

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3142/page 1 of 6
Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member

R 3142 NONRENEWAL OF NONTENURED TEACHING STAFF MEMBER

A. Evaluations

1. Each nontenured teaching staff member shall be evaluated in strict compliance with ~~statute~~, N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1, ~~rules of the State Board of Education~~, N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq., and the policies and procedures of this district.

B. Nonrenewal Recommendation

1. When a nontenured teaching staff member's performance does not meet the standards of the **school** district, **employment will not be offered to the nontenured teaching staff member for the succeeding** ~~Principal or the nontenured teacher's immediate supervisor shall recommend to the Superintendent that the teaching staff member should not be reemployed in the following~~ school year.
2. **On or before May 15 of each year, each nontenured teaching staff member continuously employed by a Board of Education since the preceding September 30 shall receive a written notice from the Superintendent that such employment will not be offered if the Superintendent recommends the nontenured teaching staff member not be renewed** ~~The nontenured teaching staff member shall be informed by the Superintendent of Schools, in writing, that employment for the next succeeding school year will not be offered. This written notice shall be provided to the nontenured teaching staff member on or before May 15.~~
3. A recommendation by the Superintendent **to not renew for nonrenewal a nontenured teaching staff member's contract for the succeeding school year** may be based upon the nontenured teaching staff member's **observations**, evaluations, job performance, or any factor affecting his/her employment in **the this school** district.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3142/page 2 of 6

Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member

4. A n~~Non~~ontenured teaching staff members' **employment** contracts can ~~only~~ be renewed **only** upon the Superintendent's recommendation and a **recorded roll call** majority vote of the full **membership of the Board**. The Board **shall** ~~may~~ not withhold its approval for arbitrary and capricious reasons.
- C. Nonrenewal Action
1. **Prior to notifying the nontenured teaching staff member of the nonrenewal, the Superintendent shall notify the Board of the recommendation not to renew the nontenured teaching staff member's contract and the reasons for the recommendation.** ~~The Superintendent will notify Board members of the recommendation not to renew a nontenured teaching staff member's contract before notifying the nontenured teaching staff member of the recommendation to not renew.~~ The Superintendent may notify the Board members of the recommendation not to renew the nontenured teaching staff member's contract and the reasons for the recommendation in a written notice to the Board prior to May 15. ~~In or in the alternative, the Superintendent may notify the Board members of the recommendation not to renew a nontenured teaching staff member in an executive session. Using this option~~ **If notification is provided to the Board in executive session**, the Superintendent and the Board will meet in executive session prior to May 15 to review the Superintendent's recommendation(s) ~~for nonrenewal of nontenured teaching staff members.~~
 - a. Notice of the executive session shall be given in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 and individual notice shall be given, not less than forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting, to those nontenured teaching staff members whose possible nonrenewal will be discussed at the meeting. If any such **nontenured teaching staff member employee** requests the discussion take place in public, the recommendation for his/her nonrenewal will be severed from any other nonrenewal recommendation(s) and will be scheduled for discussion at a public meeting prior to May 15.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3142/page 3 of 6

Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member

2. A nontenured teaching staff member not recommended for renewal by the Superintendent is deemed not renewed. A **Board's of Education** vote is not required on the Superintendent's recommendation(s) to not renew a nontenured teaching staff member's contract.
- D. Notice of Nonrenewal
- ~~1. Notice of the Superintendent's decision not to renew shall be given to each nontenured teaching staff member not recommended for renewal on or before May 15 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:27-10. The Board may delegate the Superintendent or the Board Secretary to give the written notice of nonrenewal.~~
 12. The nonrenewal notice shall be ~~in writing and~~ provided to the nontenured teaching staff member not recommended for renewal **by the Superintendent** on or before May 15. If hand delivered, a record shall be made of the date on which delivery was made. If sent by mail, the notice shall be sent registered mail, return receipt requested, to the nontenured teaching staff member's address of record.
- E. Request for Statement of Reasons
1. **Any nontenured teaching staff member receiving notice that a teaching contract for the succeeding school year will not be offered may, within fifteen calendar days thereafter, request in writing, a statement of the reasons for such non-employment which shall be given to the nontenured teaching staff member in writing within thirty calendar days after the receipt of such request. A nonrenewed teaching staff member will be given a written statement of the reasons for which he/she was not renewed provided the teaching staff member's request for a statement of reasons has been received by the Superintendent within fifteen calendar days after the teaching staff member received written notice of his/her nonrenewal. N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.2.**

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3142/page 4 of 6

Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member

2. The statement of reasons for a nonrenewal will set forth, with as much particularity as possible, the precise reasons for the nonrenewal. Where the nonrenewal is based on performance deficiencies recorded in the **nontenured employee's teaching staff member's observations and** evaluations and the **nontenured teaching staff member employee** has been given a copy of those **observations and** evaluations, the statement of reasons may incorporate the **observations and** evaluations by reference.
 3. The **written** statement of reasons will be prepared by the Superintendent ~~and shall be delivered to the employee who requested it within thirty calendar days after the receipt of the employee's request.~~
- F. Nonrenewal Appearance
1. **Whenever the nontenured teaching staff member has requested in writing and received a written statement of reasons for non-reemployment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.2, the nontenured teaching staff member may request in writing an informal appearance before the Board. The written request shall be submitted to the Board within ten calendar days of the nontenured teaching staff member's receipt of the Board's statement of reasons. A teaching staff member who has requested a statement of reasons for non-reemployment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.2, will be granted an informal appearance before the Board to discuss those reasons, provided that he/she had submitted to the Superintendent a written request for such an appearance no later than ten calendar days after the nontenured teaching staff member's receipt of the written statement of reasons. N.J.A.C. 6A:10-8.1(a).**
 2. **The A date for the informal appearance shall be scheduled within thirty calendar days from the nontenured teaching staff member's receipt of the Board's statement of reasons. The appearance shall be conducted at an executive session for which notice has been given in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-13.**

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3142/page 5 of 6

Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member

3. The Board will **exercise discretion in determining** ~~determine~~ a reasonable length of time **for the proceeding to be devoted to the appearance**, depending upon each instance's specific circumstances.
4. The proceeding of an informal appearance before the Board may be conducted **in executive session** pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(8). **If conducted in executive session, notice must be given in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-13.**
53. **The Board shall provide the nontenured teaching staff member adequate written notice regarding the date and time of the informal appearance.** ~~The teaching staff member requesting the appearance shall be given written notice, no later than forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting at which it is scheduled, of the date, time, place, and duration of the appearance.~~
64. **The nontenured teaching staff member's appearance before the Board shall not be an adversary proceeding. The purpose of the appearance shall be to provide the nontenured teaching staff member the opportunity to convince Board of Education members to offer reemployment.** ~~The purpose of the appearance shall be to permit the nonrenewed teaching staff member to convince the members of the Board to offer reemployment. To those ends, the appearance shall be informally conducted. This appearance provides a mechanism by which the nontenured teaching staff member, whose renewal has not been recommended by the Superintendent, can appeal to the Board, on which the Superintendent sits as a non-voting member pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.~~
7. The proceeding of an informal appearance before the Board shall be conducted with the President of the Board presiding ~~and the appearance shall not be an adversary proceeding.~~
85. The **nontenured** teaching staff member may be represented by an attorney or by one individual of his/her choosing. ~~He/She~~ **The nontenured teaching staff member may present, on his or her behalf, witnesses to testify on his/her behalf. Witnesses who do**

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3142/page 6 of 6

Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member

not need to present testimony under oath and ~~their statements may be recorded. The~~ **shall not be cross-examined by the Board will hear witnesses and shall not cross-examine them.** Witnesses ~~will~~ be called **one at a time** into the meeting to address the Board ~~one at a time~~ and shall be excused from the meeting after making their statements.

