

(i) Within three days following the informal appearance, the board shall notify the affected teaching staff member, in writing, of its final determination. Such notification may be delegated by the board to its superintendent or board secretary.

6:3-4.3 Evaluation of tenured teaching staff members

(a) Every district board of education shall adopt policies and procedures requiring the annual evaluation of all tenured teaching staff members by appropriately certified personnel (see N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1; N.J.A.C. 6:11-9.3).

(b) The purpose of the annual evaluation shall be to:

1. Promote professional excellence and improve the skills of teaching staff members;
2. Improve pupil learning and growth; and
3. Provide a basis for the review of performance of tenured teaching staff members.

(c) The policies and procedures shall be developed under the direction of the district's chief school administrator in consultation with tenured teaching staff members and shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Roles and responsibilities for implementation of the policies and procedures;
2. Development of job descriptions and evaluation criteria based upon district goals, program objectives and instructional priorities;
3. Methods of data collection and reporting appropriate to the job description including, but not limited to, observation of classroom instruction;
4. Observation conference(s) between the supervisor and the teaching staff member;
5. Provision for the use of additional appropriately certified personnel where it is deemed advisable;
6. Preparation of individual professional improvement plans; and
7. Preparation of an annual written performance report by the supervisor and an annual summary conference between the supervisor and the teaching staff member.

(d) These policies shall be distributed to reach tenured teaching staff members no later than October 1. Amendments to the policy shall be distributed within 10 working days after adoption.

(e) The annual summary conference between supervisors and teaching staff members shall be held before the written performance report is filed. The conference shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Review of the performance of the teaching staff member based upon the job description;

2. Review of the teaching staff member's progress toward the objectives of the individual professional improvement plan developed at the previous annual conference;

3. Review of available indicators of pupil progress and growth toward the program objectives; and

4. Review of the annual written performance report and the signing of said report within five working days of the review.

(f) The annual written performance report shall be prepared by a certified supervisor who has participated in the evaluation of the teaching staff member and shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Performance areas of strength;
2. Performance areas needing improvement based upon the job description;
3. An individual professional improvement plan developed by the supervisor and the teaching staff member;
4. A summary of available indicators of pupil progress and growth, and in statement of how these indicators relate to the effectiveness of the overall program and the performance of the individual teaching staff member; and
5. Provisions for performance data which have not been included in the report prepared by the supervisor to be entered into the record by the evaluatee within 10 working days after the signing of the report.

(g) These provisions are the minimum requirements for the evaluation of tenured teaching staff members.

(h) For the purposes of this section:

1. "Appropriately certified personnel" means personnel qualified to perform duties of supervision which includes the superintendent, assistant superintendent, principals, vice-principals, and supervisors of instruction who hold the appropriate certificate and who are designated by the board to supervise instruction;

2. "Indicators of pupil progress and growth" means the results of formal and informal assessment of pupils as defined in N.J.A.C. 6:8-6.1;

3. "Individual professional improvement plan" is a written statement of actions developed by the supervisor and the teaching staff member to correct deficiencies or to continue professional growth, timelines for their implementation, and the responsibilities of the individual teaching staff member and the district for implementing the plan;

4. "Job description" means a written specification of the function of the position, duties and responsibilities, the extent and limits of authority, and work relationships within and outside the school and district;

5. "Observation conference" means a discussion between supervisor and teaching staff member to review a written report of the performance data collected in a formal observation and its implications for the teaching staff member's annual evaluation;

6. "Observation" means a visitation to an assigned work station by a certified supervisor for the purpose of formally collecting data on the performance of a teaching staff member's assigned duties and responsibilities and of a duration appropriate to same;

7. "Performance report" means a written appraisal of the teaching staff member's performance prepared by an appropriately certified supervisor;

8. "Supervisor" means any appropriately certified individual assigned with the responsibility for the direction and guidance of the work of teaching staff members; and

9. "Teaching staff member" means a member of the professional staff of any district or regional board of education, or any board of education of a county vocational school, holding office, position or employment of such character that the qualifications, for such office, position or employment, require him or her to hold a valid and effective standard, provisional or emergency certificate, appropriate to his or her office, position or employment, issued by the State Board of Examiners and includes a school nurse. The district chief school administrator, however, will not be evaluated pursuant to this section, but shall instead be evaluated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:3-2.2.

Case Notes

Commissioner has jurisdiction to decide scope of negotiability issue pertaining to annual evaluation deadline. *Willingboro Administrators Assn. v. Willingboro Education Assn.*, 1 N.J.A.R. 327 (1980).

SUBCHAPTER 5. SENIORITY

6:3-5.1 Standards for determining seniority

(a) The word "employment" for purposes of these standards shall also be held to include "office" and "position."

(b) Seniority, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:29-9 et seq., shall be determined according to the number of academic or calendar years of employment, or fraction thereof, as the case may be, in the school district in specific categories as hereinafter provided. The periods of unpaid absences not exceeding 30 calendar days aggregate in one academic or calendar year, leaves of absence at full or partial pay and unpaid absences granted for study or research shall be credited toward seniority. All other unpaid absences or leaves of absence shall not receive seniority credit.

(c) In computing length of service for seniority purposes, full recognition shall be given to previous years of service within the district and the time of service in or with the military or naval forces of the United States or this State, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:28-12.

(d) Employment in the district prior to the adoption of these standards shall be counted in determining seniority.

(e) The holder of an emergency certificate shall not be entitled to seniority rights but, when he or she becomes the holder of a standard certificate, the years of employment under the emergency certificate shall count toward seniority under the standard certificate. Upon acquisition of a standard certificate, any periods of service under a provisional certificate shall also be counted toward seniority.

(f) Whenever a person shall hold employment simultaneously under two or more subject area endorsements or in two or more categories, seniority shall be counted in all subject area endorsements and categories in which he or she is or has been employed. For purposes of calculating seniority entitlement, there shall be no distinction between academic years and calendar years.

(g) Where the title of any employment is not properly descriptive of the duties performed, the holder thereof shall be placed in a category in accordance with the duties performed and not by title. Whenever the title of any employment shall not be found in the certification rules or in these rules, the holder of the employment shall be classified as nearly as may be according to the duties performed, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6:11-3.3.

(h) Whenever a person shall move from or revert to a category, all periods of employment shall be credited toward his or her seniority in any or all categories in which he or she previously held employment.

(i) Whenever any person's particular employment shall be abolished in a category, he or she shall be given that employment in the same category to which he or she is entitled by seniority. If he or she shall have insufficient seniority for employment in the same category, he or she shall revert to the category in which he or she held employment prior to his or her employment in the same category and shall be placed and remain upon the preferred eligible list of the category from which he or she reverted until a vacancy shall occur in such category to which his or her seniority entitles him or her.

(j) If he or she shall have insufficient seniority in the category to which he or she shall revert, he or she shall, in like manner, revert to the next category in which he or she held employment immediately prior to his or her employment in the category to which he or she shall have reverted, and shall be placed and remain upon the preferred eligible list of the next preceding category, and so forth, until he or she shall have been employed or placed upon all the preferred eligible lists of the categories in which he or she formerly held employment in the school district.

