

**CHAPTER 2  
COMMISSIONER**

**Authority**

N.J.S.A. 18A:4-22 and 52:14B-3(1).

**Source and Effective Date**

R.2012 d.196, effective November 15, 2012.  
See: 44 N.J.R. 3061(b).

**Chapter Expiration Date**

Chapter 2, Commissioner, expires on November 15, 2019.

**Chapter Historical Note**

Chapter 2, Commissioner, was adopted as R.1997 d.321, effective August 4, 1997. See: 29 N.J.R. 3489(a).

Chapter 2, Commissioner, was readopted as R.2002 d.202, effective June 6, 2002. See: 34 N.J.R. 2328(a).

Chapter 2, Commissioner, was readopted as R.2007 d.97, effective March 9, 2007. See: 39 N.J.R. 1250(b).

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1b, Chapter 2, Commissioner, expires on March 9, 2014. See: 43 N.J.R. 1203(a).

Chapter 2, Commissioner, was readopted as R.2012 d.196, effective November 15, 2012. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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**APPENDIX**

**SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**6A:2-1.1 Title and aim**

(a) By statute, the Commissioner of Education is the chief executive and administrative officer of the Department of Education, is the official agent of the State Board of Education for all purposes and is the budget request and approval officer of the Department of Education. The Commissioner is Secretary of the State Board of Education and Chairperson of the State Board of Examiners.

(b) The Commissioner is appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and serves at the pleas-

ure of the Governor during the Governor's term of office and until his/her successor is appointed.

**6A:2-1.2 Powers and duties**

(a) The powers and duties of the Commissioner are as follows:

1. The Commissioner is empowered to decide legal controversies and disputes arising under school laws or State Board regulations and his/her decisions have the force of law;
2. To apportion State aid to local school districts;
3. To issue teacher certificates;
4. To approve vocational schools;
5. To issue rules and regulations for the classification of students with disabilities;
6. To conduct Statewide tests;
7. To prescribe minimum courses of study for elementary and high schools;
8. To withhold State aid from local school districts which fail to comply with school law or State Board regulations; and
9. To promulgate such other rules and regulations as may be authorized by statute or the State Board.

**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).

**SUBCHAPTER 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT**

**6A:2-2.1 Organizational structure**

The Commissioner of Education shall develop and present to the State Board of Education for its approval an organizational chart which includes all divisions of the Department of Education and all other units for which managerial appointments require State Board approval pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:2-2.2. This chart shall be published in the New Jersey Register and incorporated as an Appendix to this subchapter pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4(b).

Amended by R.2002 d.202, effective June 6, 2002.  
See: 34 N.J.R. 2328(a).

Deleted "herein by reference" preceding "as an Appendix".

**6A:2-2.2 Personnel: methods of operations**

(a) The Commissioner shall appoint, subject to the approval of the State Board, the assistant commissioners of the Department, the chief officers reporting directly to the assistant commissioners, the superintendent of the Katzenbach School for the Deaf, the director of compliance investigation, and the managers of those offices that coordinate board meetings, and hear and determine controversies and disputes.

(b) The Commissioner shall recommend for appointment by the State Board the State District Superintendent for each State operated school district.

(c) All other personnel appointments shall be made by the Commissioner subject to the notification procedure in (d) below.

(d) The Commissioner shall regularly report to the State Board as to all appointments and removals including resignations, transfers, and vacancies. The Commissioner shall also report to the State Board as to any acting appointments that he or she has made for the positions specified in (a) above. In the event an acting appointment to one of the positions specified in (a) above continues for more than 60 days, the Commissioner shall report to the State Board on the progress toward filling that position on a permanent basis.

(e) In cases where the Commissioner's personnel actions affect the organizational chart or the fulfillment of regulatory requirements, the Commissioner shall advise the State Board of such implications and of actions required for resolution.

Amended by R.2000 d.51, effective January 7, 2000.  
See: 32 N.J.R. 446(a).

In (a), substituted "investigation," for "the director of State Operated School Districts," following "compliance," and deleted "including those concerning school ethics," following "disputes."