G. Final Determination

1. ~~A nontenured teaching staff member not recommended for renewal by the Superintendent is deemed not renewed. A Board vote is not required on the Superintendent's recommendation(s) to not renew a nontenured teaching staff member. However, after an informal appearance before the Board, the Superintendent may make a recommendation for reemployment of the nontenured teaching staff member to the voting members of the Board. The voting members of the Board, by a majority vote of the full Board in public session, must approve the reemployment based on the Superintendent's recommendation. If the Superintendent recommends the nontenured teaching staff member for reemployment, the voting members of the Board must, by a majority vote of the full Board at a public session, approve or not approve the Superintendent's recommendation for reemployment.~~
2. The Board may, with a majority vote of its full membership in public session and without the recommendation of the Superintendent, offer the **nontenured** teaching staff member reemployment after the informal appearance before the Board.
3. **Within three working days following the informal appearance, the Board shall notify the affected nontenured teaching staff member, in writing, of its final determination. The Board may delegate notification of its final determination to the Superintendent or Board Secretary. The final determination will be delivered to the teaching staff member, in writing, no later than three days following the informal appearance. The Board may delegate the Superintendent or the Board Secretary to deliver the final determination.**

Issued:

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 1 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

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R 3221 EVALUATION OF TEACHERS

A. Definitions – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.2

The following words and terms shall have the following meanings when used in Policy and Regulation 3221 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Announced observation” means an observation in which the person conducting an observation for the purpose of evaluation will notify the teacher of the date and the class period the observation will be conducted.

“Annual performance report” means a written appraisal of the teacher’s performance prepared by the teacher’s designated supervisor based on the evaluation rubric for his or her position.

“Annual summative evaluation rating” means an annual evaluation rating that is based on appraisals of educator practice and student performance, and includes all measures captured in a teacher’s evaluation rubric. The four summative performance categories are ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective.

“Calibration” in the context of educator evaluation means a process to monitor the competency of a trained evaluator to ensure the evaluator continues to apply an educator practice instrument accurately and consistently according to the standards and definitions of the specific instrument.

“Chief School Administrator” means the Superintendent of Schools or the Administrative Principal if there is no Superintendent.

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

“Co-observation” means two or more supervisors who are trained on the practice instrument who observe simultaneously, or at alternate times, the same lesson or portion of a lesson for the purpose of training.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 2 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

“Corrective Action Plan” means a written plan developed by the designated supervisor in collaboration with the teacher to address deficiencies as outlined in an evaluation. The corrective action plan shall include timelines for corrective action, responsibilities of the individual teacher and the school district for implementing the plan, and specific support that the district shall provide as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119.

“Department” means the New Jersey Department of Education.

“Designated supervisor” means the supervisor designated by the Superintendent of Schools or designee as the teacher’s supervisor.

“District Evaluation Advisory Committee” means a group created to oversee and guide the planning and implementation of the Board of Education's evaluation policies and procedures as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3.

“Educator practice instrument” means an assessment tool that provides: scales or dimensions that capture competencies of professional performance; and differentiation of a range of professional performance as described by the scales, which must be shown in practice and/or research studies. **The scores from the teacher practice instrument are components of the teacher’s evaluation rubric and the scores are included in the summative evaluation rating for the individual. The scores from educator practice instruments may be applied to the teacher’s summative evaluation rating in a manner determined by the school district.**

“Evaluation” means an appraisal of an individual’s professional performance in relation to his or her job description and professional standards and based on, when applicable, the individual’s evaluation rubric.

“Evaluation rubric” means a set of criteria, measures, and processes used to evaluate all teachers in a specific school district or local education agency. Evaluation rubrics consist of measures of professional practice, based on educator practice instrument, and student outcomes. Each Board

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 3 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

of Education will have an evaluation rubric specifically for teachers, another specifically for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals, and evaluation rubrics for other categories of teaching staff members.

“Indicators of student progress and growth” means the results of assessment(s) of students as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessment.

“Individual professional development plan” is as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119.

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

“Observation” means a method of collecting data on the performance of a teacher’s assigned duties and responsibilities. An observation for the purpose of evaluation will be included in the determination of the annual summative evaluation rating and shall be conducted by an individual employed in the school district in a supervisory role and capacity and possessing a school administrator, Principal, or supervisor endorsement as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-2.1.

“Post-observation conference” means a meeting, either in-person or remotely, between the supervisor who conducted the observation and the teacher for the purpose of evaluation to discuss the data collected in the observation.

“Scoring guide” means a set of rules or criteria used to evaluate a performance, product, or project. The purpose of a scoring guide is to provide a transparent and reliable evaluation process. ~~Teacher~~ **Educator** practice instruments include a scoring guide that an evaluator uses to structure his or her assessments and ratings of professional practice.

“Semester” means half of the school year.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 4 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

“Signed” means the name of one physically written by oneself or an electronic code, sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

“Student growth objective” means an academic goal that teachers and designated supervisors set for groups of students.

“Student growth percentile” means a specific metric for measuring individual student progress on Statewide assessments by tracking how much a student’s test scores have changed relative to other students Statewide with similar scores in previous years.

“Superintendent” means Superintendent of Schools or Chief School Administrator.

“Supervisor” means an appropriately certified teaching staff member, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, or Superintendent employed in the school district in a supervisory role and capacity, and possessing a school administrator, Principal, or supervisor endorsement as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.

“Teacher” means a teaching staff member who holds the appropriate standard, provisional, or emergency instructional certificate issued by the Board of Examiners and is assigned a class roster of students for at least one particular course.

~~“Teacher practice instrument” means an assessment tool that provides scales or dimensions that capture competencies of professional performance; and differentiation of a range of professional performance as described by the scales, which must be shown in practice and/or research studies. The scores from the teacher practice instrument are components of the teacher’s evaluation rubrics and the scores are included in the summative evaluation rating for the individual.~~

“Unannounced observation” means an observation in which the person conducting an observation for the purpose of evaluation will not notify the teacher of the date or time the observation will be conducted.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 5 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

B. Applicability of Rules on Collective Bargaining Agreements – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.3

~~The rules in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall not override any conflicting provision(s) of collective bargaining agreements or other employment contracts entered into by a school district in effect on July 1, 2013.~~ No collective bargaining agreement entered into after July 1, 2013, shall conflict with the educator evaluation system established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. or any other specific statute or regulation, nor shall topics subject to bargaining involve matters of educational policy or managerial prerogatives.

C. Educator Evaluation Data, Information, and Annual Performance Reports – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.4

All information contained in annual performance reports and all information collected, compiled, and/or maintained by employees of the Board of Education for the purposes of conducting the educator evaluation process pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq., including, but not limited to, digital records, shall be confidential. Such information shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. Nothing contained in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall be construed to prohibit the Department or a school district from, at its discretion, collecting evaluation data pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123.e. or distributing aggregate statistics regarding evaluation data.