(k) In the event of his or her employment in some category to which he or she shall revert, he or she shall remain upon all the preferred eligible lists of the categories from which he or she shall have reverted, and shall be entitled to employment in any one or more such categories whenever a vacancy occurs to which his or her seniority entitles him or her.

(l) The following shall be deemed to be specific categories, not necessarily numbered in order of precedence:

1. Superintendent of schools;
2. Assistant superintendent;
 - i. Each assistant superintendency shall be a separate category; and
 - ii. District boards of education shall adopt a job description for each assistant superintendent position which shall set forth qualifications and endorsements for such position;
3. Director;
 - i. Each director position shall be a separate category; and
 - ii. District boards of education shall adopt job descriptions for each director position which sets forth the qualifications and endorsements for such position;
4. High school principal;
5. Adult high school principal;
6. Alternative school principal;
7. Vocational school principal;
8. Junior high school principal;
9. Elementary principal;
10. Supervisor;
 - i. Each supervisory title shall be a separate category; and
 - ii. District boards of education shall adopt a job description for each supervisory position which sets forth the qualifications and specific endorsements required for such position;
11. High school vice-principal or assistant principal;
12. Adult high school vice-principal or assistant principal;
13. Alternative school vice-principal or assistant principal;
14. Junior high school vice-principal or assistant principal;
15. Elementary school vice-principal or assistant principal;

16. Vocational school vice-principal or assistant principal;

17. Secondary. The word "secondary" shall include grades nine through 12 in all high schools, grades seven and eight in junior high schools and grades seven and eight in elementary schools having departmental instruction;

i. Any person holding an instructional certificate with subject area endorsements shall have seniority within the secondary category only in such subject area endorsement(s) under which he or she has actually served;

ii. Whenever a person shall be reassigned from one subject area endorsement to another, all periods of employment in his or her new assignment shall be credited toward his or her seniority in all subject area endorsements in which he or she previously held employment;

iii. Any person employed at the secondary level in a position requiring an educational services certificate or a special subject field endorsement shall acquire seniority only in the secondary category and only for the period of actual service under such educational services certificate or special subject field endorsement; and

iv. Persons employed and providing services on a district-wide basis under a special subject field endorsement or an educational services certificate shall acquire seniority on a district-wide basis;

18. Elementary. The word "elementary" shall include kindergarten, grades one through six and grades seven and eight without departmental instruction;

i. District boards of education who make a determination to reorganize instruction at grades seven and eight pursuant to these rules must do so by adoption of a formal resolution setting forth the reasons for such reorganization;

ii. Any person employed at the elementary level in a position requiring an educational services certificate or a special subject field endorsement shall acquire seniority only in the elementary category and only for the period of actual service under such educational services certificate or special subject field endorsement;

iii. Persons employed and providing services on a district-wide basis under a special field endorsement or an educational services certificate shall acquire seniority on a district-wide basis.

iv. Persons serving under elementary endorsements in departmentally organized grades seven and eight prior to September 1, 1983 shall continue to accrue seniority in the elementary category for all such service prior to and subsequent to September 1, 1983. In addition, such persons shall accrue seniority in the secondary category but limited to the district's depart-

mentally organized grades seven and eight and the specific subject area actually taught in such departmentally organized grades, subsequent to September 1, 1983; and

19. Additional categories of specific educational service endorsements issued by the State Board of Examiners and listed in the State Board rules dealing with teacher certification (N.J.A.C. 6:11).

(m) In the event of a restructure of grade levels which results in the elimination of all junior high schools in the district and the creation of schools with a grade level organization which includes grades seven and eight the seniority rights of the junior high principals, vice principals and assistant principals displaced by such restructuring shall be transferable to the newly reorganized schools in the category as defined by (l) 9 above.

Case Notes

School board could terminate tenured speech correction teacher and have services provided by educational services commission. *Impey v. Board of Educ. of Borough of Shrewsbury*, 273 N.J.Super. 429, 642 A.2d 419 (A.D.1994), certification granted 138 N.J. 266, 649 A.2d 1286, affirmed 142 N.J. 388, 662 A.2d 960.

Service as guidance counselor under educational services certification did not automatically entitle tenured guidance counselor to tenure in position which fell under both educational services and administrative certificates; requirement of dual certification and service in position under particular certificate for tenure under that certificate was not unreasonable, arbitrary or capricious. *Dennery v. Board of Educ. of Passaic County Regional High School Dist. No. 1, Passaic County*, 131 N.J. 626, 622 A.2d 858 (1993).

Local school board may not sidestep educator's tenure rights by simply renaming position or tacking on additional meaningless requirements; local board must extend teaching-staff member's tenure rights to newly created position. *Dennery v. Board of Educ. of Passaic County Regional High School Dist. No. 1, Passaic County*, 131 N.J. 626, 622 A.2d 858 (1993).

If newly created position is similar to tenure holder's abolished position but also requires additional or different responsibilities, newly created position is not considered substantially similar to former position for purposes of determining whether local board must extend tenure holder's tenure rights to new position. *Dennery v. Board of Educ. of Passaic County Regional High School Dist. No. 1, Passaic County*, 131 N.J. 626, 622 A.2d 858 (1993).

Evidence supported State Board of Education determination that school district had legitimate basis for restructuring guidance department so as to eliminate position of guidance counselor, which required education services certification, and to create new position of class supervisor, which required certification in both educational services and administration. *Dennery v. Board of Educ. of Passaic County Regional High School Dist. No. 1, Passaic County*, 131 N.J. 626, 622 A.2d 858 (1993).

Where newly created position of class supervisor required performance of additional duties apart from those performed by tenured guidance counselor, guidance counselor, who had acquired tenure in her position under educational services certificate, was not entitled to tenure rights to newly created position which required certification under both educational services and administration. *Dennery v. Board of Educ. of Passaic County Regional High School Dist. No. 1, Passaic County*, 131 N.J. 626, 622 A.2d 858 (1993).

Teacher on leave has no contract for that year and position would be filled, after one year leave is over, on basis of appropriate seniority rules; tenured teacher filling temporary vacancy continued to accrue seniority credits. *Lammers v. Board of Educ. of Borough of Point Pleasant*, 260 N.J.Super. 390, 616 A.2d 1293 (A.D.1992), certification granted 133 N.J. 438, 627 A.2d 1143, reversed 134 N.J. 264, 633 A.2d 526.

Tenured high school teacher could not be turned down for temporary vacancy in middle school, since departmentalized middle school is classified as secondary school for employee entitlement purposes. *Lammers v. Board of Educ. of Borough of Point Pleasant*, 260 N.J.Super. 390, 616 A.2d 1293 (A.D.1992), certification granted 133 N.J. 438, 627 A.2d 1143, reversed 134 N.J. 264, 633 A.2d 526.

Teacher's seniority could be recalculated according to new regulations after their operative date as reasonable exercise of education commissioner's administrative rulemaking power. *Cohen v. Emerson Bd. of Educ.*, 225 N.J.Super. 324, 542 A.2d 489 (A.D.1988).

Teacher was entitled to seniority credits for nine unused sick days applied to her maternity leave where teacher had been employed in preceding school year and indicated she intended to return after maternity leave. *Cohen v. Emerson Bd. of Educ.*, 225 N.J.Super. 324, 542 A.2d 489 (A.D.1988).

