

CHAPTER 30

EVALUATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Authority

N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-1 et seq.

Source and Effective Date

R.2000 d.192, effective May 1, 2000.
See: 32 N.J.R. 409(a), 32 N.J.R. 1540(a).

Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date

The expiration date of Chapter 30, Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts, was extended by gubernatorial directive from May 1, 2005 to May 1, 2006. See: 37 N.J.R. 2012(a).

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 30, Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts, was adopted as R.2000 d.192, effective May 1, 2000. See: Source and Effective Date.

CHAPTER TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUBCHAPTER 1. AN OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION

- 6A:30-1.1 Scope and purpose
- 6A:30-1.2 Definitions
- 6A:30-1.3 General requirements for annual evaluation and certification evaluation
- 6A:30-1.4 Evaluation process for the annual review
- 6A:30-1.5 Identification of districts for certification evaluation

SUBCHAPTER 2. LEVEL I EVALUATION FOR SEVEN-YEAR CERTIFICATION

- 6A:30-2.1 Requirement for Group 1 certification
- 6A:30-2.2 Requirement for Group 2 certification
- 6A:30-2.3 Requirements for Group 3 alternative certification
- 6A:30-2.4 Certification procedures
- 6A:30-2.5 Evaluation findings

SUBCHAPTER 3. LEVEL II AND LEVEL III EVALUATION

- 6A:30-3.1 Level II evaluation process
- 6A:30-3.2 Level III evaluation process
- 6A:30-3.3 Comprehensive compliance investigation
- 6A:30-3.4 Corrective action by Commissioner
- 6A:30-3.5 Appeal process from Level II and Level III evaluation determinations

SUBCHAPTER 1. AN OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION

6A:30-1.1 Scope and purpose

(a) The Department of Education, through the county superintendent of schools of each county, shall evaluate annually all public schools to determine if they are meeting the standards required by N.J.S.A. 18A and by the other

chapters in N.J.A.C. 6 and 6A. The county superintendent shall evaluate specific documents and conduct an on-site visit every seven years to determine a district board of education's certification. The county superintendent of schools shall provide technical assistance to a district for which deficiencies are noted during the annual review. The Commissioner shall recommend to the State Board of Education Level I certification, certification with conditions, Level II or Level III intervention for each district evaluated by the county superintendent every seven years. The Commissioner reserves the right to recommend that the State Board rescind the certification of any district that fails to comply with the required standards.

(b) These rules do not apply to private schools, educational services commissions or non-operating school districts.

Amended by R.2003 d.431, effective November 3, 2003.
See: 35 N.J.R. 2556(a), 35 N.J.R. 5079(a).

6A:30-1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Annual review" means the yearly review process to determine each district board of education's compliance with the requirements of other chapters of N.J.A.C. 6 and 6A.

"Assistant Commissioner" means an Assistant Commissioner or designee, in the Department of Education.

"Certification" means an acceptable rating in all of the requirements of the evaluation process.

"Certification with conditions" means certification that is contingent upon the district correcting identified deficiencies without additional diagnostic monitoring or technical assistance, within a specific period of time.

"Department" means the Department of Education.

"Desk audit" means an annual review of documents submitted to the county superintendent's office in order to determine a district's compliance with evaluation standards. Documents reviewed during a desk audit include: the Quality Assurance Annual Report, results of student achievement in the Statewide assessment program, average daily student attendance, student dropout rate, annual budget, external audits, transportation contracts, reports on the status of mandated programs and services, certificated staff reports, results of the district's health and safety facilities reviews, board secretary's/treasurer's report, and other documents as required of specific districts by the Commissioner.

"Evaluation" means procedures used to determine the success of programs, projects, techniques and materials in relation to the achievement of goals, objectives and standards; that is, the act of making judgments based upon the data gathered.

"External review team" refers to a group of individuals qualified by training and experience who examine the special conditions within a school district that has been placed in the Level II or Level III evaluation process.

"Group 1 school districts" means those districts that meet the standards for student performance and behavior according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.4(a) and 6:8-3.1 and will, therefore, receive an abbreviated on-site evaluation.

"Group 2 school districts" means those districts that do not meet the standards for student performance and behavior according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.4(a) and 6:8-3.1 and, therefore, will receive a full on-site evaluation.

"Group 3 school districts" means those districts in Group 1 that elect an alternative program of evaluation according to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14.4.

"Level I districts" means districts that the State Board of Education has previously certified for a period of seven years.

"Level II districts" means districts that fail one or more of the evaluation standards of this chapter and that the county superintendent has determined cannot correct the identified deficiencies without additional monitoring or technical assistance from the Department within a specified time period.

"Level III districts" means districts that fail to correct the deficiencies identified in the Level II evaluation process.

"QAAR" means the Quality Assurance Annual Report provided by the chief school administrator to the public which includes: implementation of school-level plans, achievement of performance objectives, school report cards, professional development activities, condition of school facilities, status of mandated program reviews and community support data, implementation of guidance and counseling services and identification of eligibility and provision of services to gifted and talented students.

"State Board" means the State Board of Education.

Amended by R.2000 d.358, effective September 5, 2000.
See: 32 N.J.R. 1712(a), 32 N.J.R. 3332(b).

In "Group 1 school districts" and "Group 2 school districts", updated N.J.A.C. references.

Amended by R.2003 d.431, effective November 3, 2003.
See: 35 N.J.R. 2556(a), 35 N.J.R. 5079(a).

Rewrote "Assistant Commissioner"; in "External review team", inserted "or Level III" preceding "evaluation process".

6A:30-1.3 General requirements for annual evaluation and certification evaluation

(a) Each district board of education shall annually submit documents for a desk audit review to the county superintendent of schools to demonstrate compliance with law and rules.

1. The county superintendent shall ensure that a district for which deficiencies are identified receives technical assistance to correct the deficiencies.

(b) The Department shall validate the annual progress reported by each district board of education in (a) above by conducting an on-site evaluation under the supervision of the county superintendent of schools every seven years.

1. Each district board of education shall be notified in advance of the on-site visit by the county superintendent of schools. The dates for such on-site visits shall be established in consultation with the chief school administrator of the district.

2. The county superintendent or designee shall conduct a pre-evaluation conference with the chief school administrator or designee to establish the evaluation process.

3. Prior to the evaluation visit, the county superintendent or designee shall request that the district board of education provide documentation materials that are unavailable at the county office. The chief school administrator or designee shall be directed to either forward the documentation materials or make them available at the time of the on-site visit.

4. The evaluation team, supervised by the county superintendent, shall evaluate the school district according to this chapter. The Commissioner shall recommend the certification status of each school district to the State Board based upon the on-site evaluation.

i. A district board of education that meets the established requirements according to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-2 shall be recommended for certification for a period of seven years.

ii. A district board of education that does not meet the established requirements shall be recommended for certification with conditions to correct deficiencies within a prescribed time frame.

iii. A district board of education that does not meet the established requirements and has failed to show sufficient progress toward achieving the thoroughness and efficiency standards established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-4 shall enter Level II evaluation according to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.1.

Amended by R.2003 d.431, effective November 3, 2003.
See: 35 N.J.R. 2556(a), 35 N.J.R. 5079(a).

In (b), rewrote 4iii.