D. Evaluation of Teachers – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1

1. The Board of Education **shall** annually ~~shall~~ adopt evaluation rubrics for teachers. The evaluation rubrics shall have four defined annual ratings: ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective.
2. The evaluation rubrics for teachers shall include all other relevant minimum standards set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123 (P.L. 2012, c. 26, § 17c).
3. Evaluation rubrics shall be submitted to the Commissioner by **August** ~~June~~-1 for approval by August **15** ~~1~~ of each year.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 6 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

E. Duties of the Board of Education – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2

1. The Board of Education shall meet the following requirements for the annual evaluation of teachers, unless otherwise specified:

a. Establish a District Evaluation Advisory Committee to oversee and guide the planning and implementation of the Board of Education's evaluation policies and procedures as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2 et seq.;

b. Annually adopt policies and procedures developed by the Superintendent pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4, including the evaluation rubrics approved by the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(c):

(1) The Superintendent shall develop policies and procedures that, at a minimum, ensure student performance data on the Statewide assessment is, upon receipt, promptly distributed or otherwise made available to ~~teachers~~ ~~ing staff members~~ who were primarily responsible for instructing the applicable students in the school year in which the assessment was taken, as well as to ~~teachers~~ ~~ing staff members~~ who are or will be primarily responsible for instructing the applicable students in the subsequent school year.

c. Ensure the Superintendent annually notifies all teachers of the adopted evaluation policies and procedures no later than October 1. If a teacher is hired after October 1, the Board/Superintendent shall notify the teacher of the policies and procedures at the beginning of his or her employment. All teachers shall be notified of amendments to the policy and procedures within ten ~~teacher~~ working days of adoption;

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 7 of 24
Evaluation of Teachers

- d. Annually adopt by June 1, any Commissioner-approved **educator** ~~teacher~~ practice instruments and, as part of the process described at N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(c), notify the Department which instruments will be used as part of the school district's evaluation rubrics;
 - e. Ensure the Principal of each school within the school district has established a School Improvement Panel pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.1. The panel shall be established annually by August 31 and shall carry out the duties and functions described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2;
 - f. Ensure data elements are collected and stored in an accessible and usable format. Data elements shall include, but not be limited to, scores or evidence from observations for the purpose of evaluation and student growth objective data; and
 - g. Ensure the Superintendent or designee certifies to the Department that any observer who conducts an observation of a teacher for the purpose of evaluation as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4; N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.4; and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-6.2, shall meet the statutory observation requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119; 18A:6-123.b(8); and N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1 and the teacher member of the School Improvement Panel requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2.
2. The Board of Education shall ensure the following training procedures are followed when implementing the evaluation rubric for all teachers and, when applicable, applying the Commissioner-approved educator practice instrument:
 - a. Annually provide training on and descriptions of each component of the evaluation rubric for all teachers who are being evaluated in the school district and provide more thorough training for any teacher who is being evaluated for the first time. Training shall include detailed

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 8 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

descriptions of all evaluation rubric components including, when applicable, detailed descriptions of student achievement measures and all aspects of the educator practice instrument;

- b. Annually provide updates and refresher training for supervisors who are conducting evaluations in the school district and more thorough training for any supervisor who will evaluate teachers for the first time. Training shall be provided on each component of the evaluated teacher's evaluation rubric before the evaluation of a teacher;
- c. Annually require each supervisor who will conduct observations for the purpose of evaluation of a teacher to complete at least two co-observations during the school year.
 - (1) Co-observers shall use the co-observation to promote accuracy and consistency in scoring.
 - (2) A co-observation may count as one required observation for the purpose of evaluation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4, as long as the observer meets the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.3 and 4.4, but the co-observation shall not count as two or more required observations. If a co-observation counts as one required observation, the score shall be determined by the teacher's designated supervisor.
- d. The Superintendent shall annually certify to the Department that all supervisors of teachers in the school district who are utilizing evaluation rubrics have completed training on and demonstrated competency in applying the evaluation rubrics.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 9 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

F. District Evaluation Advisory Committee – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3

1. Members of the District Evaluation Advisory Committee shall include representation from the following groups: teachers from each school level represented in the school district; central office administrators overseeing the teacher evaluation process; supervisors involved in teacher evaluation, when available or appropriate; and administrators conducting evaluations, including a minimum of one administrator conducting evaluations who participates on a School Improvement Panel. Members also shall include the Superintendent, a special education administrator, a parent, and a member of the Board of Education.
2. The Superintendent may extend membership on the District Evaluation Advisory Committee to representatives of other groups and to individuals.
3. ~~A Beginning in 2018-2019, the District Evaluation Advisory Committees is not shall no longer be required~~ and the Board of Education shall have the discretion to **establish a** ~~continue the~~ District Evaluation Advisory Committee.

G. Evaluation Procedures for Teachers – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4

1. The provisions outlined in Policy and Regulation 3221 and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 shall be the minimum requirements for the evaluation of teachers.
2. Evaluation policies and procedures requiring the annual evaluation of all teachers shall be developed under the direction of the Superintendent, who may consult with the District Evaluation Advisory Committee or representatives from School Improvement Panels, and shall include, but not be limited to, a description of:
 - a. Roles and responsibilities for implementation of evaluation policies and procedures;

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 10 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

- b. Job descriptions, evaluation rubrics for teachers, the process for calculating the summative ratings and each component, and the evaluation regulations set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10 et seq.;
 - c. Methods of data collection and reporting appropriate to each job description, including, but not limited to, the process for student attribution to teachers, Principals, Assistant Principals, and Vice Principals for calculating the median and school-wide student growth percentile;
 - d. Processes for observations for the purpose of evaluation and post-observation conference(s) by a supervisor;
 - e. Process for developing and scoring student growth objectives;
 - f. The process for preparation of individual professional development plans; and
 - g. The process for preparation of an annual performance report by the teacher's designated supervisor and an annual summary conference between the teacher and his or her designated supervisor.
3. The annual summary conference between designated supervisors and teachers shall be held before the annual performance report is filed. The conference shall occur on or before June 30 of each school year and shall include, but not be limited to, a review of the following:
- a. The performance of the teacher based upon the job description and the scores or evidence compiled using the teacher's evaluation rubric, including, when applicable:
 - (1) The ~~educator's~~ ~~teacher's~~ practice instrument; and
 - (2) Available indicators or student achievement measures such as student growth objective scores and student growth percentile scores.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 11 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

- b. The progress of the teacher toward meeting the goals of the individual professional development plan or, when applicable, the corrective action plan; and
 - c. The preliminary annual performance report.
 4. If any scores for the teacher's evaluation rubric are not available at the time of the annual summary conference due to pending assessment results, the annual summative evaluation rating shall be calculated once all component ratings are available.
 5. The annual performance report shall be prepared by the teacher's designated supervisor and shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. A summative rating based on the evaluation rubric, including, when applicable, a total score for each component as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4;
 - b. Performance area(s) of strength and area(s) needing improvement based upon the job description and components of the teacher's evaluation rubric; and
 - c. The teacher's individual professional development plan or corrective action plan from the evaluation year being reviewed in the report.
 6. The teacher and the designated supervisor shall sign the report within five **teacher** working days of the review.
 7. The Board of Education shall include all performance reports and supporting data, including, but not limited to, written observation reports and additional components of the summative evaluation rating as part of the teacher's personnel file, or in an alternative, confidential location. If reports and data are stored in an alternative location, the personnel file shall clearly indicate the report's location and how it can be easily accessed. The records shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 12 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

H. Corrective Action Plans for Teachers – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5

1. For each teacher rated ineffective or partially effective on the annual summative evaluation, as measured by the evaluation rubrics, a corrective action plan shall be developed by the teacher and the teacher's designated supervisor. If the teacher does not agree with the corrective action plan's content, the designated supervisor shall make a final determination.
2. The corrective action plan shall be developed and the teacher and his or her designated supervisor shall meet to discuss the corrective action plan by October 31 of the school year following the year of evaluation except:
 - a. If the ineffective or partially effective summative evaluation rating is received after October 1 of the school year following the year of evaluation, a corrective action plan shall be developed, and the teacher and his or her designated supervisor shall meet to discuss the corrective action plan within twenty-five teacher working days following the school district's receipt of the teacher's summative rating.
3. The content of the corrective action plan shall replace the content of the individual professional development plan required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.3(a) and 4.4(a) and shall:
 - a. Address areas in need of improvement identified in the teacher evaluation rubric;
 - b. Include specific, demonstrable goals for improvement;
 - c. Include responsibilities of the evaluated employee and the school district for the plan's implementation; and
 - d. Include timelines for meeting the goal(s).