School teacher was entitled to have 30 days of unpaid absences credited toward seniority, though teacher took more than 30 days maternity leave. *Cohen v. Emerson Bd. of Educ.*, 225 N.J.Super. 324, 542 A.2d 489 (A.D.1988).

Teacher did not accrue secondary seniority credits by providing statutorily mandated services in public school to sixth, seventh and eighth parochial students who were added to students from public school where public school clearly was in elementary category, though parochial school was departmentalized in same way as equivalent departmentalized public schools. *Cohen v. Emerson Bd. of Educ.*, 225 N.J.Super. 324, 542 A.2d 489 (A.D.1988).

"Seniority" provisions of teacher tenure statute concerned only rights inter sese of tenured teachers and did not authorize dilution of teacher's tenure rights by reduction in work hours and retention of nontenured teacher full-time in secondary school position solely on basis of nontenured teacher's "seniority" in the secondary setting. *Bednar v. Westwood Bd. of Educ.*, 221 N.J.Super. 239, 534 A.2d 93 (A.D.1987), certification denied 110 N.J. 512, 541 A.2d 1371.

Tenured secondary school physical education teacher entitled to reinstatement to elementary school teaching position held by nontenured teachers upon reduction in force of teaching staff. *Capodilupo v. Bd. of Educ. of West Orange*, 11 N.J.A.R. 129 (1985) affirmed 218 N.J.Super. 510, 528 A.2d 73, certification denied 109 N.J. 514, 537 A.2d 1300.

District's reduction in force is nonnegotiable and nongrievable. *Jamison v. Morris School District Bd. of Ed.*, 198 N.J.Super. 411, 487 A.2d 739 (App.Div.1985).

Years spent by teachers in federal program can be tacked on, for tenure purposes, to time spent in local district programs. *Shelko v. Bd. of Ed., Mercer Cty. Special Services School District, Mercer Cty.*, 97 N.J. 414, 478 A.2d 1187 (1984).

School board not required to give salary credit for teaching time in another district upon rehiring of tenured teacher. *Whalen v. Bd. of Ed., Sayreville Boro., Middlesex Cty.*, 192 N.J.Super. 453, 471 A.2d 49 (App.Div.1983), certification denied 96 N.J. 312, 475 A.2d 601 (1984).

Determination of seniority allows pro rata calculation based upon total accumulated service in a specific category. *Lichtman v. Bd. of Ed., Ridgewood Village, Bergen Cty.*, 93 N.J. 362, 461 A.2d 158 (1983).

Duty under Code of Professional Responsibility to withdraw from employment upon discharge took precedence over any veteran's tenure right. He could assert for position with school board. *Taylor v. Bd. of Ed., Hoboken School District, Hudson Cty.*, 187 N.J.Super. 546, 455 A.2d 552 (App.Div.1983), certification denied 95 N.J. 228, 470 A.2d 441 (1983).

Tenured teacher with greater entitlement to position than non-tenured individual was entitled to appointment despite pending tenure charges. *Sheridan v. Orange Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 482, supplemented 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 142.

Teacher not tenured at time full-time position reduced to half-time was not entitled to newly created full-time position after achieving tenure in half-time position. *Sefcik v. Red Bank Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 467, supplemented 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 141.

Tenured supervisor was entitled to position of assistant principal over non-tenured supervisors on reduction in force. *Skowronski v. Jackson Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 451.

Demotion back to teacher from an assistant supervisor position, when done without application of military service credit, was violative of individual's seniority rights. *Sparacio v. Department of Corrections*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 364.

Employment as permanent substitute was not as teaching staff member and, hence, was not position to which tenured teacher was entitled once her position was eliminated pursuant to reduction in force. *Driscoll v. West Essex Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 348.

Reducing position in mathematics department to part-time was not violative of tenure and seniority rights when business education teacher was not otherwise certified in mathematics. *Dombloski v. Belvidere Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 347.

School board could require tenured teacher to undergo psychiatric examination upon evidence of deviation from normal, physical or mental health. *Pleasantville Board of Education v. Chambers*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 291.

Individual who achieved tenure as supervisor, not principal, did not hold claim to position of principal that was superior to that of nontenured person selected. *Nelson v. Old Bridge Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 257.

Layoff which resulted from closure of art department in which individual was only certified teacher was not pretextual in violation of collective bargaining agreement. *Grievance Hearing of Marin*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 255.

Free speech clause of First Amendment protected teacher against tenure charges arising from remarks on radio talk show with respect to teaching Black studies. *Matter of Tenure Hearing of Clark*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 164.

Individual who had never taught printing or graphic arts was entitled by virtue of seniority to assert a claim to a teaching schedule with printing. *Ackerman v. Hackensack Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 149.

Members of central administrative and supervisory staff were subject to layoffs mandated by reorganization of state-operated school district. *Cirasa v. Patterson State-Operated School District*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 141.

Abolishment of teaching positions as a result of a reduction in force was not a violation of seniority rights when teacher was without tenure. *Mills v. Piscataway Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 133.

Teacher's tenure rights were not violated by refusal to assign him to one of two teaching positions for which he was endorsed. *Polo v. Bergen County Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 105.

Employee's position as negotiator was not sufficiently clerical to gain tenure against school district's reduction in force. *Effenberger v. Toms River Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 66.

Tenure and seniority rights were not violated by appointment of person with greater seniority and tenure rights. *White v. Bloomfield Board of Education*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 52.

District board required to recognize tenure rights as they existed at time of staff reduction. *Timko and Mikush v. Bridgewater-Raritan School District*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 12.

Oral settlement agreement regarding tenure charges enforceable. *Montville Board of Education v. Pinto*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 507.

Reorganization of the grade assignments given to supervisory positions did not violate tenure or seniority rights. *Timko v. Bridgewater Raritan Regional School District*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 475.

Teacher was entitled to salary due him in his position of department head for physical education. *Wickenheisser v. North Arlington Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 391.

No violation of tenure and seniority rights by reducing teacher to part time status. *Dombloski v. Belvidere Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 348.

Unsatisfactory performance was not a relevant factor related to the acquisition of tenure. *Martin v. Plainfield Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 298.

Failure of Board to reinstate teacher violated her tenure rights. *Kojak v. Mount Arlington Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 295.

Statutorily unenumerated position attained tenure based on principal's position. *Gittelman v. Hamilton Township Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 258.

Failure to offer tenured english teacher vacancy violated her rights. *Gainer v. Wayne Township Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 218.

Failure to reassign supervisor did not violate tenure rights; remand. *Skowronski v. Jackson Township Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 208.

Reassignment from voluntarily accepted untenured position to former tenured teaching position; refusal; rights. *DeFrehn v. Wildwood Crest Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 194.

Teacher transferred without consent was "dismissed" in violation of tenure rights. *North Bergen Federation of Teachers v. North Bergen Township Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 167.

Claimed military service; claim of violation of tenure and seniority. *Jabour v. Delaware Valley Regional High School District Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 45.

Timely documentation of military service; tenure and seniority rights. *Jabour v. Delaware Valley Regional High School District Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 45.

School psychologist could not achieve tenure by tacking 60-day period for notice of termination to employment time. *Winston v. Jersey City School District*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 41.

