

CHAPTER 19

COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND FINANCING PROGRAM

Authority

N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-34 (P.L. 1996, c.138) and 18A:7A-1 et seq.

Source and Effective Date

R.1997 d.372, effective September 2, 1997.
See: 29 N.J.R. 2591(a), 29 N.J.R. 3806(a).

Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date

Chapter 24, Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Program, expires on September 2, 2002.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

6:19-1.1 Purpose

These rules are adopted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-34 to effectuate the provisions of the Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996 and to integrate within the new procedures, procedures related to existing statutory provisions, such as N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-1 et seq., and the general authority conferred pursuant to the "thorough and efficient" clause of the New Jersey Constitution in order to produce a well coordinated and efficient system of rules. The Act establishes procedures for defining the substantive content of a thorough education in the form of rigorous Core Curriculum Content Standards which are uniformly required of all districts in the State. The Act also establishes procedures for setting and maintaining standards for the efficient delivery of programs and services that will accomplish the goals. In addition, the Act provides a funding mechanism to ensure that each school district has a level of financial support sufficient to provide those programs and services. Finally, it establishes an accountability system to ensure that public funds will be expended prudently and effectively to enable all students to meet the established substantive standards.

6:19-1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings:

"Abbott district," as defined by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-3, means one of the 28 urban districts in district factor groups A and B specifically identified in the appendix to *Raymond Abbott, et al. v. Fred G. Burke, et al.* decided by the New Jersey Supreme Court on June 5, 1990 (119 N.J. 287, 394) as follows: Asbury Park City, Bridgeton City, Burlington City, Camden City, East Orange City, Elizabeth City, Garfield City, Gloucester City, Harrison Town, Hoboken City, Irvington Township, Jersey City, Keansburg Borough, Long Branch City, Millville City, New Brunswick City, Newark City, City of Orange Township, Passaic City, Paterson City, Pemberton Township, Perth Amboy City, Phillipsburg Town, Pleasantville City, Trenton City, Union City, Vineland City, and West New York Town.

"Adjusted for inflation," as defined by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5, means the greater of the CPI or three percent.

"Base budget" means the district board of education's school budget which contains a net budget at its adjusted spending growth limitation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5, but exclusive of additional spending proposals submitted to the voters or board of school estimate.

"Comparative Spending Guide" means the annual report of comparative financial statistics of school districts com-

piled and published for general distribution by the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-30.

"Core Curriculum Content Standards" means the seven academic and five workplace readiness areas adopted by the State Board of Education May 1, 1996 and as thereafter revised by the State Board. These standards communicate the common expectations for the achievement to which all New Jersey students will be held throughout their 13 year public education experience. The standards are articulated in areas including: visual and performing arts, comprehensive health/physical education, language arts literacy, mathematics, science, social studies and world languages and cross content areas for: career planning, use of technology information and other tools, critical thinking/decision making/problem solving, self management and safety principles.

"CPI," as defined by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-3, means the average annual increase, expressed as a decimal, in the consumer price index for the New York City and Philadelphia areas during the fiscal year preceding the prebudget year as reported by the United States Department of Labor.

"Debt service," as defined by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-3, means payments of principal and interest upon school bonds and other obligations issued to finance the purchase or construction of school facilities, additions to school facilities, or the reconstruction, remodeling, alteration, modernization, renovation or repair of school facilities, including furnishings, equipment, architect fees and the costs of issuance of such obligations and shall include payments of principal and interest upon bonds issued to fund or refund such obligations, and upon municipal bonds and other obligations which the Commissioner approves as having been issued for such purposes. Debt service pursuant to the provisions of P.L. 1978, c.74 (N.J.S.A. 18A:58-33.22 et seq.), P.L. 1971, c.10 (N.J.S.A. 18A:58-33.6 et seq.) and P.L. 1968, c.177 (N.J.S.A. 18A:58-33.2 et seq.) is excluded.

"Demonstrably effective programs" means those programs, strategies or services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-18 that are established through State resources and are research-based or have demonstrated through strong, logical, empirical, research evidence that improvement in academic performance is educationally significant. Such programs, strategies or services result in high student achievement. These programs, strategies or services are either expressly identified in N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-18 or are approved by the State Board in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:19-4.1(a) or 6:8-9.8(b).

"Early childhood program aid" means State aid pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-16 which is distributed to all school districts with high concentrations of low-income students, for the purpose of providing full-day kindergarten and pre-school classes and other early childhood programs and services.

"Educationally Meritorious Programs," as used in the Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996, means programs that are established through State resources and are research-based programs or services that have demonstrated effectiveness, and have been evaluated and proven successful in promoting high student achievement in any type of district regardless of socio-economic conditions. Such programs or services directly support student achievement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards, and demonstrate fiscal and administrative efficiency.

"Efficiency standards," established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-4b, means the efficiency standards contained in the biennial Report on the Cost of Providing a Thorough and Efficient Education.

"GAAP," as defined by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-3, means the generally accepted accounting principles established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board as prescribed by the State Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-14.

"Lease purchase payment," as defined by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-3, means payments of principal and interest for lease purchase agreements in excess of five years approved pursuant to subsection f of N.J.S.A. 18A:20-4.2 to finance the purchase or construction of school facilities, additions to school facilities, or the reconstruction, remodeling, alteration, modernization, renovation or repair of school facilities, including furnishings, equipment, architect fees and issuance costs.

"Low-income pupils," as defined by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-3, means those pupils from households with a household income at or below the most recent Federal poverty guidelines available on October 15 of the prebudget year multiplied by 1.30.

"Net budget," as defined by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-3, means the sum of the net T&E budget and the portion of the district's local levy that is above the district's maximum T&E budget.

"Net T&E budget," as defined by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-3, means the sum of the T&E program budget, early childhood program aid, demonstrably effective program aid, instructional supplement aid, transportation aid, and categorical program aid received pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-19 through 22, 28 and 29.

"Prebudget year," as defined by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-3, means the school fiscal year preceding the year in which the school budget is implemented.