

**CHAPTER 3  
CONTROVERSIES AND DISPUTES**

**Authority**

N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:6-9, and 52:14B-1 et seq.; (specific types of hearings) N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10 et seq., 18A:7A-34 et seq., 18A:7A-39, 18A:7G-12, 18A:11-3, 18A:12-29, 18A:29-14, 18A:38-1, 18A:38-13 and 18A:60-1.

**Source and Effective Date**

R.2005 d.109, effective March 10, 2005.  
See: 36 N.J.R. 5032(a), 37 N.J.R. 1051(b).

**Chapter Expiration Date**

Chapter 3, Controversies and Disputes, expires on March 10, 2010.

**Chapter Historical Note**

Chapter 3, Controversies and Disputes, was originally codified in Title 6 as Chapter 24, Controversies and Disputes. Chapter 24 was filed and became effective prior to September 1, 1969.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 24, Controversies and Disputes, was readopted as R.1986 d.157, effective April 10, 1986. See: 18 N.J.R. 404(b), 18 N.J.R. 976(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 24, Controversies and Disputes, was readopted as R.1991 d.57, effective January 11, 1991. See: 22 N.J.R. 2841(a), 23 N.J.R. 297(b). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 22(1994), the expiration date of Chapter 24 was extended from January 11, 1996 to July 11, 1997. See: 26 N.J.R. 3783(a), 26 N.J.R. 3942(a). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 24 expired on July 11, 1997.

Chapter 24, Controversies and Disputes, was adopted as new rules by R.1997 d.358, effective September 2, 1997. See: 29 N.J.R. 2745(a), 29 N.J.R. 3817(a).

Subchapter 7, Budget Appeal Rules, was repealed by R.1997 d.372, effective September 2, 1997. See: 29 N.J.R. 2591(a), 29 N.J.R. 3806(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 24, Controversies and Disputes, was readopted as R.2000 d.137, effective April 3, 2000, and Chapter 24 was recodified as N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Subchapter 6, Contested School Elections, was repealed, and Subchapter 6, Termination or Alteration of Sending-Receiving Relationship, Subchapter 7, Appeals from Decisions of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), Subchapter 8, Appeals from Local District Determinations of Entitlement to Attend School Based Upon Domicile or Residency in District, Subchapter 9, Review of Penalty Determination of the School Ethics Commission, and Subchapter 10, "Abbott" Appeals, were adopted as new rules by R.2000 d.137, effective April 3, 2000. See: 31 N.J.R. 4173(a), 32 N.J.R. 1177(a).

Chapter 3, Controversies and Disputes, was readopted as R.2005 d.109, effective March 10, 2005. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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## SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

## 6A:3-1.1 Purpose and scope

(a) This chapter sets forth the rules of procedure established by the Department of Education for the filing of petitions with the Commissioner of Education to hear and decide controversies and disputes arising under school laws in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9.

(b) This chapter also establishes special rules of procedure for specific types of controversies in accordance with the requirements of the following statutes:

1. The filing of tenure charges pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10 through 18A:6-17;
2. Termination of sending-receiving relationships pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-13;
3. Appeals from decisions of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3;
4. Denials of entitlement to attend school pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1; and
5. Review of penalties recommended by the School Ethics Commission pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-29.

(c) In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5e(3), this chapter shall not apply to district boards of education seeking restoration of budget reductions by governing bodies or boards of school estimate. Such restorations shall be sought pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-8.10.

New Rule, R.2000 d.137, effective April 3, 2000.  
See: 31 N.J.R. 4173(a), 32 N.J.R. 1177(a).  
Amended by R.2005 d.109, effective April 4, 2005.  
See: 36 N.J.R. 5032(a), 37 N.J.R. 1051(b).  
Amended the N.J.A.C. references throughout.

**Case Notes**

Final investigation decision rendered by the Office of Special Education Programs, pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, cannot be appealed to the Commissioner of Education. Board of Educ. of the Lenape Reg'l High Sch. Dist. v. New Jersey State Dep't of Educ., 399 N.J. Super. 595, 945 A.2d 125, 2008 N.J. Super. LEXIS 87 (App.Div. 2008).

## 6A:3-1.2 Definitions

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

“ALJ” means an administrative law judge assigned by the Director of the Office of Administrative Law to preside over contested cases pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq.

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Education or a designated Assistant Commissioner to whom the Commissioner has delegated the authority to hear and decide a controversy or dispute pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-33 and 18A:4-34.

“Contested case” means an adversarial proceeding in which the legal rights, duties, obligations, privileges, benefits or other legal relations of specific parties are required to be adjudicated by the Commissioner after opportunity for agency hearing pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. (Administrative Procedure Act) and N.J.A.C. 1:1 (New Jersey Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules).

“Day” means business day when the period specified is less than seven days, and calendar day when the period specified is seven days or more; provided, however, that calculations do not include the day of the action from which they are computed but do include the last day of the period being computed unless such day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, in which case the last day shall be deemed the next business day immediately following.

“Department” means the New Jersey State Department of Education.

“District board of education” means the board of education of a local or regional school district, a county special services school district or a county vocational school district, or the State district superintendent of a State-operated school district, the board of directors of an educational services commission or jointure commission, or the board of trustees of a charter school.

“Filing” means receipt of an original paper by an appropriate officer of the Department. Filings may be made by facsimile when they otherwise conform to requirements for submission and are accompanied by a statement that the original document and requisite copies will follow by mail or hand delivery.

“Indispensable party” means a person(s) without whose inclusion a matter cannot proceed or adequate judgment cannot be entered.

“Interested person(s)” means a person(s) who will be substantially, specifically and directly affected by the outcome of a controversy before the Commissioner.

“OAL” means the Office of Administrative Law established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq.

“Proof of service” means the provision of proof, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.3(h), of the delivery of a paper by mail or

in person to a party, person or entity to whom or to which papers are required to be transmitted.

“Pro se” means a person who acts on his or her own behalf without an attorney or other nonlawyer representative as permitted by rules of the OAL.

“Representative” means an attorney or other person as permitted by the rules of the OAL appearing on behalf of a party in proceedings governed by this chapter.