Failure to show threshold qualification for service as teacher of plumbing; no entitlement by virtue of tenure to such employment. *Polo v. Bergen county Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 36.

Following abolishment of his position due to reduction in force, school supervisor was not able to claim position as director. *Halpern v. Delran Township Board of Education*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 22.

Remedial and supplemental teachers met requirements of the tenure statute and were entitled to retroactive pay, but with negotiated sick leave benefits modified. *Trenton Education Association v. Trenton Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 777.

Teacher was entitled to enforcement of ten-month contract as termination period. *Siegel v. Garfield Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 766.

Tenured teacher was entitled to a permanent substitute position. *Driscoll v. West Essex Regional Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 761.

Failure to hire former staff to fill new education titles did not violate tenure rights. *Schaefer v. Lakewood Township Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 741.

A music teacher was not entitled to another teaching position based on mistake in maintaining preferred eligibility list. *McAloon v. Old Bridge Township Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 714.

Teacher who took two months of sick leave met tenure requirements. *Apollony v. Bernards Township Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 707.

Termination of apprenticeship program coordinator was not shown to have been improper or to have violated his tenure rights. *Guerra v. Board of Education of Hudson County Area Vocational Technical Schools*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 690.

Requiring tenured teacher to teach three math classes in addition to supervisory responsibilities at two junior high schools did not violate seniority rights. *Gargano v. Board of Education of Township of Union*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 670.

Teacher's service under emergency certification could not be "tacked" to subsequent service under regular certificate as elementary schoolteacher; no right to tenure. *Breitwieser v. State-Operated School District of Jersey City*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 641.

Director of Buildings and Grounds at all times appointed for fixed periods of time; no tenure. *Burrows v. Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 605.

Allowing students to take carpentry class at another vocational school did not constitute transfer of students or program within contemplation of statute; seniority and tenure rights of teacher whose position had been eliminated were not violated. *Bausmith v. Board of Education of Hunterdon Central Regional High School District*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 600.

Teacher's assignment and certificate made him appropriately classified in category of secondary teacher, and he lacked seniority within elementary category to have seniority rights as opposed to other teacher. *McGlynn v. Board of Education of Borough of Sea Girt*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 438.

Tenure rights of teacher were violated when a non-tenured person was hired for a full-time Spanish teaching position. *Mueller v. Board of Educ. of the Hunterdon Central Regional High School Dist.*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 419.

Proper certificate for unrecognized title of learning specialist was learning disabilities teacher/consultant endorsement; tenure and seniority rights. *Rubin v. Board of Education of Township of Middletown*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 301.

Tenured teacher had right to have part-time positions consolidated into full-time position following reduction in force. *Taxman v. Piscataway Township Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 189.

Business education teacher was entitled to teach academic support classes and general business and business management classes; seniority rights violated following reduction in force. *Fox v. Board of Education of Morris School District*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 139.

Assignment of teaching duties to supervisor of English; seniority and tenure rights not violated. *Dallmeyer v. Board of Education of Union*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 125.

Instruction shown to be under secondary category for seniority purposes; teacher having only elementary category seniority could not be assigned to specific position over second teacher having secondary category seniority. *Unterberger v. Metuchen Borough Board of Education*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 59.

No violation of tenure or seniority rights in transfer from position as supervisor of educational programs at one psychiatric hospital to same position at another hospital. *Sheffield v. New Jersey State Department of Human Services*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 26.

Media specialist achieved tenure within position of "educational services" but not in separate position of "teacher". *Wallen v. Board of Education of Rancocas Valley Regional High School District*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 670.

Instructional Industrial Arts certificate did not qualify teacher to teach printing classes; no violation of seniority rights in reduction in force. *Ackerman v. Board of Education of City of Hackensack*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 610.

Record established that teacher was regular staff member and not per diem substitute during contested period; seniority rights following reduction in force. *Valentino v. Board of Education of City of Hoboken*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 606.

Reduction in force with resulting transfer did not entitle teacher to be returned to position as reading specialist. *Moore v. Cherry Hill Township Board of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 585.

Supervisory titles were separate categories; seniority rights. *Notaro v. Board of Education of Township of Old Bridge*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 568.

Disparity between number of male and female administrators; appointment of supervisor violated tenure rights. *Bourhis v. Board of Education of Borough of Fort Lee*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 540.

Appointment of nontenured teaching staff member to position of department chairperson violated tenure rights of applicant having tenure as supervisor. *Snack v. Board of Education of City of Orange*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 509.

Reduction in force; tenure rights not expanded by subsequently acquired endorsement. *Johnstone v. Board of Education of Township of Cinnaminson*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 506.

In-school suspension room program duty periods not instructional periods; tenured teacher had no claim to such employment following reduction in force. *Forte v. Red Bank Regional District Board of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 501.

Seniority; service as learning specialist counted towards tenure as learning disability teacher/consultant. *Levy v. Middletown Township Board of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 497.

Reduction in force; tenured teacher subsequently acquiring additional endorsement. *Francey v. Board of Education of City of Salem*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 449.

Tenure rights; employment of summer schoolteachers. *Doran v. East Brunswick Board of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 389.

Board secretary for board of education failed to establish service entitling her to tenure. *Walsh v. Borough of Laurel Springs Board of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 381.

Service as substitute teacher could not provide day need to attain tenure. *Mills v. Piscataway Township Board of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 372.

Leave of absence following disability counted for purposes of tenure. *Kletzkina v. Board of Education of Borough of Spotswood*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 367.

School district did not have obligation to notify teacher who resigned of possible positions to which he might return following reduction in force. *Murray v. Northern Highlands Regional High School Board of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 335.

Back pay award to teachers whose positions were eliminated during reduction in force; mitigation. *West Orange Supplemental Instructors Association, et al., v. Board of Education of Township of West Orange*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 287.

Tenure rights violated in reduction in force. *Brown v. Board of Education of Township of Edison*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 271.

Employment reduced from full to part-time; no violation of teacher's seniority rights. *Polo v. Board of Education of Vocational Schools of County of Bergen*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 230.

Seniority of academic year teacher; services rendered prior to start of academic year. *Polo v. Board of Education of Vocational Schools of County of Bergen*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 230.

Tenure rights; teaching for 12 years under inappropriate certificate. *McAneny v. Board of Education of School District of Chatham*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 208.

Contracting for speech correctionist services; tenured position abolished. *Impey v. Board of Education of Borough of Shrewsbury*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 197.

Cooperative education coordinator; acquisition of tenure. *Gerdes v. Spotswood Boro Board of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 168.

Instructional supervisor position abolished; seniority rights to other administrative positions. *Kish v. Board of Education of Borough of Elmwood Park, Bergen County*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 134.

Suspension of tenured teacher; involuntary sick leave placement without medical justification. *Robert v. Clinton Township Board of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 123.

Title change did not violate tenure or seniority rights. *Kornberg v. Board of Education of Township of North Bergen*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 120.

Tenured guidance counselor; right to program coordinator position. *Paszamant, Evans and Ralph v. Highland Park Borough Board of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 103.

Supervisor's tenure rights; local determination of job duties; abandonment of rights. *Ralph v. Highland Park Borough of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 93.