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 13 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

4. The teacher's designated supervisor and the teacher on a corrective action plan shall discuss the teacher's progress toward the goals outlined in the corrective action plan during each required post-observation conference, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1 or N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4. The teacher and his or her designated supervisor may update the goals outlined in the corrective action plan to reflect any change(s) in the teacher's progress, position, or role.
 5. Progress toward the teacher's goals outlined in the corrective action plan:
 - a. Shall be documented in the teacher's personnel file and reviewed at the annual summary conference and the mid-year evaluation. Both the teacher on a corrective action plan and his or her designated supervisor may collect data and evidence to demonstrate the teacher's progress toward his or her corrective action plan goals; and
 - b. May be used as evidence in the teacher's next annual summative evaluation; however, such progress shall not guarantee an effective rating on the next summative evaluation.
 6. Responsibilities of the evaluated teacher on a corrective action plan shall not be exclusionary of other plans for improvement determined to be necessary by the teacher's designated supervisor.
 7. The School Improvement Panel shall ensure teachers with a corrective action plan receive a mid-year evaluation as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:6-120.c. The mid-year evaluation shall occur approximately midway between the development of the corrective action plan and the expected receipt of the next annual summative rating. The mid-year evaluation shall include, at a minimum, a conference to discuss progress toward the teacher's goals outlined in the corrective action plan. The mid-year evaluation conference may be combined with a post-observation conference.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 14 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

8. The School Improvement Panel shall ensure teachers with a corrective action plan receive one observation, including a post-observation conference, in addition to the observations required in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4 for the purpose of evaluation as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.2 and 4.4(a).
 9. Except where a school district employs only one administrator whose position requires a supervisor, principal, or school administrator endorsement, tenured teachers with a corrective action plan shall be observed by multiple observers for the purpose of evaluation as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4(c)4.
 10. The corrective action plan shall remain in effect until the teacher receives his or her next summative evaluation rating.
 11. There shall be no minimum number of teacher working days a teacher's corrective action plan can be in place.
- I. School Improvement Panel – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3 et seq.
1. School Improvement Panel Membership – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.1
 - a. The School Improvement Panel shall include the Principal, a Vice Principal, and a teacher who is chosen in accordance with b. below by the Principal in consultation with the majority representative. If an Assistant Principal or Vice Principal is not available to serve on the panel, the Principal shall appoint an additional member who is employed in the district in a supervisory role and capacity, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-120.a. The Principal may appoint additional members to the School Improvement Panel as long as all members meet the criteria outlined in this section and N.J.S.A. 18A:6-120.a. and the teacher(s) on the panel represents at least one-third of its total membership.
 - b. The Principal annually shall choose the teacher(s) on the School Improvement Panel through the following process:

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 15 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

- (1) The teacher member shall be a person with a demonstrated record of success in the classroom. A demonstrated record of success in the classroom means the teacher member shall have been rated effective or highly effective in the most recent available annual summative rating.
 - (2) The majority representative, in accordance with a. above, may submit to the Principal, teacher member nominees for consideration.
 - (3) The Principal shall have final decision-making authority and is not bound by the majority representative's list of nominees.
- c. The teacher member shall serve a full school year, except in case of illness or authorized leave, but may not be appointed more than three consecutive school years.
- d. All members of the School Improvement Panel shall be chosen by August 31 of each year.
2. School Improvement Panel Responsibilities – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2
- a. The School Improvement Panel shall:
- (1) Oversee the mentoring of teachers according to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.3(a)2. and support the implementation of the school district mentoring plan;
 - (2) Conduct evaluations of teachers pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 and 4.4;
 - (3) Ensure corrective action plans for teachers are created in accordance to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5; and ensure mid-year evaluations are conducted for teachers who are on a corrective action plan; and

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 16 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

- (4) Identify professional development opportunities for all teachers based on the review of aggregate school-level data, including, but not limited to, teacher evaluation and student performance data to support school-level professional development plans described in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.2.
 - b. To conduct observations for the purpose of evaluation, the teacher member shall have:
 - (1) Agreement of the majority representative;
 - (2) An appropriate supervisory certificate; and
 - (3) Approval of the Principal who supervises the teacher being observed.
 - c. The teacher member who participates in the evaluation process shall not serve concurrently as a mentor under N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.2(a)3.
- J. Components of Teacher Evaluation Rubric – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.1
 1. The components of the teacher evaluation rubric described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.1 et seq. shall apply to teachers holding the position of teacher and holding a valid and effective standard, provisional, or emergency instructional certificate.
 2. Evaluation rubrics for all teachers shall include the requirements described in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Measures of student achievement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.2; and
 - b. Measures of teacher practice pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.3 and 4.4.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 17 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

3. To earn a summative rating, a teacher shall have a student achievement score, including median student growth percentile and/or student growth objectives(s) scores, and a teacher practice score pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4.
 4. Each score shall be converted to a percentage weight so all components make up 100 percent of the evaluation rubric. By August 31 prior to the school year in which the evaluation rubric applies, the Department shall provide on its website the required percentage weight of each component and the required summative rating scale. All components shall be worth the following percentage weights or fall within the following ranges:
 - a. If, according to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.2(b), a teacher receives a median student growth percentile, the student achievement component shall be at least thirty percent and no more than fifty percent of a teacher's evaluation rubric rating as determined by the Department.
 - b. If, according to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.2(b), a teacher does not receive a median student growth percentile, the student achievement component shall be at least fifteen percent and no more than fifty percent of a teacher's evaluation rubric rating as determined by the Department.
 - c. Measures of teacher practice described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.3 and 4.4 shall be at least fifty percent and no more than eighty-five percent of a teacher's evaluation rubric rating as determined by the Department.
 5. Standardized tests, used as a measure of student progress, shall not be the predominant factor in determining a teacher's annual summative rating.
- K. Student Achievement Components – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.2
1. Measures of student achievement shall be used to determine impact on student learning. The student achievement measure shall include the following components:

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 18 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

- a. If the teacher meets the requirements of 2. below, the median student growth percentile of all students assigned to a teacher, which shall be calculated as set forth in 4. below; and
 - b. Student growth objective(s), which shall be specific and measurable, based on available student learning data, aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), and based on growth and/or achievement.
 - (1) For teachers who teach subjects or grades not covered by the NJSLS, student growth objective(s) shall align to standards adopted or endorsed, as applicable, by the State Board.
2. The median student growth percentile shall be included in the annual summative rating of a teacher who:
- a. Teaches at least one course or group within a course that falls within a standardized-tested grade or subject. The Department shall maintain on its website a course listing of all standardized-tested grades and subjects for which student growth percentile can be calculated pursuant to 4. below;
 - b. Teaches the course or group within the course for at least sixty percent of the time from the beginning of the course to the day of the standardized assessment; and
 - c. Has at least twenty individual student growth percentile scores attributed to his or her name during the school year of the evaluation. If a teacher does not have at least twenty individual student growth percentile scores in a given school year, the student growth percentile scores attributed to a teacher during the two school years prior to the evaluation year may be used in addition to the student growth percentile scores attributed to the teacher during the

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 19 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

school year of the evaluation. Only student growth percentile scores from school year 2013-2014 or any school year after shall be used to determine median student growth percentiles.

