



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
Governor

WILLIAM L. LIBRERA
Commissioner

October 22, 2003

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
Elementary and Secondary School Principals

FROM: William L. Librera, Ed.D.
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:8--AYP and Graduation Requirements

On October 1, 2003, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessment, which implements the Core Curriculum Content Standards and the statewide assessment system. The adopted amendments continue the process of bringing New Jersey's standards-based assessment and accountability systems into compliance with the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This memo will review the key provisions of those amendments and their relationship to additional proposed amendments anticipated to be adopted in January 2004.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

The adopted amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.4 replace the district and school targets of 75 percent proficient for the ESPA and GEPA and 85 percent proficient for the HSPA with a percent proficient that will increase every three years until the 100 percent proficiency goal required by NCLB is reached by 2014. The following table shows the incremental increases in expectations for AYP.

Incremental Increases in Expectations
(Percent Proficient or Advanced Proficient)

Table with 7 columns: Subject, Grade, Starting Point 2003, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014. Rows include Language Arts Literacy (Grade 4, 8, 11) and Mathematics (Grade 4, 8, 11).

The new criteria will be phased in as described in the September 25, 2003 memo from regional assistant commissioners. For districts that did not pass monitoring in 2002-2003, the 75 percent for NJ ASK4 and GEPA and 85 percent for HSPA will be applied to general education students only, for consistency with the previous year's data. For districts that will be monitored during the 2003-2004 school year, the new AYP criteria will be applied to the total student population.

### **Mobility**

The intent of the NCLB inclusion requirement is to ensure that schools and districts are held accountable for students whom they have been educating for the current academic year. The adopted amendments exclude from district accountability students who have enrolled in a district after July 1 of the calendar year prior to the test administration.

### **High School Graduation Requirements**

The only change in the high school graduation requirements adopted at the October 1, 2003 State Board meeting delayed for one year the implementation of the world languages credit requirement in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1i(7). An additional proposed amendment, scheduled for adoption at the January 2004 State Board meeting, will set the world language credit requirement at five credits or student demonstration of proficiency effective with the 2004-2005 grade nine class.

Also scheduled for adoption in January 2004 are a requirement in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1i(6) of at least five credits in visual and performing arts effective with the 2004-2005 grade nine class; a requirement in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1i(9) of at least five credits in career education and consumer, family, and life skills, or vocational-technical education effective with the 2004-2005 grade nine class; and a requirement in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1i(8) that technological literacy, consistent with the Core Curriculum Content Standards, be integrated throughout the curriculum.

**Districts should plan to implement these graduation requirements in the 2004-2005 school year.**

### **Conclusion**

The text of the amendments highlighted above is available on the department's website, at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/>, or in the *New Jersey Register*. For further information, or any questions concerning the implications of these amendments, please contact Jay Doolan, director, Office of Academic and Professional Standards at (609) 984-5322.

WLL/RCT/JD:pb:S:\PBAKER\code\S\_A\_Code\_2003\_Amendments\Aug\_2003\_Grad\_Requ\Memo\_draft\_CSAs\_Com\_10\_03.doc

c: Members, State Board of Education  
 Dwight Pfennig  
 Gloria Hancock  
 Assistant Commissioners  
 Jay Doolan  
 Brian Robinson  
 Linda Dold Collins  
 Diane Schonyers  
 Diane Shoener  
 County Superintendents  
 Public Information Office