Amended by R.2002 d.202, effective June 6, 2002.  
See: 34 N.J.R. 2328(a).

In (a), substituted "Katzenbach" for "State" preceding "School for the Deaf" and deleted "the special assistant for School improvement" following "compliance investigation"; in (d), inserted "State" preceding "Board" in the first and second sentences; in (e), inserted "State" preceding "Board".

Amended by R.2010 d.151, effective June 17, 2010.  
See: 42 N.J.R. 1515(c).

In (a), substituted the first occurrence of "commissioners" for "commissioner for each division" and deleted "for each division" preceding "each".

Amended by R.2011 d.225, effective July 22, 2011.  
See: 43 N.J.R. 2170(a).

In (a), deleted "each county superintendent," following "assistant commissioners," inserted "and" preceding "hear" and deleted "and process state board appeals" following "disputes"; and in (d), deleted the third sentence.

**6A:2-2.3 Basic composition of the Department**

(a) The Department of Education consists of a State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education and such divisions, offices, bureaus, branches, committees, other organizational units and officers and employees as allowed by law and as necessary to carry out the Department's statutory mandates.

(b) The basic organizational design of the Department is indicated in the Organizational Chart (see Appendix to this subchapter) with the executive functions as follows:

1. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-9 and 18A:4-22, the Commissioner of Education is:

- i. Secretary of the State Board of Education;
- ii. The chief executive and administrative officer of the Department of Education, having general charge and supervision of the work of the Department;
- iii. The official agent of the State Board for all purposes; and
- iv. The budget request officer and approval officer of the Department.

2. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-33, the Commissioner shall designate an assistant commissioner as deputy commissioner with full power to act in his or her place and stead during any absence or inability of the Commissioner and at such other times as the Commissioner may designate.

**6A:2-2.4 Reporting responsibilities**

(a) The following senior managers report directly to the Commissioner:

1. The Chief of Staff. The following organizational units and/or their chief officers report directly to the Chief of Staff:

- i. The Director of the Office of the State Board of Education;
- ii. The Director of the Office of Project Management; and
- iii. Planning & Interdivisional Initiatives;

2. The Chief Performance Officer/Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Data Research Evaluation and Reporting. The following organizational units and/or their chief officers report directly to the Chief Performance Officer/Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Data Research Evaluation and Reporting:

- i. Educational Data Management;
- ii. Student Performance Metrics; and
- iii. The Director of the Office of Assessments;

3. The Chief Talent Officer/Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness. The following organizational units and/or their chief officers report directly to the Chief Talent Officer/Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness:

- i. The Director of the Office of Recruitment and Preparation;

- ii. The Director of the Office of Certification/Induction;
- iii. The Director of the Office of Evaluation;
- iv. Retention/Recognition; and
- v. The Director of the Office of Professional Development;

4. The Chief Academic Officer for the Division of Academics. The following organizational units and/or their chief officers report directly to the Chief Academic Officer for the Division of Academics:

- i. The Director of the Office of Academic Standards;
- ii. The Director of the Office of Literacy;
- iii. The Director of the Office of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM);
- iv. The Administrator of the Division of Early Childhood Education; and
- v. The Director of the Amistad Commission; and

5. The Chief Innovation Officer/Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Charter Schools, School Choice, Technology, Turnarounds. The following organizational units and/or their chief officers report directly to the Chief Innovation Officer/Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Charter Schools, School Choice, Technology, Turnarounds:

- i. The Director of the Office of Charter Schools;
- ii. Office of Interdistrict Choice and Nonpublic Schools;
- iii. Portfolio Management;
- iv. The Director of the Office of Educational Technology; and
- v. School Innovation;

6. The Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Student and Field Services. The following organizational units and/or their chief officers report directly to the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Student and Field Services:

- i. The County Offices of Education;
- ii. The Director of the Office of Student Support Services;
- iii. The Director of the Office of Special Education;
- iv. The Superintendent of the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf;
- v. The Director of the Office of Title I;

- vi. The Director of the Holocaust Commission;
- vii. The Director of the Office of Career and Technical Education; and
- viii. Quality Single Accountability Continuum;

7. The Chief School Improvement Officer. The following organizational unit reports directly to the Chief School Improvement Officer:

- i. The Regional Achievement Centers.

