall coordinate the peer review program approval process for initial and substantially revised programs and the periodic review of programs;

iii. The Council shall review program information required for the periodic review of programs and recommend appropriate action regarding the program's status; and

iv. The Council shall make final recommendations regarding approval of programs to the Department.

3. Based on the recommendation of the State Program Approval Council, the Department shall take appropriate action regarding program approval.

(b) The Department shall approve all professional educator preparation programs leading to State certification in New Jersey institutions of higher education. The scope of program approval shall include programs from institutions chartered in the State, as well as programs that have a physical presence in New Jersey and are run by out-of-State institutions that are approved by the New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education. Program approval shall be based on the following criteria:

1. Compliance with State professional standards for teachers and school leaders as established in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3.3 and 3.4;

2. Compliance with State content-specific professional standards by licensure area that will be implemented by the Department for its review of new or substantially revised programs;

3. Program documentation for the initial review and approval of all new or substantially revised programs shall include, but not be limited to:

- i. A summary of the proposed program;
- ii. The program framework and guiding principles;
- iii. Program alignment to the professional content standards;
- iv. Description of the field experiences;
- v. Description of student performance assessments and evidence of program outcomes;
- vi. Program faculty resumes; and
- vii. Course syllabi and program curriculum;

4. The following documentation shall be reviewed by the State Program Approval Council and be used for the periodic review and approval for continuation of all preparation programs in conjunction with the institution's national accreditation:

- i. Data on candidates' performance on program based assessments at program completion;
- ii. Numbers of educator candidates prepared in critical shortage areas and from diverse backgrounds;
- iii. Placement and retention rates;
- iv. Data on candidates' performance at the end of the provisional period;
- v. Praxis scores and pass rates;
- vi. Follow-up survey of graduates and employers; and
- vii. Where relevant, P-12 student achievement data;

5. Accreditation by a national accrediting body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation and approved by the Commissioner; and

6. Compliance with requirements in (c) below.

(c) Higher education institutions that prepare educators shall be required to have programs approved as follows:

1. All new or revised educator programs must secure initial approval from the Department prior to implementation;

2. All educator programs must undergo a periodic program review every seven years at least six months prior to the national accreditation process;

3. All programs must obtain accreditation through the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, the Teacher Education Accreditation Council, or any other national professional education accreditation body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation or the Commissioner.

i. Institutions of higher education preparing professional educators that fail to obtain national accreditation shall forfeit State approval to offer professional educator preparation programs leading to certification.

ii. The State shall withdraw approval for any institution of higher education preparing professional educators that fails to meet the conditions in (c)3i above.

(d) Formal admission to teacher preparation programs shall be reviewed by colleges and universities at the beginning of the junior year and shall be granted only if:

1. The average cumulative GPA of the accepted cohort of candidates as of September 1, 2015, is at least 3.00 when a grade point of 4.00 equals an A grade for the first two years of college and each accepted individual candidate shall achieve at least a 2.75. Candidates admitted prior to September 1, 2015, shall have maintained an individual cumulative GPA of at least 2.50 when a grade point of 4.00 equals an A grade for the first two years of college. Institutions may require higher minimum GPAs for entry into teacher preparation programs;

2. The accepted candidates achieved acceptable levels of proficiency in the use of the English language, both oral and written, and mathematics. Students with deficiencies in these areas upon admission to college shall be required to demonstrate proficiency through an oral or written assessment by the beginning of the junior year. As of September 1, 2015, all accepted candidates shall have achieved a minimum score established by the Department on a Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills, or score at least a 1660 combined critical reading, writing, and mathematics on the SAT, at least a 23 on the ACT, or at least a 4.0 on the analytical writing section and a combined score of 310 on the quantitative and verbal sections of the GRE; and

3. The accepted candidates demonstrated aptitude for the profession of teaching through successful completion of an appropriate practical experience in an elementary or secondary school.

(e) The college or university faculty shall evaluate each student at the end of the semester prior to student teaching. The faculty evaluation shall be based on a comprehensive assessment of relevant indicators that include: