

(d) When a promotional examination is announced, an open competitive examination may also be announced.

Amended by R.1989 d.569, effective November 6, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1766(a), 21 N.J.R. 3448(b).

In (b)2i: added text, "Former Municipal Police Officers ... the closing date."

Amended by R.1997 d.482, effective November 17, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 3385(a), 29 N.J.R. 4864(b).

Inserted new (c); and recodified (c) as (d).

Amended by R.1998 d.291, effective June 1, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 890(a), 30 N.J.R. 1975(a).

In (b)2, inserted references to State troopers, sheriff's officers, sheriff's deputies and County Municipal police Officers in i, added a new ii and recodified former ii as iii.

Amended by R.2000 d.444, effective November 6, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 2178(a), 32 N.J.R. 3981(a).

In (b)2, rewrote i and ii.

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Civil Service—Administrative Procedure—Counties—Municipalities.
Judith Nallin, 134 N.J.L.J. No. 17, 50 (1993).

Case Notes

Limiting open competitive examination to residents for position of police chief, violated the Civil Service Act, the Board's own regulations, and the rule-making provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act. Matter of Police Chief (M2010P) South Orange Village, 266 N.J.Super. 101, 628 A.2d 809 (A.D.1993).

Equitable estoppel: provisional employee worked 8–10 years before test was promulgated. Omrod v. N.J. Department of Civil Service, 151 N.J.Super. 54, 376 A.2d 554 (App.Div.1977) certification denied 75 N.J. 534, 384 A.2d 513.

Issue of examination as artificial barrier to employment. DeLarmi v. Borough of Fort Lee, 132 N.J.Super. 501, 334 A.2d 349 (App.Div.1975) certiorari denied 68 N.J. 135, 343 A.2d 423.

Requirement that employee serve specified time in lower classification before becoming eligible for promotion upheld (citing former N.J.A.C. 4:1–8.6). Watson v. Farrell, 116 N.J.Super. 434, 282 A.2d 756 (App.Div.1977).

Patient care worker was properly removed from her position for cursing at and prodding patient. Richardson v. North Princeton Development Center, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 507.

Testimony of mentally disturbed witness with history of lying was insufficient to support charges of employee misconduct. Dickerson v. North Princeton Development Center, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 504.

Laborer's gambling activities did not "involve or touch on" his employment so as to require forfeiture of his position. Tudda v. Department of Public Works of the Borough of West Paterson, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 499.

Alcoholic police officer's conduct warranted six-month suspension. Arose v. Township of Little Egg Harbor Police Department, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 490.

Four-week suspension for sanitation worker's refusal to work second route on holiday was excessive. Carrico v. Woodbridge Township, Department of Public Works, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 483.

4A:4-2.4 Promotional title scope: local service

(a) If a title which is the subject of a promotional examination is part of a title series, then the examination shall be open to one of the following:

1. The next lower in-series title used in the local jurisdiction;

2. The next two lower in-series titles used in the local jurisdiction; or

3. All applicants in the unit scope who meet the open competitive requirements and all applicants in the next lower or next two lower in-series titles used in the local jurisdiction.

(b) When the title which is the subject of the promotional examination is not part of a title series, the examination shall be open to all applicants having a total of one-year permanent service who meet the open competitive requirements.

(c) When a promotion is to be made from the noncompetitive division of the career service to a related entry level title in the competitive division of the career service, the examination shall be open to all applicants who meet the complete open competitive requirements and who are either serving in:

1. The next lower in-series noncompetitive title used in the local jurisdiction;

2. The next two lower in-series noncompetitive titles used in the local jurisdiction;

3. All related noncompetitive titles; or

4. Any competitive title.

(d) The title scopes described in (a)2, 3 and (c)2 through 4 above or any combination of such scopes may be used when a wider title scope is appropriate or the appointing authority provisionally promotes an employee who does not have permanent status in the next lower in-series title of the title series established by the Department of Personnel.

(e) In extraordinary circumstances, the Commissioner may set another appropriate title scope.

(f) The local jurisdiction may be required to provide the Department of Personnel with copies of ordinances, tables of organization or other evidence of the jurisdiction's use of titles.

Amended by R.1990 d.554, effective November 19, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 2628(a), 22 N.J.R. 3482(a).

Conforms the requirements for local with those in State service.

Amended by R.1993 d.270, effective June 7, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1085(b), 25 N.J.R. 2509(a).

Revised (d)1 and 2.

Amended by R.2003 d.395, effective October 6, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 2389(a), 35 N.J.R. 4711(c).

Rewrote the section.

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Civil Service—Administrative Procedure—Counties—Municipalities.
Judith Nallin, 134 N.J.L.J., No. 17, 50 (1993).

Case Notes

Merit Systems Board's approval of open competitive examination was violation of Civil Service Act, the Board's own regulations, and the

rule-making provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act. Matter of Police Chief (M2010P) South Orange Village, 266 N.J.Super. 101, 628 A.2d 809 (A.D.1993).

4A:4-2.5 Promotional title scope: State service

(a) For the purpose of announcing promotional examinations, all titles will be divided into one of the following categories:

1. Professional, which requires a Bachelor's or higher level degree, with or without a clause to substitute experience for education;
2. Para-professional, which requires at least 60 general college credits or 12 or more specific college credits (but less than a full degree), with or without a clause to substitute experience for education; or
3. Non-professional, which requires less than 60 general college credits or less than 12 specific college credits.

(b) When a promotion is within the same category as listed in (a) above, the examination, with or without all or part of the open competitive requirements, as appropriate, shall be open to permanent competitive division employees serving in one of the following:

1. The next lower or next two lower in-series titles. See N.J.A.C. 4A:1-1.3 for definition of title series.
2. The next lower in-series title, if one exists, and all other competitive division titles at specified class code levels below the promotional title. See N.J.A.C. 4A:1-1.3 for definition of class code.
3. The next lower in-series title, if one exists, and all other permanent competitive division employees who meet the complete open competitive requirements.
4. To related titles, pursuant to an established plan approved by the Commissioner.
5. In extraordinary circumstances, the Commissioner may set another appropriate title scope.

(c) When a promotion is between categories as listed in (a) above, the examination shall be open to permanent competitive division employees currently serving in the announced unit scope and who meet one of the following criteria:

1. All applicants who meet the complete open competitive requirements;
2. All applicants who are permanent in a bridge title or titles approved by the Commissioner and who meet the complete open competitive requirements. A bridge title is one which is recognized by the Department of Personnel as related to a higher category title in terms of work performed and knowledge, skills and abilities required;

3. All titles that are in the same category as the announced title and that are in specified class codes below the announced title, including the next lower in-series title if one exists, with or without all or part of the open competitive requirements, as appropriate, and all applicants as described in (c)2 above; or

4. In extraordinary circumstances, the Commissioner may set another appropriate title scope.

(d) When a promotion is to be made from the noncompetitive division to a related title in the competitive division, the examination shall be open to all permanent employees who meet one of the following:

1. Serving in the next lower or next two lower in-series noncompetitive titles and possessing the complete open competitive requirements;
2. Serving in all related noncompetitive titles and possessing the complete open competitive requirements;
3. All competitive division titles at specified class code levels below the announced title, with or without all or part of the open competitive requirements, and all titles as described in (d)1 or 2 above;
4. Competitive division employees who meet complete open competitive requirements and all titles as described in (d)1 or 2 above; or
5. In extraordinary circumstances, the Commissioner may set another appropriate title scope.

(e) The movement of a permanent employee in the noncompetitive division to a related title in the same category and with the same class code in the competitive division shall be considered a promotion for purposes of this subchapter. The title scope of the examination shall be established as set forth in (d) above.

Correction: Subsection (c) cross-reference should be (a) instead of (b).

Amended by R.1993 d.270, effective June 7, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1085(b), 25 N.J.R. 2509(a).

Revised text.

4A:4-2.6 Eligibility for promotional examination

(a) Applicants for promotional examinations shall meet all of the following criteria by the announced closing date:

1. Have one year of continuous permanent service for an aggregate of one year immediately preceding the closing date in a title or titles to which the examination is open. Aggregate service shall be calculated in the same manner as seniority as set forth in N.J.A.C. 4A:4-2.15.
2. Be currently serving in the announced unit scope in a title to which the examination is open and meet all other requirements contained in the announcement. If an examination announcement is amended, all requirements must be met by the announced closing date whether or not the application filing date is changed;

3. Have not received a Performance Assessment Review (PAR) final rating below the Commendable level (or equivalent in an approved local service evaluation program) in each of the two rating periods immediately preceding the announced closing date; and

4. File an application on or before the application filing date.

(b) In local service, applicants for promotion from entry level law enforcement or firefighter titles shall have three years of continuous permanent service in a title to which the examination is open, except as otherwise provided by law.

(c) Except when permitted by the Merit System Board for good cause, such as a documented affirmative action basis, applicants for promotional examinations with open competitive requirements may not use experience gained as a result of out-of-title work to satisfy the requirements for admittance to the examination or for credit in the examination process. The Department of Personnel may recommend to the Board good cause situations where out-of-title work should be accepted.

(d) Employees who have accepted a voluntary demotion to or are appointed from a special reemployment list to a title to which the examination is open, may, in order to satisfy the requirement of (a)1 above, include continuous permanent service in any higher related or comparable title.

(e) An employee who has established eligibility for a promotional examination with a closing date earlier than the effective date of a layoff shall be permitted to take such examination.

(f) Employees who are separated or displaced as a result of layoff and who subsequently return to a title and unit scope to which a promotional examination is open between the filing deadline and the examination date, shall be allowed to file for the examination.

(g) The time requirements specified in (a) and (b) above may be reduced to completion of the working test period if:

1. There is currently an incomplete promotional list and/or the number of employees eligible for examination will result in an incomplete list;

2. It appears that vacancies to be filled within the duration of the promotional list will exceed the maximum number of eligibles that could result from examination; or

3. Other valid reasons as determined by the Commissioner.

Amended by R.1993 d.45, effective January 19, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 3589(a), 25 N.J.R. 291(a).

Redesignated existing (a)3 as (a)4; added new (a)3.

Amended by R.1993 d.270, effective June 7, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1085(b), 25 N.J.R. 2509(a).

Revised (a)1 and 2; revised (f).

Petition for Rulemaking: Notice of Receipt of and Action on a Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 29 N.J.R. 810(a), 29 N.J.R. 1568(b).

Amended by R.2000 d.11, effective January 3, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2824(a), 32 N.J.R. 35(a).

In (a)3, substituted "below the Commendable level" for "of a Four, Marginally Below Standards or Five, Significantly Below Standards" following "rating".

Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 36 N.J.R. 3303(a).

Case Notes

Consideration of prior service in determining continuous service requirements for examination. *Makowitz v. Civil Service Dep't*, 177 N.J.Super. 61, 424 A.2d 1190 (App.Div.1980) certification denied 87 N.J. 326, 434 A.2d 76.

Preemptive rights to new position based on special reemployment list (citing former N.J.A.C. 4:1-12.4). *Cunningham v. Dep't of Civil Service*, 69 N.J. 13, 350 A.2d 58 (1975).

4A:4-2.7 Promotion upon waiver of competitive examination

(a) Following the announcement of a promotional examination, the Commissioner may authorize the promotion of a qualified permanent employee in the career service by regular appointment without competitive examination and without the establishment of an eligible list if:

1. The employee has been successfully tested in the basic skills required for the promotional title;

2. The employee has not failed, within one year prior to the announced closing date, a promotional examination for that title. However, an employee who subsequently passed an examination for that title shall be eligible for promotion;

3. The number of interested eligibles for the promotional examination referred to in (a) above does not exceed the number of promotional appointments by more than two; and

4. Veterans preference rights are not a factor.

Amended by R.1993 d.270, effective June 7, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1085(b), 25 N.J.R. 2509(a).

Revised (a)4.

Amended by R.1997 d.443, effective October 20, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 2731(a), 29 N.J.R. 4456(b).

Substantially amended (a); and in (a)3, inserted "for the promotional examination referred to in (a) above".

Case Notes

Remedy for unlawful discrimination—employee should be promoted to positions earlier denied them as such positions become available (citing former N.J.A.C. 4:1-8.5). *Pilot v. Dep't of Health*, 7 N.J.A.R. 150 (1982) affirmed A-5858-81 (App.Div.1983).

4A:4-2.8 Scheduling of examinations

(a) Examinations may be scheduled for one or more sessions on a Statewide, regional or local basis.

(b) Candidates will be notified in an appropriate manner of the time and place of the examination, and of any postponement or cancellation.

(c) Candidates shall be at the examination site at the designated time. Candidates arriving late shall only be admitted as follows:

1. Unless the examination notice states otherwise, candidates for written examinations or examinations containing written and performance parts shall be admitted to the examination if they arrive at the test room within 15 minutes after the designated time.

2. Candidates for oral examinations or examinations containing oral and performance parts shall be admitted to the examination if they arrive at the test room within 30 minutes after the designated time, provided the last scheduled candidate has not started the examination.

(d) A candidate who arrives late and is admitted to the examination shall receive the full allotted time to complete the examination.

(e) Jurisdictions operating under Title 11A, New Jersey Statutes, shall furnish sufficient facilities for the conduct of examinations when requested by the Department of Personnel.

Amended by R.1993 d.270, effective June 7, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1085(b), 25 N.J.R. 2509(a).

Revised (c)1; deleted (c)2; redesignated existing (c)3 to (c)2.

Case Notes

Department of Energy could return employee to his permanent position as senior engineer when promotional examination was not given between date of his provisional appointment and date of demotion (citing former N.J.A.C. 4:1-1.1). *O'Malley v. Department of Energy*, 109 N.J. 309, 537 A.2d 647 (1987).

4A:4-2.9 Make-up examinations

(a) Make-up examinations, except for police, fire and professional level engineering promotional examinations under (b) below, may be authorized for the following reasons:

1. Error by the Department of Personnel or appointing authority;

2. Serious illness or disability of the candidate on the test date, provided the candidate submits a doctor's certificate specifying that the candidate was not able to take the test on that day for medical reasons;

3. Documented serious illness or death in the candidate's immediate family;

4. Natural disaster;

5. Prior vacation or travel plans outside of New Jersey or any contiguous state, which cannot be reasonably changed, as evidenced by a sworn statement and relevant documentation; and

6. Other valid reasons.

(b) For police, fire and professional level engineering promotional examinations, make-up examinations may be authorized only in cases of:

1. Debilitating injury or illness requiring an extended convalescent period, provided the candidate submits a doctor's certification containing a diagnosis and a statement clearly showing that the candidate's physical condition precluded his or her participation in the examination;

2. Death in the candidate's immediate family as evidenced by a copy of the death certificate;

3. A candidate's wedding which cannot be reasonably changed as evidenced by relevant documentation; or

4. Error by the Department of Personnel or appointing authority.

(c) Employees returning from military leave shall have an opportunity to take promotional examinations that have not yet been administered, or make-up examinations for active promotional lists for which they were eligible while on military leave. If the eligible passes the examination, his or her name will be placed on the eligible list based upon the score obtained, as if the examination had been taken when originally held.

(d) Employees who have been removed for disciplinary reasons or indefinitely suspended pending criminal charges, and are thereafter exonerated, shall have an opportunity to take promotional examinations that have not yet been administered, or make-up examinations for active promotional lists, if the suspension or removal resulted in the employee's non-participation in the promotional examination.

(e) In situations involving illness, death or natural disasters, a candidate must request, in writing, a make-up examination, within five days after the examination date. However, a candidate must submit a written request for a make-up examination within five days of receipt of the examination notice in case of military leave, prior vacation plans or other valid reasons of which a candidate is aware upon receipt of the examination notice.

(f) Make-up examinations will be administered to the extent possible under the same conditions as the original examination;

(g) The name of any candidate passing a make-up examination will be added to the eligible list. Except for error by the Department of Personnel or appointing authority, prior appointments from the eligible list will not be affected by the addition of a name to the list.

(h) All candidates taking make-up examinations, except physical performance examination, shall, as a precondition to taking the make-up examination, be required to sign a statement that they have no knowledge of the content of the examination as a result of information gained from or furnished by other candidates who participated in the original examination.

(i) In extraordinary circumstances, such as an examination that requires a multiple assessment of a candidate which results in a group consensus rating by a panel of experts, a make-up examination shall not be held. In such cases, candidates will be so notified at least 45 days prior to the date of the examination. The only exception will be documented error on the part of the Department of Personnel or appointing authority, in which case a make-up may be granted if practicable.

Amended by R.1989 d.569, effective November 6, 1989.
See: 21 N.J.R. 1766(a), 21 N.J.R. 3448(b).

In (a): added language regarding police and fire promotional examinations.

Relettered old (b)-(g) as (c)-(h) with no change in text.

Amended by R.1993 d.270, effective June 7, 1993.
See: 25 N.J.R. 1085(b), 25 N.J.R. 2509(a).

Revised (b), (e), (g) and (h).

Amended by R.1994 d.114, effective March 7, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 4823(a), 26 N.J.R. 1225(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.285, effective June 6, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 1183(a), 26 N.J.R. 2256(b).

Amended by R.1997 d.72, effective February 18, 1997.

See: 28 N.J.R. 4978(a), 29 N.J.R. 549(a).

Inserted new (d) and recodified former (d) through (h) as (e) through (i).

4A:4-2.10 Conduct and security of examinations

(a) The Department shall insure that all applicants for an examination are given equal opportunity to demonstrate their relative merit and fitness.

(b) In the conduct or administration of an examination, the following shall be considered prohibited actions:

1. Securing, by unauthorized persons, of questions or materials, unless the same are available to all applicants;
2. Securing, by unauthorized persons, of information concerning the number or identity of applicants until all parts of the examination have been held and a resulting eligible list issued;
3. Identification of an applicant's examination papers or work before all examinations have been rated, where anonymity is required;
4. Impersonation of an applicant, either in person or by the improper exchange of applicant numbers or in any other manner;
5. Use or attempted use of any unauthorized aids, information or assistance, including copying or attempting to copy from, or helping or attempting to help another applicant in any part of an examination or performance of work assigned;

6. A candidate's participation in an examination if it would likely result in physical injury to the candidate or others, or damage to property; or

7. Copying, recording or transcribing any examination question or answer, and/or the removal from any examination room of any question sheet, answer sheet, scrap paper, notes or other papers or materials related to the content of an examination.

(c) Anyone participating in a prohibited action under (b) above shall be disqualified from the examination and may be rejected from future examinations and subject to punishment as provided by law.

(d) See N.J.A.C. 4A:4-2.6 on confidentiality of examination records.

Amended by R.1993 d.270, effective June 7, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1085(b), 25 N.J.R. 2509(a).

Added new (d).

Case Notes

Once the Department of Personnel (DOP) or Merit System Board discovered that breaches in exam security had occurred, such as fact that unknown individuals had typed out 65 or 71 questions that appeared on sergeant's exam and disseminated them with answers throughout police department prior to the administration of any make-up exams, the make-up civil service exams should have been cancelled and an appropriate remedy fashioned to ensure that all candidates had a fair and competitive exam. In the Matter of Police Sergeant (PM3776V) City of Paterson, 176 N.J. 49, 819 A.2d 1173.

Violations of spirit and purpose of Civil Service rules. *Rox v. Dept. of Civil Service*, 141 N.J.Super. 463, 358 A.2d 819 (App.Div.1976).

4A:4-2.11 Residence standards

(a) In local service, an appointing authority shall provide the Department of Personnel with its residency ordinance or resolution, if any, on an annual basis as determined by the Department, and shall provide any subsequent modifications within 20 days after adoption.

1. If the appointing authority provides the Department with such a subsequent modification following promulgation of an eligible list, the Department may charge it for the cost of reordering the list.

(b) Where residence requirements have been established, residence means a single legal residence. The following standards shall be used in determining legal residence:

1. Whether the locations in question are owned or rented;
2. Whether time actually spent in the claimed residence exceeds that of other locations;
3. Whether the relationship among those persons living in the claimed residence is closer than those with whom the individual lives elsewhere. If an individual claims a parent's residence because of separation from his or her spouse, a court order or other evidence of separation may be requested;

4. Whether, if the residence requirement of the anticipated or actual appointment was eliminated, the individual would be likely to remain in the claimed residence;

5. Whether the residence recorded on a driver's license, motor vehicle registration, or voter registration card and other documents is the same as the claimed legal residence. Post office box numbers shall not be acceptable; and

6. Whether the school district attended by child(ren) living with the individual is the same as the claimed residence.

(c) Unless otherwise specified, residency requirements shall be met by the announced closing date for the examination.