3. The Department shall periodically collect data for all teachers that include, but are not limited to, student achievement and teacher practice scores.
4. The Department shall calculate the median student growth percentile for teachers using students assigned to the teacher by the school district. For teachers who have a student growth percentile score:
 - a. The Board of Education shall submit to the Department final ratings for all components, other than the student growth percentile, for the annual summative rating; and
 - b. The Department then shall report to the employing district Board of Education the annual summative rating, including the median student growth percentile for each teacher who receives a median student growth percentile.
5. Student growth objectives for teachers shall be developed and measured according to the following procedures:
 - a. The Superintendent shall determine the number of required student growth objectives for teachers, including teachers with a student growth percentile. A teacher with a student growth percentile shall have at least one and not more than four student growth objectives. A teacher without a student growth percentile shall have at least two and a maximum of four student growth objectives. By August 31 prior to the school year the evaluation rubric applies, the Department shall provide on its website the minimum and maximum number of required student growth objectives within this range.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 20 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

- b. A teacher with a student growth percentile shall not use the standardized assessment used in determining the student growth percentile to measure progress toward a student growth objective.
 - c. Each teacher shall develop, in consultation with his or her supervisor or a Principal's designee, each student growth objective. If the teacher does not agree with the student growth objectives, the Principal shall make the final determination.
 - d. Student growth objectives and the criteria for assessing teacher performance based on the objectives shall be determined, recorded, and retained by the teacher and his or her supervisor by October 31 of each school year, or within twenty-five **teacher** working days of the teacher's start date if the teacher begins work after October 1.
 - e. Adjustments to student growth objectives may be made by the teacher in consultation with his or her supervisor only when approved by the Superintendent or designee. Adjustments shall be recorded in the teacher's personnel file on or before February 15.
 - (1) If the Student Growth Objective (SGO) covers only the second semester of the school year, or if the teacher begins work after October 1, adjustments shall be recorded before the mid-point of the second semester.
 - f. The teacher's designated supervisor shall approve each teacher's student growth objective score. The teacher's student growth objective score, if available, shall be discussed at the teacher's annual summary conference and recorded in the teacher's personnel file.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 21 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

L. Teacher Practice Components – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.3

1. The teacher practice component rating shall be based on the measurement of the teacher's performance according to the school district's Commissioner-approved teacher practice instrument. Observations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4 shall be used as one form of evidence for the measurement.

M. Teacher Observations – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4

1. For the purpose of teacher evaluation, observers shall conduct the observations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123.b.(8) and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5 and 3.2, and they shall be trained pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(b).
2. Observation conferences shall include the following procedures:
 - a. A supervisor who is present at the observation shall conduct a post-observation conference with the teacher being observed. A post-observation conference shall occur no more than fifteen teacher working days following each observation.
 - b. The post-observation conference shall be for the purpose of reviewing the data collected at the observation, connecting the data to the teacher practice instrument and the teacher's individual professional development plan, collecting additional information needed for the evaluation of the teacher, and offering areas to improve effectiveness. Within a school year, the post observation conference shall be held prior to the occurrence of further observations for the purpose of evaluation.
 - c. If agreed to by the teacher, one required post-observation conference and any pre-**observation** conference(s) for observations of tenured teachers who are not on a corrective action plan may be conducted **by** ~~via~~ written communication, including electronic.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 22 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

- d. One post-observation conference may be combined with a teacher's annual summary conference, as long as it occurs within the required fifteen teacher working days following the observation for the purpose of evaluation.
 - e. A **pre-observation** conference, when required, shall occur at least one but not more than seven teacher working days prior to the observation.
3. Each teacher shall be observed as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4. For all teachers, at least one of the required observations shall be announced and preceded by a **pre-observation** conference, and at least one of the required observations shall be unannounced. The Superintendent shall decide whether additional required observations are announced or unannounced, if applicable. The following additional requirements shall apply:
- a. Each observation required for the purpose of evaluation shall be conducted for at least twenty minutes.
 - b. Nontenured teachers shall be observed at least three times each school year, but not less than once each semester. The observations shall be conducted in accordance with the timeframe set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1.
 - (1) Except where a school district employs only one administrator whose position requires a supervisor, principal, or school administrator endorsement, nontenured teachers shall be observed during the course of the year by more than one appropriately certified supervisor.
 - c. Tenured teachers shall be observed at least two times during each school year. Observations for all tenured teachers shall occur prior to the annual summary conference, which shall occur prior to the end of the academic school year.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 23 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

- (1) If a tenured teacher was rated highly effective on his or her most recent summative evaluation and if both the teacher and the teacher's designated supervisor agree to use this option, one of the two required observations may be an observation of a Commissioner-approved activity other than a classroom lesson. The Department of Education shall post annually to its website a list of Commissioner-approved activities that may be observed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4.
 - d. Teachers on a corrective action plan shall receive, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5(h), one additional observation, including a post-observation conference.
 - e. Upon receiving a final summative evaluation that necessitates a corrective action plan, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5(a), any remaining required observation(s) shall not be conducted until the corrective action plan has been finalized.
 - f. A written or electronic observation report shall be signed by the supervisor who conducted the observation and post-observation and the teacher who was observed.
 - g. The teacher shall submit his or her written objection(s) of the evaluation within ten teacher working days following the conference. The objection(s) shall be attached to each party's copy of the annual performance report.
4. To earn a teacher practice score, a nontenured teacher shall receive at least three observations.
 - a. If a nontenured teacher is present for less than forty percent of the total student school days in a school year, he or she shall receive at least two observations to earn a teacher practice score.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3221/page 24 of 24

Evaluation of Teachers

- N. Teacher Practice Instrument – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-7.2
1. The teacher practice instrument approved by the Department shall meet the following criteria:
 - a. Include domains of professional practice that align to the New Jersey Professional Standards for Teachers pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3;
 - b. Include scoring guides for assessing teacher practice that differentiate among a minimum of four levels of performance, and the differentiation has been shown in practice and/or research studies. Each scoring guide shall:
 - (1) Clearly define the expectations for each rating category;
 - (2) Provide a conversion to four rating categories;
 - (3) Be applicable to all grades and subjects; or to specific grades and/or subjects if designed explicitly for the grades and/or subjects; and
 - (4) Use clear and precise language that facilitates common understanding among teachers and administrators.
 - c. Rely on, to the extent possible, specific, discrete, observable, and/or measurable behaviors of students and teachers in the classroom with direct evidence of student engagement and learning; and
 - d. Include descriptions of specific training and implementation details required for the instrument to be effective.

Adopted:

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3222/page 1 of 14
Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding
Teachers and Administrators
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R 3222 EVALUATION OF TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS, EXCLUDING TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

A. Definitions – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.2

The following words and terms shall have the following meanings when used in Policy and Regulation 3222 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Annual performance report” means a written appraisal of the teaching staff member's performance prepared by the teaching staff member's designated supervisor based on the evaluation rubric for his or her position.

“Annual summative evaluation rating” means an annual evaluation rating that is based on appraisals of educator practice and student performance, if applicable, and includes all measures captured in a teaching staff member's evaluation rubric. The four summative performance categories are ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective.

“Chief School Administrator” means the Superintendent of Schools or the Administrative Principal if there is no Superintendent.

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

“Corrective Action Plan” means a written plan developed by the designated supervisor in collaboration with the teaching staff member to address deficiencies as outlined in an evaluation. The corrective action plan shall include timelines for corrective action, responsibilities of the individual teaching staff member and the school district for implementing the plan, and specific support that the district shall provide as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119.

“Department” means the New Jersey Department of Education.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3222/page 2 of 14

Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators

“Designated supervisor” means the supervisor designated by the Superintendent of Schools or designee as the teaching staff member’s supervisor.

“District Evaluation Advisory Committee” means a group created to oversee and guide the planning and implementation of the Board of Education’s evaluation policies and procedures as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3.

“Educator practice instrument” means an assessment tool that provides: scales or dimensions that capture competencies of professional performance; and differentiation of a range of professional performance as described by the scales, which must be shown in practice and/or research studies. The scores from educator practice instruments for teaching staff members other than teachers, Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals may be applied to the teaching staff member’s summative evaluation rating in a manner determined by the school district.

“Evaluation” means an appraisal of an individual’s professional performance in relation to his or her job description and professional standards and based on, when applicable, the individual’s evaluation rubric.

“Evaluation rubric” means a set of criteria, measures, and processes used to evaluate all teaching staff members in a specific school district or local education agency. Evaluation rubrics consist of measures of professional practice, based on educator practice instruments and student outcomes. Each Board of Education will have an evaluation rubric specifically for teachers, another specifically for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals, and evaluation rubrics for other categories of teaching staff members.

“Indicators of student progress and growth” means the results of assessment(s) of students as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessment.

“Individual professional development plan” is as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3222/page 3 of 14

Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding
Teachers and Administrators

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

“Observation” means a method of collecting data on the performance of a teaching staff member's assigned duties and responsibilities. An observation for the purpose of evaluation will be included in the determination of the annual summative evaluation rating and shall be conducted by an individual employed in the school district in a supervisory role and capacity and possessing a school administrator, Principal, or supervisor endorsement as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-2.1.

“Post-observation conference” means a meeting, either in-person or remotely, between the supervisor who conducted the observation and the teaching staff member for the purpose of evaluation to discuss the data collected in the observation.

“Scoring guide” means a set of rules or criteria used to evaluate a performance, product, or project. The purpose of a scoring guide is to provide a transparent and reliable evaluation process. Educator practice instruments include a scoring guide that an evaluator uses to structure his or her assessments and ratings of professional practice.

“Semester” means half of the school year.

“Signed” means the name of one physically written by oneself or an electronic code, sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

“Student growth objective” means an academic goal that teaching staff members and designated supervisors set for groups of students.

“Superintendent” means Superintendent of Schools or Chief School Administrator.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3222/page 4 of 14

Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding
Teachers and Administrators

“Supervisor” means an appropriately certified teaching staff member, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, or Superintendent employed in the school district in a supervisory role and capacity, and possessing a school administrator, Principal, or supervisor endorsement as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.

“Teaching staff member” for the purposes of Policy 3222 and this Regulation, includes, but is not limited to, educational services staff members, guidance counselors, school nurses, library/media specialists, occupational therapists, and other teaching staff members working under an educational services certificate and does not include teachers, Principals, Vice Principals, Assistant Principals, and administrators, including, but not limited to, Directors and/or Supervisors.

B. Applicability of Rules on Collective Bargaining Agreements – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.3

~~The rules in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall not override any conflicting provision(s) of collective bargaining agreements or other employment contracts entered into by a school district in effect on July 1, 2013.~~ No collective bargaining agreement entered into after July 1, 2013, shall conflict with the educator evaluation system established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. or any other specific statute or regulation, nor shall topics subject to bargaining involve matters of educational policy or managerial prerogatives.

C. Educator Evaluation Data, Information, and Annual Performance Reports – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.4

All information contained in annual performance reports and all information collected, compiled, and/or maintained by employees of the Board of Education for the purposes of conducting the educator evaluation process pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq., including, but not limited to, digital records, shall be confidential. Such information shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. Nothing contained in N.J.A.C.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3222/page 5 of 14

Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators

6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall be construed to prohibit the Department or a school district from, at its discretion, collecting evaluation data pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123.e. or distributing aggregate statistics regarding evaluation data.

D. Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1

1. The Board of Education **shall** annually ~~shall~~ adopt evaluation rubrics for all teaching staff members. The evaluation rubrics shall have four defined annual ratings: ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective.
2. Evaluation rubrics shall be submitted to the Commissioner by **August 15** ~~June 1~~ for approval by August **15** ~~1~~ of each year.

E. Duties of the Board of Education – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2

1. The Board of Education shall meet the following requirements for the annual evaluation of teaching staff members, unless otherwise specified:
 - a. Establish a District Evaluation Advisory Committee to oversee and guide the planning and implementation of the Board of Education's evaluation policies and procedures as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2 et seq.;
 - b. Annually adopt policies and procedures developed by the Superintendent pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4, including the evaluation rubrics approved by the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(c):
 - (1) The Superintendent shall develop policies and procedures that, at a minimum, ensure student performance data on the Statewide assessment is, upon receipt, promptly distributed or otherwise made available to staff members who were primarily responsible for instructing the applicable

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3222/page 6 of 14

Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators

students in the school year in which the assessment was taken, as well as to staff members who are or will be primarily responsible for instructing the applicable students in the subsequent school year.

- c. Ensure the Superintendent annually notifies all teaching staff members of the adopted evaluation policies and procedures no later than October 1. If a teaching staff member is hired after October 1, the Board/Superintendent shall notify the teaching staff member of the policies and procedures at the beginning of his or her employment. All teaching staff members shall be notified of amendments to the policy and procedures within ten **teaching staff member** working days of adoption;
 - d. Annually adopt by June 1, any Commissioner-approved educator practice instruments and, as part of the process described at N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(c), notify the Department which instruments will be used as part of the school district's evaluation rubrics;
 - e. Ensure the Principal of each school within the school district has established a School Improvement Panel pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.1. The panel shall be established annually by August 31 and shall carry out the duties and functions described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2;
 - f. Ensure data elements are collected and stored in an accessible and usable format. Data elements shall include, but not be limited to, scores or evidence from observations for the purpose of evaluation and student growth objective data; and
 - g. Ensure the Superintendent or designee certifies to the Department that any observer who conducts an observation of a teaching staff member for the purpose of evaluation as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4; N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.4, and
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3222/page 7 of 14

Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators

N.J.A.C. 6A:10-6.2, shall meet the statutory observation requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119; 18A:6-123.b.(8); and N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1 and the teacher member of the School Improvement Panel requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2.

2. The Board of Education shall ensure the following training procedures are followed when implementing the evaluation rubric for all teaching staff members and, when applicable, applying the Commissioner-approved educator practice instruments:
 - a. Annually provide training on and descriptions of each component of the evaluation rubric for all teaching staff members who are being evaluated in the school district and provide more thorough training for any teaching staff member who is being evaluated for the first time. Training shall include detailed descriptions of all evaluation rubric components including, when applicable, detailed descriptions of student achievement measures and all aspects of the educator practice instruments;
 - b. Annually provide updates and refresher training for supervisors who are conducting evaluations in the school district and more thorough training for any supervisor who will evaluate teaching staff members for the first time. Training shall be provided on each component of the evaluated teaching staff member's evaluation rubric before the evaluation of a teaching staff member; and
 - c. The Superintendent shall annually certify to the Department that all supervisors of teaching staff members in the school district who are utilizing evaluation rubrics have completed training on and demonstrated competency in applying the evaluation rubrics.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3222/page 8 of 14

Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators

- F. District Evaluation Advisory Committee – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3
1. Members of the District Evaluation Advisory Committee shall include representation from the following groups: teachers from each school level represented in the school district; central office administrators overseeing the teacher evaluation process; supervisors involved in teacher evaluation, when available or appropriate; and administrators conducting evaluations, including a minimum of one administrator conducting evaluations who participates on a School Improvement Panel. Members also shall include the Superintendent, a special education administrator, a parent, and a member of the Board of Education.
 2. The Superintendent may extend membership on the District Evaluation Advisory Committee to representatives of other groups and to individuals.
 3. ~~A Beginning in 2018-2019, the District Evaluation Advisory Committees~~ **is not shall no longer be** required and the Board of Education shall have the discretion to **establish a** ~~continue the~~ District Evaluation Advisory Committee.
- G. Evaluation Procedures for Teaching Staff Members – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4
1. The provisions outlined in Policy and Regulation 3222 and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 shall be the minimum requirements for the evaluation of teaching staff members.
 2. Evaluation policies and procedures requiring the annual evaluation of all teaching staff members shall be developed under the direction of the Superintendent, who may consult with the District Evaluation Advisory Committee or representatives from School Improvement Panels, and shall include, but not be limited to, a description of:
 - a. Roles and responsibilities for implementation of evaluation policies and procedures;