Tenure; three-years' employment. *Blossom S. Nissman v. Board of Education of the Township of Long Beach Island*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 71.

Seniority rights; teacher did not accrue credit under nursery school endorsement despite teaching home economics to pre-kindergarten children. *Miller v. Hoboken Board of Education*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 21.

Teacher's entitlement to full-time vacancy after having been subject to reduction enforced. *Benson v. Board of Education of Borough of Rockaway, Morris County*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 15.

Petition of tenured teacher alleging improper assignment was improperly dismissed for failure to state a cause of action. *Morgan v. Board of Educ. of the Tp. of Wayne, Passaic County*, 91 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 122.

Supervisory titles were separate categories under the seniority regulations. *Weinstein v. Township of Old Bridge, Middlesex County*, 91 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 102.

Tenured supplemental teacher did not acquire tenure as supervisor by performing supervisory duties. *Pirozek v. Board of Educ. of the Tp. of Montville, Morris County*, 91 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 95.

Supervisors whose positions were abolished; only "bumping" rights were to nonsupervisory positions. *Van Tyke v. State-Operated School Dist. of the City of Jersey City*, 91 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 43.

Running of time for tenure consideration commences only upon attainment of necessary certificate for position held. *Fischbach v. Bd. of Ed., North Bergen*, 7 N.J.A.R. 191 (1983), affirmed per curiam Docket No. A-5947-83 (App.Div.1983).

Tenured teacher with seniority entitled to full-time position when school board chooses to create during reduction in force two part-time positions more than equivalent to one full-time position. *Klinger v. Bd. of Ed., Cranbury Twp., Middlesex Cty.*, 7 N.J.A.R. 111 (1981), affirmed 190 N.J.Super. 354, 463 A.2d 948, certification denied 93 N.J. 277, 460 A.2d 678 (App.Div.1982).

Transfer of middle school principal to high school vice principal position proper. *Howley v. Ewing Twp. Bd. of Ed.*, 6 N.J.A.R. 509 (1982).

Speech correctionist's claim of tenure rights violation in transfer to teacher of the handicapped. *Reeves v. Bd. of Ed., Westwood Regional School District, Bergen Cty.*, 4 N.J.A.R. 445 (1981).

Reduction of tenured child study team members to part-time employees and transfer of some of their functions to specially contracted team violates members' tenure rights. *Cochran v. Watchung Hills Regional High School Bd. of Ed.*, 4 N.J.A.R. 163 (1983).

Issue of withholding of chairmanship stipend from department chairman without position tenure, one year prior to his retirement, is outside of Commissioner's jurisdiction. *Taylor v. Bd. of Ed., Westfield, Union Cty.*, 2 N.J.A.R. 350 (1980).

Supplemental instruction required under New Jersey law if needed due to demonstrated educational handicaps. *Hamilton Twp. Supplemental Teachers Assn. v. Bd. of Ed., Hamilton Twp., Mercer Cty.*, 2 N.J.A.R. 294 (1979), affirmed 180 N.J.Super. 321 (App.Div.1981), affirmed 90 N.J. 63 (1982).

Seniority rules irrelevant to subjects of rank or comparable positions in determination of legality of involuntary transfers. *Stranzl v. Bd. of Ed., Paterson, Passaic Cty.*, 2 N.J.A.R. 16 (1980).

Guidance counsellor, upon reduction to half-time positions, possessed no absolute legal right to transfer out-of-category to any social studies teaching position in which she had no tenure. *Perry v. Bd. of Ed., Glen Rock Boro., Bergen Cty.*, 1 N.J.A.R. 300 (1981).

SUBCHAPTER 6. PUPIL RECORDS

6:3-6.1 Definitions

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

"Access" means the right to view, to make notes, and/or to have a reproduction of the pupil record made.

"Adult pupil" means a person who is at least 18 years of age, or is attending an institution of postsecondary education, or is an emancipated minor.

"Parent" means the natural parent(s) or legal guardian(s), foster parent(s) or parent surrogate(s) of a pupil. Where parents are separated or divorced, "parent" means the person or agency who has legal custody of the pupil, as well as the natural or adoptive parents of the pupil, provided such parental rights have not been terminated by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

"Parent surrogate(s)" means an individual or individuals approved by the district board of education in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:28-2.2 to act on behalf of a pupil whose parents are not available to assure the pupil's educational rights.

"Pupil" means a person who is or was enrolled in a public school.

"Pupil record" means information related to an individual pupil gathered within or outside the school system and maintained within the school system, regardless of the physical form in which it is maintained. Essential in this definition is the idea that any information which is maintained for the purpose of second party review is considered a pupil

record. Therefore, information recorded by any certified school personnel solely as a memory aid, not for the use of a second party, is excluded from this definition.

“Student information directory” means a publication of a district board of education which includes the following information relating to a pupil: the student’s name, address, telephone number, grade level, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities, weight and height relating to athletic team membership, degrees, awards, the most recent educational agency attended by the pupil and other similar information.

Case Notes

Allowing pupil to use stepfather’s surname; reasonable. *Phillips v. Board of Education of Township of River Vale, Bergen County, and Stayback*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 131.

6:3-6.2 General considerations

(a) This subchapter applies to all district boards of education or private agencies which provide educational services by means of public funds. District boards of education shall include, but not be limited to, all county boards of special services school districts, county vocational boards of education, jointure commissions, educational services commissions, education programs operated by county residential facilities and State-operated special education programs.

(b) Each district board of education shall have the responsibility to compile and maintain pupil records and to regulate access, disclosure or communication of information from educational records in a manner that assures the security of such records in accordance with this subchapter.

(c) Pupil records shall contain only such information as is relevant to the education of the pupil and is objectively based on the personal observations or knowledge of the certified school personnel who originate(s) the record.

(d) The district board of education shall notify parents and adult pupils annually in writing of their rights in regard to pupil records and pupil participation in educational, occupational and military recruitment programs. Copies of the applicable State and Federal laws and local policies shall be made available upon request. District boards of education shall make every effort to notify parents and adult pupils in their dominant language.

(e) A nonadult pupil may assert rights of access only through his or her parents. However, nothing in these rules shall be construed to prohibit certified school personnel, in their discretion, from disclosing pupil records to nonadult pupils or to appropriate persons in connection with an emergency, if such knowledge is necessary to protect the health or safety of the pupil or other persons.

(f) The parent or adult pupil shall either have access to or be specifically informed about only that portion of another pupil’s record that contains information about his or her own child or him or herself.

(g) Each district board of education shall establish written policies and procedures for pupil records which:

1. Guarantee access to persons authorized under this subchapter within 10 days of the request, but prior to any review or hearing conducted in accordance with the State Board of Education rules;
2. Assure security of the records;
3. Enumerate and describe the pupil records collected and maintained by the district board of education;
4. Provide for the inclusion of educationally relevant information in the pupil record by the parent or adult pupil;
5. Allow for the designation, release and public notice of directory information as defined herein;
6. Provide the parent or adult pupil a 10-day period to submit a written statement to the chief school administrator prohibiting the institution from including any or all types of information about the student in any student information directory before allowing access to such directory and school facilities to educational, occupational and military recruiters pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.1;
7. Assure limited access to pupil records by secretarial and clerical personnel pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:3-6.5; and
8. Provide for the access and security of pupil records maintained in a computerized system.

(h) All anecdotal information and assessment reports collected on a pupil shall be dated and signed by the individual who originated the data.

(i) The chief school administrator or his or her designee shall require all permitted pupil records of currently enrolled pupils to be reviewed annually by certified school personnel to determine the education relevance of the material contained therein. The reviewer shall cause data no longer descriptive of the pupil or educational situation to be deleted from the records except that prior notice must be given for classified students in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:28. Such information shall be destroyed and not be recorded elsewhere. No record of any such deletion shall be made.

(j) No liability shall be attached to any member, officer or employee of any district board of education permitting access or furnishing pupil records in accordance with these rules.

(k) When the parent's or adult pupil's dominant language is not English or the parent or adult pupil is deaf, the district board of education shall provide interpretation of the pupil record in the dominant language of the parents or adult pupil.

Case Notes

Contract to show during homeroom 12-minute television broadcast having two minutes of commercials was not abuse of managerial authority. *New Jersey Education Association v. Trenton Board of Education*. 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 481.

Student was not improperly denied admission to honor society. *Hook v. Board of Education of Borough of South Plainfield*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 331.

6:3-6.3 Mandated and permitted pupil records

(a) The district board of education shall not compile any other pupil records except mandated and permitted records as herein defined.

1. Mandated pupil records are those pupil records which the schools have been directed to compile by New Jersey statute, regulation or authorized administrative directive. Mandated pupil records shall include the following:

i. Personal data which identifies each pupil enrolled in the school district. These data shall include the pupil's name, address, date of birth, name of parent(s), citizenship and sex of the pupil. The district board of education is prohibited from recording the religious or political affiliation of the pupil and/or parent unless

requested to do so in writing by the parent or adult pupil. The district is also prohibited from labeling the pupil illegitimate;

ii. Record of daily attendance;

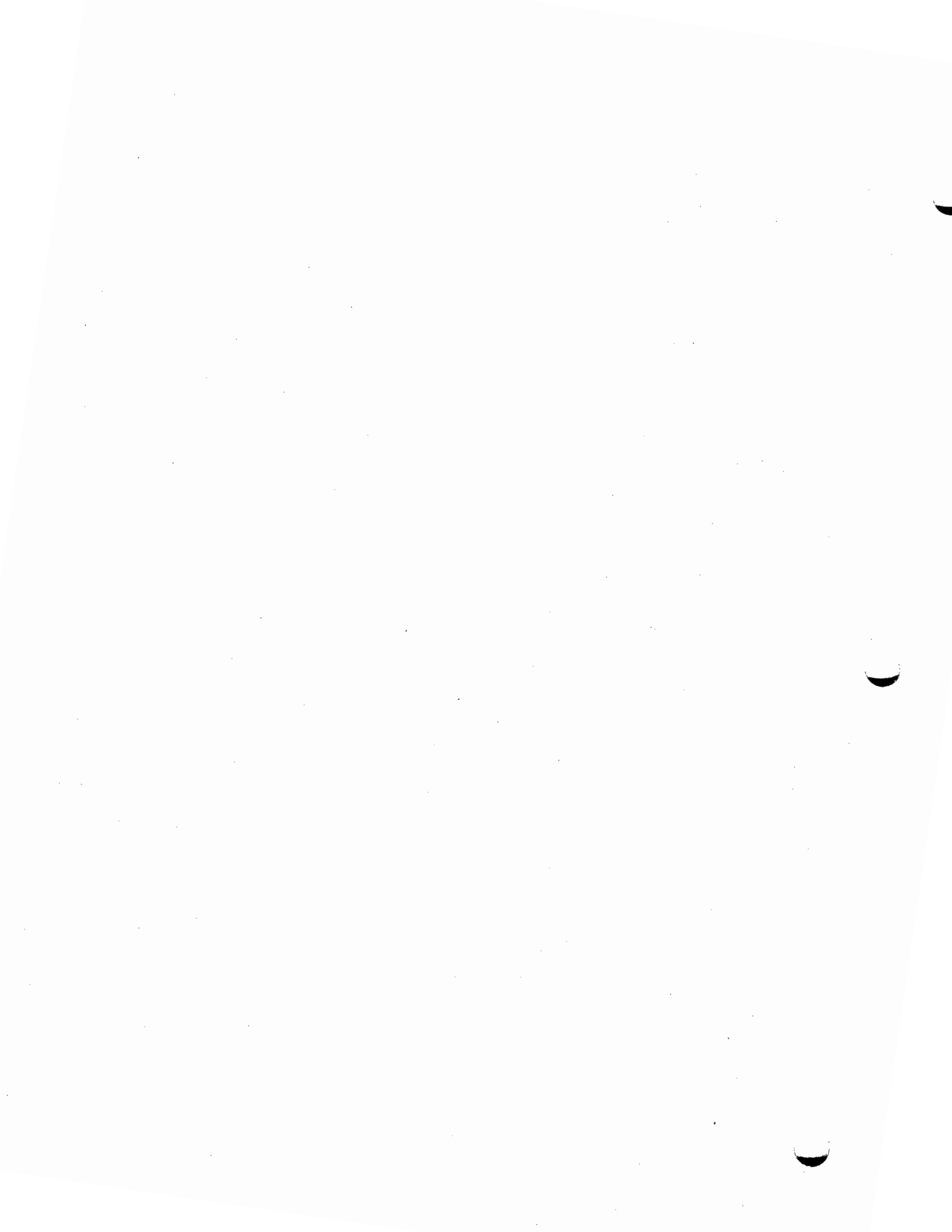
iii. Descriptions of pupil progress according to the system of pupil evaluation used in the district. Grade level or other program assignments shall also be recorded;

iv. History and status of physical health compiled in accordance with State regulations, including results of any physical examinations given by qualified district employees;

v. Records pursuant to rules and regulations regarding the education of educationally handicapped pupils; and

vi. All other records required by the State Board of Education.

2. Permitted pupil records are those which a district board of education has authorized by resolution adopted at a regular public meeting to be collected in order to promote the educational welfare of the pupil. The district board of education shall report annually at a public board meeting a description of the types of pupil records it has authorized certified school personnel to collect and maintain. The pupil records so authorized must also comply with this subchapter as to relevance and objectivity.



6:3-6.4 Maintenance and security of pupil records

(a) The chief school administrator or his or her designee shall be responsible for the security of pupil records maintained in the school district and shall devise procedures for assuring that access to such records is limited to authorized persons.

(b) Records for each individual pupil shall be maintained in a central file at the school attended by the pupil. When records are maintained in different locations, a notation in the central file as to where such other records may be found is required.

(c) When records are stored in a computerized system, computer programmed security blocks are required to protect against any security violations of the records stored therein. To guard against the loss of pupil records, school districts must maintain an updated duplicate copy of pupil records.

(d) Mandated or permitted records required as part of programs established through state administered entitlement or discretionary funds from the U.S. Department of Education must be maintained for a period of five years after completion of the program activities.

6:3-6.5 Access to pupil records

(a) Only authorized organizations, agencies or persons as defined herein shall have access to pupil records.

