

See: 24 N.J.R. 4467(b), see also 24 N.J.R. 4419(a), 25 N.J.R. 922(a).  
Rule on assistance by the Division of Urban Education recodified to 9.5.

#### 6:8-9.5 Assistance by the Division of Urban Education and Field Services

(a) Staff from the Division of Urban Education and Field Services shall assist district and school staff in developing, implementing and evaluating the district and school educational improvement plans by:

1. Providing technical assistance to school planning teams, task forces, and district facilitators;
2. Identifying exemplary programs and practices;
3. Providing training on school-based planning to district and school staff and parents; and
4. Linking districts and schools to resources.

Amended by R.1993 d.112, effective March 1, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 4467(b), see also 24 N.J.R. 4419(a), 25 N.J.R. 922(a).

Rule on verification and evaluation of educational improvement plans in special needs districts recodified to 9.6; rule on assistance by the Division of Urban Education recodified from 9.4; references to Field Services added.

#### 6:8-9.6 Verification and evaluation of educational improvement plans in the special needs districts

(a) The district educational improvement plan shall be implemented as approved. The educational improvement plan can be formally amended only upon approval of the district board of education and the Department.

(b) Staff from the Division of Urban Education and Field Services are responsible for verifying the implementation of district educational improvement plans as follows:

1. Each special needs district shall be visited monthly by a Division liaison to assess progress and identify needs in implementing the district educational improvement plan. Each visit shall be documented by a written progress report completed by the liaison and sent to the district chief school administrator and the county superintendent.
2. An annual verification visit shall be conducted in each special needs district. Within two weeks of completion of the visit, a findings letter shall be sent by the Department to the chief school administrator. This letter shall analyze the extent to which the district is successfully implementing each objective in the district educational improvement plan and shall include commendations, and recommendations which must be acted upon within a designated time frame.

3. A special needs district which fails to satisfactorily implement the district educational improvement plan shall be subject to appropriate sanctions, including, but not limited to, the withholding of State aid.

(c) The district shall develop and implement a process to verify the progress of each school educational improvement plan, beginning with the 1993-94 school year. The verification process shall include the use of the school planning team in tracking and reporting progress at the school to the chief school administrator. During the verification visits for the district educational improvement plans, the Division of Urban Education and Field Services shall review the process and shall visit schools to ensure that the process is being implemented.

(d) Each district and each school shall communicate with the parents and community on a quarterly basis to report on the implementation and evaluation of the educational improvement plan.

(e) The district shall submit to the director of the urban assistance center on August 15 of each year an evaluation report which:

1. Assesses district and school progress in meeting the student outcomes targeted in the educational improvement plan;
2. Identifies specific accomplishments; and
3. Addresses progress in implementing recommendations from the external review team, where appropriate.

(f) The evaluation report shall be distributed to parents, staff and communities in September of each year.

(g) The Department shall collect annually the data which is necessary to create comprehensive school-level profiles of each school in the special needs districts. These school profiles shall include data on:

1. Student performance, including assessed knowledge, student attainment and participation;
2. Student population characteristics;
3. Programs and services; and
4. Staff characteristics.

Amended by R.1993 d.112, effective March 1, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 4467(b), see also 24 N.J.R. 4419(a), 25 N.J.R. 922(a).

Rule on waivers to rules recodified to 9.7; rule on verification and evaluation of educational improvement in the special needs districts recodified from 9.5; references to Field Services added.

#### 6:8-9.7 Waivers to rules

(a) Under no circumstances will waiver be allowed of this title or any of its subchapters in their entirety. The Commissioner may, however, on a case by case basis, recommend the approval of waivers of specific rules contained in Title 6, Education to the State Board of Education, if the application of those rules interferes with the ability of a special needs district to implement demonstrably effective programs to improve educational outcomes, as specified in the educational improvement plan.

1. The district may request a waiver by submitting a written request signed by the chief school administrator and approved by the district board of education. Such requests shall include:

- i. Conditions or reasons for the waiver of the specific rule(s);
- ii. Duration of the waiver; and
- iii. Supporting documentation, including, where appropriate, notice to affected parties.

2. Upon recommendation from the Commissioner, the State Board of Education may act to relax or waive, with or without conditions, such rules in the specific circumstance presented, if the State Board is satisfied that:

- i. The spirit and intent of Title 18A and applicable Federal laws and regulations are served by the granting of such waiver;
- ii. The provision of a thorough and efficient education to the pupils in the district is not compromised as a result of the waiver; and
- iii. There will be no risk to pupil welfare and safety by granting such waiver.

3. Waivers shall not be granted for a duration of more than three years.

Recodified by R.1993 d.112, effective March 1, 1993.  
See: 24 N.J.R. 4467(b), see also 24 N.J.R. 4419(a), 25 N.J.R. 922(a).  
Rule on waivers to rules recodified from 9.6.

#### **6:8-9.8 Demonstrably effective improvement strategies and programs**

(a) For the 1993-94 school year, the Commissioner, in consultation with experts in the field, shall develop a list of demonstrably effective improvement strategies and programs in the areas listed in N.J.A.C. 6:8-9.3(a)6 to be used by special needs districts as per N.J.A.C. 6:8-9.4 in developing the 1993-94 educational improvement plans at the district and school levels.

(b) Beginning with the 1994-95 school year, special needs districts and schools shall select from a list of demonstrably effective improvement strategies and programs, in meeting the requirements in N.J.A.C. 6:8-9.4, to be developed as follows:

1. By July 15, 1993 and annually thereafter, the Commissioner shall convene an advisory panel which includes researchers and practitioners from institutions and agencies such as colleges and universities, educational laboratories, foundations, business and industry, social and human services agencies, and school districts to review and update the list of improvement strategies and programs.

2. By October 1, 1993 and annually thereafter, the advisory panel shall present its recommendations to the Commissioner.

3. After reviewing the recommendations of the advisory panel, the Commissioner shall present a recommended list of strategies and programs to the State Board for approval. Advanced notice(s) of the State Board meeting at which the recommended list of demonstrably effective improvement strategies and programs will be considered shall be published in the New Jersey Register.

4. Once the list of demonstrably effective improvement strategies and programs has been approved by the State Board, the list shall be published in the New Jersey Register.

(c) Districts may request special approval from the Commissioner to implement demonstrably effective improvement strategies and programs which are not included on the recommended list.

(d) Districts may request special approval from the Commissioner to allocate some of these designated funds to address critical facilities needs.

New Rule, R.1993 d.112, effective March 1, 1993.  
See: 24 N.J.R. 4467(b), see also 24 N.J.R. 4419(a), 25 N.J.R. 922(a).  
Public Notice: Consideration of list of improvement strategies and programs.  
See: 27 N.J.R. 3634(a).