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3222/page 9 of 14

Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators

- b. Job descriptions, evaluation rubrics for all teaching staff members, the process for calculating the summative ratings and each component, and the evaluation regulations set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10 et seq.;
 - c. Methods of data collection and reporting appropriate to each job description, including, but not limited to, the process for student attribution to teachers, Principals, Assistant Principals, and Vice Principals for calculating the median and school-wide student growth percentile;
 - d. Processes for observations for the purpose of evaluation and post-observation conference(s) by a supervisor;
 - e. Process for developing and scoring student growth objectives;
 - f. The process for preparation of individual professional development plans; and
 - g. The process for preparation of an annual performance report by the teaching staff member's designated supervisor, and an annual summary conference between the teaching staff member and his or her designated supervisor.
3. The annual summary conference between the designated supervisor and the teaching staff member shall be held before the annual performance report is filed. The conference shall occur on or before June 30 of each school year and shall include, but not be limited to, a review of the following:
 - a. The performance of the teaching staff member based upon the job description and the scores or evidence compiled using the teaching staff member's evaluation rubric, including, when applicable:
 - (1) The **educator's** ~~teaching staff member's~~ practice instrument; and

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3222/page 10 of 14

Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators

- (2) Available indicators or student achievement measures such as student growth objective scores and student growth percentile scores.
 - b. The progress of the teaching staff member toward meeting the goals of the individual professional development plan or, when applicable, the corrective action plan; and
 - c. The preliminary annual performance report.
4. If any scores for the teaching staff member's evaluation rubric are not available at the time of the annual summary conference due to pending assessment results, the annual summative evaluation rating shall be calculated once all component ratings are available.
 5. The annual performance report shall be prepared by the teaching staff member's designated supervisor and shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. A summative rating based on the evaluation rubric;
 - b. Performance area(s) of strength and area(s) needing improvement based upon the job description and components of the teaching staff member's evaluation rubric; and
 - c. The teaching staff member's individual professional development plan or corrective action plan from the evaluation year being reviewed in the report.
 6. The teaching staff member and the designated supervisor shall sign the report within five **teaching staff member** working days of the review.
 7. The Board of Education shall include all performance reports and supporting data, including, but not limited to, written observation reports and additional components of the summative evaluation rating as part of the teaching staff member's personnel file or in an

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3222/page 11 of 14
Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding
Teachers and Administrators

alternative, confidential location. If reports and data are stored in an alternative location, the personnel file shall clearly indicate the report's location and how it can be easily accessed. The records shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

- H. Corrective Action Plans for Teaching Staff Members – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5
1. For each teaching staff member rated ineffective or partially effective on the annual summative evaluation, as measured by the evaluation rubrics, a corrective action plan shall be developed by the teaching staff member and the teaching staff member's designated supervisor. If the teaching staff member does not agree with the corrective action plan's content, the designated supervisor shall make a final determination.
 2. The corrective action plan shall be developed and the teaching staff member and his or her designated supervisor shall meet to discuss the corrective action plan by October 31 of the school year following the year of evaluation, except:
 - a. If the ineffective or partially effective summative evaluation rating is received after October 1 of the school year following the year of evaluation, a corrective action plan shall be developed, and the teaching staff member and his or her designated supervisor shall meet to discuss the corrective action plan within twenty-five teaching staff member working days following the school district's receipt of the teaching staff member's summative rating.
 3. The content of the corrective action plan shall replace the content of the individual professional development plan required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.3(a) and 4.4(a) and shall:
 - a. Address areas in need of improvement identified in the teaching staff member evaluation rubric;
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3222/page 12 of 14

Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators

- b. Include specific, demonstrable goals for improvement;
 - c. Include responsibilities of the evaluated employee and the school district for the plan's implementation; and
 - d. Include timelines for meeting the goal(s).
 4. The teaching staff member's designated supervisor and the teaching staff member on a corrective action plan shall discuss the teaching staff member's progress toward the goals outlined in the corrective action plan during each required post-observation conference. The teaching staff member and his or her designated supervisor may update the goals outlined in the corrective action plan to reflect any change(s) in the teaching staff member's progress, position, or role.
 5. Progress toward the teaching staff member's goals outlined in the corrective action plan:
 - a. Shall be documented in the teaching staff member's personnel file and reviewed at the annual summary conference and the mid-year evaluation. Both the teaching staff member on a corrective action plan and his or her designated supervisor may collect data and evidence to demonstrate the teaching staff member's progress toward his or her corrective action plan goals; and
 - b. May be used as evidence in the teaching staff member's next annual summative evaluation; however, such progress shall not guarantee an effective rating on the next summative evaluation.
 6. Responsibilities of the evaluated teaching staff member on a corrective action plan shall not be exclusionary of other plans for improvement determined to be necessary by the teaching staff member's designated supervisor.
 7. The corrective action plan shall remain in effect until the teaching staff member receives his or her next summative evaluation rating.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3222/page 13 of 14

Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators

8. There shall be no minimum number of teaching staff member working days a teacher's corrective action plan can be in place.
- I. **Required Observations for Teaching Staff Members** ~~Observations and Evaluations~~ – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-6.2
1. The Superintendent shall determine the duration of observations required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1 for nontenured teaching staff members, except teachers, Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals. Observations include, but are not limited to, observations of meetings, student instruction, parent conferences, and case-study analysis of a significant student issue. The observation shall:
 - a. Be at least twenty minutes in length;
 - b. Be followed within fifteen teaching staff member working days by a conference between the supervisor who made the observation and the nontenured teaching staff member;
 - c. Be followed by both parties to such a conference signing the written or electronic observation report and each retaining a copy of his or her records; and
 - d. Allow the nontenured teaching staff member to submit his or her written objection(s) of the evaluation within ten teaching staff member working days following the conference. The objection(s) shall be attached to each party's copy of the annual performance report.
 2. All tenured teaching staff members shall receive at least one observation per school year.
 3. All nontenured teaching staff members shall receive at least three observations, as required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3222/page 14 of 14

Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members, Excluding Teachers and Administrators

- a. The required observations and evaluations for nontenured teaching staff members shall take place before April 30 each year. These observations and evaluations may cover that period between April 30 of one year and April 30 of the succeeding year except in the case of the first year of employment where the three observations and evaluations must have been completed prior to April 30.
 - b. The number of required observations and evaluations for nontenured teaching staff members may be reduced proportionately when an individual teaching staff member's term of service is less than one academic year.
4. Evaluations for tenured teaching staff shall be completed prior to June 30.

Adopted:

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3223/page 1 of 14
Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding
Principals, Vice Principals, and
Assistant Principals
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R 3223 EVALUATION OF ADMINISTRATORS, EXCLUDING PRINCIPALS, VICE PRINCIPALS, AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

A. Definitions – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.2

The following words and terms shall have the following meanings when used in Policy and Regulation 3223 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Administrator” means an appropriately certified staff member, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A-1.1, employed in the school district in an administrative and/or supervisory role and capacity, and holding a valid and effective standard, provisional, or emergency administrative certificate. An “administrator” may be a director, supervisor or any other administrative or supervisory position in the district. For the purposes of Policy and Regulation 3223 and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq., “administrator” is not a Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal.

“Annual performance report” means a written appraisal of the administrator’s performance prepared by the administrator’s designated supervisor based on the evaluation rubric for his or her position.

“Annual summative evaluation rating” means an annual evaluation rating that is based on appraisals of educator practice and student performance, and includes all measures captured in an administrator’s evaluation rubric. The four summative performance categories are ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective.

“Chief School Administrator” means the Superintendent of Schools or the Administrative Principal if there is no Superintendent.