(b) The district board of education may charge a reasonable fee for reproduction, not to exceed the schedule of costs set forth in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-2, provided that the cost does not effectively prevent the parents or adult pupils from exercising their rights under this subchapter or under rules and regulations regarding educationally handicapped pupils.

(c) Authorized organizations, agencies and persons shall include only:

1. The parent of a pupil under the age of 18 and the pupil who has the written permission of such parent;
2. Pupils at least 16 years of age who are terminating their education in the district because they will graduate secondary school at the end of the term or no longer plan to continue their education;
3. The adult pupil and the pupil's parent who has the written permission of such pupil, except that the parent shall have access without consent of the pupil as long as the pupil is financially dependent on the parent and enrolled in the public school system or if the pupil has been declared legally incompetent by a court of appropriate jurisdiction. The parent of the financially dependent adult pupil may not disclose information contained in the adult pupil's record to a second or third party without the consent of the adult pupil;

4. Certified school district personnel who have assigned educational responsibility for the pupil;

5. Certified educational personnel who have assigned educational responsibility for the pupil and who are employed by:

- i. An approved private school for the handicapped;
- ii. A state facility;
- iii. Accredited nonpublic schools in which pupils with educational disabilities have been placed according to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-14; or
- iv. Clinics and agencies approved by the Department of Education;

6. A district board of education, in order to fulfill its legal responsibility as a board, has access through the chief school administrator or his or her designee to information contained in a pupil's record. Information shall be discussed in executive session unless otherwise requested by the parent or adult pupil;

7. Secretarial and clerical personnel under the direct supervision of certified school personnel shall be permitted access to those portions of the record to the extent that is necessary for the entry and recording of data and the conducting of routine clerical tasks. Access shall be limited only to those pupil files which such staff are directed to enter or record information and shall cease when the specific assigned task is completed;

8. Accrediting organizations in order to carry out their accrediting functions;

9. The Commissioner of Education and members of the New Jersey Department of Education staff who have assigned responsibility which necessitates the review of such records;

10. Officials of other district boards of education within the State of New Jersey in which the pupil is placed, registered or intends to enroll subject to the following conditions:

- i. Mandated pupil records shall be forwarded to the receiving district with written notification to the parent or adult pupil;
- ii. Permitted records shall be forwarded to the receiving district only with the written consent of the parent or adult pupil except where a formal sending-receiving relationship exists between the school districts;
- iii. All records to be forwarded shall be sent to the chief school administrator or his or her designee of the school district to which the pupil has transferred within 10 days after the transfer has been verified by the requesting school district;
- iv. The chief school administrator or his or her designee shall request all pupil records in writing from

the school district of last attendance within two weeks from the date that the pupil enrolls in the new district;

v. The chief school administrator or his or her designee of the school district of last attendance shall upon request, provide a parent(s) or an adult pupil with a copy of the records disclosed to other educational agencies or institutions; and

vi. Proper identification, such as a certified copy of the pupil's birth certificate, shall be requested at the time of enrollment in a new school district;

11. Officials of the United States Department of Education who have assigned responsibilities which necessitate review of such records;

12. Officers and employees of a State agency who are responsible for protective and investigative services for pupils referred to that agency, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.40. Wherever appropriate, district boards of education shall ask such State agency for its cooperation in sharing the findings of the investigation;

13. Organizations, agencies and persons from outside the school if they have the written consent of the parent or adult pupil, except that these organizations, agencies and persons shall not transfer pupil record information to a third party without the written consent of the parent or adult pupil;

14. Organizations, agencies and individuals outside the school, other than those specified in this section, upon the presentation of a court order; and

15. Bona fide researchers who explain in writing the nature of the research project and the relevance of the records sought and who satisfy the chief school administrator or his or her designee that the records will be used under strict conditions of anonymity and confidentiality. Such assurance must be received in writing by the chief school administrator prior to the release of information to the researcher.

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Education—Conscientious Employees. Judith Nallin, 138 N.J.L.J. No. 15, 54 (1994).

Case Notes

Access to pupil records; regulation caused teacher to reasonably believe that superintendent's order involved violation of law for purposes of Conscientious Employee Protection Act. Delran Educ. Ass'n v. Delran Bd. of Educ., 277 N.J.Super. 538, 650 A.2d 7 (A.D.1994).

No due process violation in suspending student without hearing; no right to expungement of student records. F.H. and S.H., Parents of G.H. v. North Warren Regional High School District, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 580.

Parents were not entitled to access to teacher's notes concerning student's school work. D.B. and K.B. v. Board of Education of City of Vineland. 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 546.

Pupil's administration files determined to be pupil records; parents entitled to copies of all records. GVD v. Ramapo-Indian Hills Regional High School Bd. of Ed., 6 N.J.A.R. 480 (1983).

6:3-6.6 Conditions for access to pupil records

(a) All authorized organizations, agencies and persons defined in this subchapter shall have access to the records of a pupil, subject to the following conditions:

1. No pupil record shall be altered or destroyed during the time period between a request to review the record and the actual review of the record.

2. Authorized organizations, agencies and persons from outside the school whose access requires the consent of parents or adult pupils must submit their request in writing together with any required authorization, to the chief school administrator or his or her designee.

3. The chief school administrator or his or her designee shall be present during the period of inspection to provide interpretation of the records where necessary and to prevent their alteration, damage or loss. In every instance of inspection of pupil records by persons other than parents, pupils or individuals who have assigned educational responsibility for the individual student, an entry shall be made in the pupil record of the names of persons granted access, the reason access was granted, the time and circumstances of inspection, the records studied and the purposes for which the data will be used.

4. Unless otherwise judicially instructed, the district board of education shall, prior to the disclosure of any pupil records to organizations, agencies or persons outside the school district pursuant to a court order, give the parent or adult pupil at least three days' notice of the name of the requesting agency and the specific records requested. Such notification shall be provided in writing if practicable. Only those records related to the specific purpose of the court order shall be disclosed.

5. A record may be withheld from a parent of a pupil under 18 or from an adult pupil only when the local education agency obtains a court order or is provided with evidence that there is a court order revoking the right to access. Only that portion of the record designated by the court may be withheld. When the local education agency has or obtains evidence of such court order the parent or adult pupil shall be notified in writing within five days of his or her request that access to the record has been denied and that the person has the right to appeal this decision to the court issuing the order.

6:3-6.7 Rights of appeal for parents and adult pupils

(a) Pupil records are subject to challenge by parents and adult pupils on grounds of inaccuracy, irrelevancy, impermissible disclosure, inclusion of improper information or denial of access to organizations, agencies and persons. The parent or adult pupil may seek to:

1. Expunge inaccurate, irrelevant or otherwise improper information from the pupil record;

2. Insert additional data as well as reasonable comments as to the meaning and/or accuracy of the records; and/or

3. Request an immediate stay of disclosure pending final determination of the challenge procedure as described in this subchapter.

(b) To appeal, a parent or adult pupil must notify the chief school administrator in writing of the specific issues relating to the pupil record. Within 10 days of notification, the chief school administrator or his or her designee shall meet with the parent or adult pupil to revise the issues set forth in the appeal. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved, the parent or adult pupil may appeal this decision either to the district board of education or the Commissioner of Education within 10 days. If appeal is made to the district board of education, a decision shall be rendered within 20 days. The decision of the district board of education may be appealed to the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and rules adopted in accordance with such statute. At all stages of the appeal process, the parent or adult pupil shall be afforded in a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issue. A record of the appeal proceedings and outcome shall be made a part of the pupil record with copies made available to the parent or adult pupil.