8. The Chief of Operations and Legal Affairs/Assistant Commissioner. The following organizational units and/or their chief officers report directly to the Chief of Operations and Legal Affairs/Assistant Commissioner:

- i. The Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Administration and Finance. The following organizational units and their chief officers report directly to the Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Administration and Finance:

- (1) The Director of the Office of Budget & Accounting and Grants Management;
- (2) The Director of the Office of School Finance;
- (3) The Director of the Office of School Facilities; and
- (4) The Director of the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance;
- ii. The Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs;
- iii. The Director of the Office of Controversies and Disputes; and
- iv. The Director of the Office of School Ethics; and

9. The Chief Policy and External Affairs Officer. The following organizational units and their chief officers report directly to the Chief Policy and Communications Officer:

- i. The Director of the Office of Public Information;
- ii. The Director of the Office of Strategic Partnerships; and
- iii. The Director of the Office of Policy Development.

Amended by R.1998 d.490, effective September 4, 1998.  
See: 30 N.J.R. 3643(b).

In (a)6, added v.  
Amended by R.1999 d.152, effective April 19, 1999.  
See: 31 N.J.R. 1312(a).

Added (a)6vi.  
Amended by R.1999 d.172, effective May 6, 1999.  
See: 31 N.J.R. 1482(b).

In (a), inserted 2v, and added 10.  
Amended by R.2000 d.51, effective January 7, 2000.  
See: 32 N.J.R. 446(a).

Rewrote (a).

Amended by R.2000 d.201, effective April 20, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 1764(a).

In (a), deleted a former iii, recodified former iv as iii, deleted a former v, and recodified former vi and vii as iv and v in 5, and added 12.

Amended by R.2001 d.16, effective December 7, 2000.

See: 33 N.J.R. 29(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2001 d.365, effective October 1, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3480(a).

Rewrote (a)2; in (a)4v, substituted "The Director of Title I Program Planning & Accountability" for "The Director of Program Review and Improvement".

Amended by R.2002 d.202, effective June 6, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 2328(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2005 d.180, effective May 11, 2005.

See: 37 N.J.R. 2009(b).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2005 d.254, effective July 8, 2005.

See: 37 N.J.R. 2860(b).

In (a)1xv, deleted "to the" following "Assistant" in two places; in introductory paragraph of (a)4, added "to the" following "Assistant" in two places, and in the second sentence, deleted "the Division of" following "Commissioner for"; and in (a)5iii substituted "Strategic Initiatives and Accountability" for "Administrative and Regulatory Affairs".

Amended by R.2007 d.97, effective March 9, 2007.

See: 39 N.J.R. 1250(b).

Rewrote (a).

Amended by R.2007 d.136, effective April 5, 2007.

See: 39 N.J.R. 1695(b).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2009 d.72, effective January 30, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1017(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2009 d.127, effective March 24, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 1750(a).

Rewrote (a)3ii; deleted former (a)3vi; recodified former (a)3vii and (a)3viii as (a)3vi and (a)3vii; deleted former (a)4iii; and recodified former (a)4iv and (a)4v as (a)4iii and (a)4iv.

Amended by R.2010 d.151, effective June 17, 2010.

See: 42 N.J.R. 1515(c).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2011 d.225, effective July 22, 2011.

See: 43 N.J.R. 2170(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2012 d.081, effective March 22, 2012.

See: 44 N.J.R. 1195(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2012 d.196, effective November 15, 2012.

See: 44 N.J.R. 3061(b).

Rewrote the section.

### 6A:2-2.5 Public information requests

Members of the public may obtain general information from the Department of Education by writing to or telephoning the Public Information Office, Department of Education, PO Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500, (609) 292-1126.

Amended by R.2011 d.225, effective July 22, 2011.

See: 43 N.J.R. 2170(a).

Substituted "1126" for "4041".