(c) Appeals relating to the pupil records of educationally handicapped pupils shall be processed in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6:28.

(d) Regardless of the outcome of any appeal, a parent or adult pupil shall be permitted to place a statement in the pupil record commenting upon the information in the pupil record or setting forth any reasons for disagreement with the decision of the agency. Such statements shall be maintained as part of the pupil record as long as the contested portion of the record is maintained. If the contested portion of the record is disclosed to any party, the statement commenting upon the information must also be disclosed to that party.

Case Notes

Parents could not expunge psychological evaluations from child's reports absent showing of inaccuracy. *B.M. v. Union County Regional*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 149.

6:3-6.8 Retention and destruction of pupil records

(a) A pupil record is considered to be incomplete and not subject to the provisions of the Destruction of Public Records Law, N.J.S.A. 47:3-15 et seq., while the student is enrolled in the school district.

(b) Mandated pupil records of currently enrolled pupils, other than that described in (e) below, may be destroyed after the information is no longer necessary to provide educational services to a pupil. Such destruction shall be accomplished only after written parental or adult pupil notification and written parental or adult pupil permission has been granted or after reasonable attempts of such notification and reasonable attempts to secure parental or adult pupil permission have been unsuccessful.

(c) Upon graduation or permanent departure of a pupil from the school system:

1. The parent or adult pupil shall be notified in writing that a copy of the entire pupil record will be provided to them upon request.

2. Information in pupil records, other than that described in (e) below, may be destroyed but only in accordance with the Destruction of Public Records Law, N.J.S.A. 47:3-15 et seq. Such destruction shall be accomplished only after written parental or adult pupil notification and written parental or adult pupil permission has been granted, or after reasonable attempts at such notification and reasonable attempts to secure parental or adult pupil permission have been unsuccessful.

(d) No additions shall be made to the record after graduation or permanent departure without the prior written consent of the parent or adult pupil.

(e) The New Jersey public school district of last enrollment graduation or permanent departure of the pupil from the school district and shall keep in perpetuity a permanent record of a pupil's name, date of birth, sex, address, telephone number, grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade level completed, year completed, name of parent(s) and citizenship status.

Case Notes

Parents were not entitled to expungement of school psychologist's report from handicapped student's records. *B.C. v. Flemington-Raritan Board*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 255.

Psychologist's report on student could not be expunged from public school records absent inaccuracy. *B.M. v. Union County*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 265.

SUBCHAPTER 7. WITHDRAWAL FROM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

6:3-7.1 Application and data for investigation of advisability of withdrawal

(a) Any district board of education constituting part of a limited purpose regional school district or the governing body of such local school district, or the governing body of any municipality constituting part of an all purpose regional school district may apply to the county superintendent of schools to make an investigation as to the feasibility of withdrawal of such constituent district or municipality from the regional district. Such body shall adopt a resolution by a recorded roll call vote of the majority of the full membership requesting that the county superintendent make such investigation. The resolution request submitted to the county superintendent shall include the following information:

1. A general description of the regional district and of the withdrawing constituent district, including but not limited to, the type of educational system, number of schools and grade levels served, community population, and geographical characteristics;

2. Enrollment data, including, but not limited to, the number of pupils enrolled as reported by grade on the Annual Application for State School Aid and estimated projected enrollments, by grade level, for the succeeding five school years for both the withdrawing district or municipality and the remaining regional district, based on growth factors using average percentages for the last three school years;

3. The racial composition of the pupil population enrolled in the regional district from the withdrawing district or municipality, and the effect of such withdrawal upon the racial composition of the remaining pupil population of the regional district;

4. Two appraisals of each school site which is part of the regional district prepared by qualified appraisers. If two or more constituent districts or municipalities request such a study, the selection of the appraisers and the cost of the required appraisals shall be made and shared jointly; and

5. The proposed educational plan for the pupils from the withdrawing district or municipality presently enrolled in the school or schools of the regional district.

(b) Within 21 days following adoption of such resolution, such body shall confer with the remaining constituent districts and/or the governing bodies of the constituent municipalities, and the regional board of education and the county superintendent to review the procedure required for withdrawal from a regional school district. Such conference may be called by the county superintendent at the request of a constituent district or municipality prior to its adoption of such resolution.

Case Notes

Negative racial impact of terminating sending-receiving agreement precluded termination, even though no financial or educational negative impact was shown. Board of Education of Borough of Merchantville v. Board of Education of Township of Pennsauken, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 464.

6:3-7.2 Investigation and report by county superintendent of schools

(a) Upon receipt of the resolution and accompanying data pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:3-7.1, the county superintendent shall make an investigation and shall within 60 days after receipt of such request issue a report, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:13-52 or 13-67, to governing bodies of the municipalities constituting the regional district and the board of education of the regional district. If the county superintendent's report addresses the withdrawal of a constituent district or districts from a limited purpose regional district, the report shall also be issued to the boards of education of the constituent district. When the county superintendent has begun such investigation, no action shall be taken upon a subsequent request from another constituent district or municipality of the same regional district until the investigation, report and action thereon have been completed. This report shall be based on data supplied by the petitioning district(s) or municipality(ies) including, but not limited to, the following:

1. A general description of the regional district, including the number of constituent districts, schoolhouses, area of the total district, and area of the withdrawing district or municipality;

2. Enrollment data, including the number of pupils enrolled as reported by grade on the Annual Application for State School Aid and estimated projected enrollment, by grade level, for the succeeding five school years for both the withdrawing district or municipality and the remaining regional district, based on growth factors using average percentages for the last three school years;

3. Enrollment data, by grade level, showing the racial composition of the present regional pupil population and the resulting racial composition for both the withdrawing district or municipality and the remaining regional district if withdrawal is approved;

4. The operating expenses of the regional district for the present school year including the distribution of such current operating expenses among the constituent districts or municipalities;

5. The equalized valuation of each constituent district or municipality of the regional district as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:7D-1 et seq.;

6. The average equalized valuations of the real property of each constituent district or municipality of the regional district as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:24-1 et seq.;

7. The borrowing margin of each constituent district or municipality of the regional district as determined by N.J.S.A. 18A:24-1 et seq., and the revised borrowing margin of each constituent district or municipality and the withdrawing district or municipality, if approval is granted;

8. The apportionment of debt service for the current school year among all the constituent districts or municipalities of the regional district by dollar amounts and percentages;

9. The replacement costs of schoolhouses and additions, grounds, furnishings and equipment of the regional district, and the replacement cost of any schoolhouse, and additions of the regional district including grounds, furnishings, and equipment, situated in the withdrawing district or municipality. School building replacement costs will be calculated by the Bureau of Facility Planning Services as follows:

i. The current overall cost per square foot for school construction in New Jersey, updated annually in the fall of each year, will be multiplied by the gross area of the building;

ii. This figure will include construction costs, moveable and built-in furniture and equipment, and fees; and