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

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3223/page 2 of 14

Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

“Corrective Action Plan” means a written plan developed by the administrator’s designated supervisor in collaboration with the administrator to address deficiencies as outlined in an evaluation. The corrective action plan shall include timelines for corrective action, responsibilities of the individual administrator and the school district for implementing the plan, and specific support that the district shall provide as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119.

“Department” means the New Jersey Department of Education.

“Designated supervisor” means the supervisor designated by the Superintendent of Schools or designee as the administrator’s supervisor.

“District Evaluation Advisory Committee” means a group created to oversee and guide the planning and implementation of the Board of Education's evaluation policies and procedures as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3.

“Educator practice instrument” means an assessment tool that provides: scales or dimensions that capture competencies of professional performance; and differentiation of a range of professional performance as described by the scales, which must be shown in practice and/or research studies. The scores from educator practice instruments for **administrators** ~~teaching staff members~~ other than ~~teachers~~, Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals may be applied to the administrator’s summative evaluation rating in a manner determined by the school district.

“Evaluation” means an appraisal of an individual’s professional performance in relation to his or her job description and professional standards and based on, when applicable, the individual’s evaluation rubric.

“Evaluation rubric” means a set of criteria, measures, and processes used to evaluate all administrators in a specific school district or local education agency. Evaluation rubrics consist of measures of professional practice, based on educator practice instruments and student outcomes. Each Board

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3223/page 3 of 14
Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding
Principals, Vice Principals, and
Assistant Principals

of Education will have an evaluation rubric specifically for teachers, another specifically for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals, and evaluation rubrics for other categories of staff members.

“Indicators of student progress and growth” means the results of assessment(s) of students as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessment.

“Individual professional development plan” is as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119.

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

“Observation” means a method of collecting data on the performance of an administrator's assigned duties and responsibilities. An observation for the purpose of evaluation will be included in the determination of the annual summative evaluation rating and shall be conducted by an individual employed in the school district in a supervisory role and capacity and possessing a school administrator, principal, or supervisor endorsement as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-2.1 and as designated by the Superintendent.

“Post-observation conference” means a meeting, either in-person or remotely, between the supervisor who conducted the observation and the administrator for the purpose of evaluation to discuss the data collected in the observation.

“Scoring guide” means a set of rules or criteria used to evaluate a performance, product, or project. The purpose of a scoring guide is to provide a transparent and reliable evaluation process. Educator practice instruments include a scoring guide that an evaluator uses to structure his or her assessments and ratings of professional practice.

“Semester” means half of the school year.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3223/page 4 of 14
Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding
Principals, Vice Principals, and
Assistant Principals

“Signed” means the name of one physically written by oneself or an electronic code, sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

“Student growth objective” means an academic goal that teachers and designated supervisors set for groups of students.

“Superintendent” means Superintendent of Schools or Chief School Administrator.

“Supervisor” means an appropriately certified staff member, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, or Superintendent employed in the school district in a supervisory role and capacity, and possessing a school administrator, Principal, or supervisor endorsement, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.

B. Applicability of Rules on Collective Bargaining Agreements – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.3

~~The rules in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall not override any conflicting provision(s) of collective bargaining agreements or other employment contracts entered into by a school district in effect on July 1, 2013.~~ No collective bargaining agreement entered into after July 1, 2013, shall conflict with the educator evaluation system established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. or any other specific statute or regulation, nor shall topics subject to bargaining involve matters of educational policy or managerial prerogatives.

C. Educator Evaluation Data, Information, and Annual Performance Reports – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.4

All information contained in annual performance reports and all information collected, compiled, and/or maintained by employees of the Board of Education for the purposes of conducting the educator evaluation process pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq., including, but not limited to, digital records, shall be confidential. Such information shall not be

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3223/page 5 of 14
Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding
Principals, Vice Principals, and
Assistant Principals

subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. Nothing contained in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall be construed to prohibit the Department or a school district from, at its discretion, collecting evaluation data pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123.e. or distributing aggregate statistics regarding evaluation data.

D. Evaluation of Administrators – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1

1. The Board of Education shall annually adopt evaluation rubrics for all administrators. The evaluation rubrics shall have four defined annual ratings: ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective.
2. Evaluation rubrics shall be submitted to the Commissioner by ~~August June~~ 1 for approval by August 15⁺ of each year.

E. Duties of the Board of Education – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2

1. The Board of Education shall meet the following requirements for the annual evaluation of administrators, unless otherwise specified:
 - a. Establish a District Evaluation Advisory Committee to oversee and guide the planning and implementation of the Board of Education's evaluation policies and procedures as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2 et seq.;
 - b. Annually adopt policies and procedures developed by the Superintendent pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4, including the evaluation rubrics approved by the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(c):
 - (1) The Superintendent shall develop policies and procedures that, at a minimum, ensure student performance data on the Statewide assessment is, upon receipt, promptly distributed or otherwise

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3223/page 6 of 14
Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding
Principals, Vice Principals, and
Assistant Principals

made available to staff members who were primarily responsible for instructing the applicable students in the school year in which the assessment was taken, as well as to staff members who are or will be primarily responsible for instructing the applicable students in the subsequent school year.

- c. Ensure the Superintendent annually notifies all administrators of the adopted evaluation policies and procedures no later than October 1. If an administrator is hired after October 1, the Board/Superintendent shall notify the administrator of the policies and procedures at the beginning of his or her employment. All administrators shall be notified of amendments to the policy and procedures within ten **administrator** working days of adoption;
 - d. Annually adopt by June 1, any Commissioner-approved educator practice instruments and, as part of the process described at N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(c), notify the Department which instruments will be used as part of the school district's evaluation rubrics;
 - e. Ensure the Principal of each school within the school district has established a School Improvement Panel pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.1. The panel shall be established annually by August 31 and shall carry out the duties and functions described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2;
 - f. Ensure data elements are collected and stored in an accessible and usable format. Data elements shall include, but not be limited to, scores or evidence from observations for the purpose of evaluation and student growth objective data; and
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3223/page 8 of 14
Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding
Principals, Vice Principals, and
Assistant Principals

- F. District Evaluation Advisory Committee – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3
1. Members of the District Evaluation Advisory Committee shall include representation from the following groups: teachers from each school level represented in the school district; central office administrators overseeing the teacher evaluation process; supervisors involved in teacher evaluation, when available or appropriate; and administrators conducting evaluations, including a minimum of one administrator conducting evaluations who participates on a School Improvement Panel. Members also shall include the Superintendent, a special education administrator, a parent, and a member of the Board of Education.
 2. The Superintendent may extend membership on the District Evaluation Advisory Committee to representatives of other groups and to individuals.
 3. ~~A Beginning in 2018-2019, the District Evaluation Advisory Committees is not shall no longer be required and the Board of Education shall have the discretion to~~ **establish a** ~~continue the~~ District Evaluation Advisory Committee.
- G. Evaluation Procedures for Administrators – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4
1. The provisions outlined in Policy and Regulation 3223 and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 shall be the minimum requirements for the evaluation of administrators.
 2. Evaluation policies and procedures requiring the annual evaluation of all administrators shall be developed under the direction of the Superintendent, who may consult with the District Evaluation Advisory Committee or representatives from School Improvement Panels, and shall include, but not be limited to, a description of:
 - a. Roles and responsibilities for implementation of evaluation policies and procedures;
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3223/page 9 of 14

Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

- b. Job descriptions, evaluation rubrics for administrators, the process for calculating the summative ratings and each component, and the evaluation regulations set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10 et seq.;
 - c. Methods of data collection and reporting appropriate to each job description, including, but not limited to, the process for student attribution to teachers, Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals for calculating the median and school-wide student growth percentile;
 - d. Processes for observations for the purpose of evaluation and post-observation conference(s) by a supervisor;
 - e. Process for developing and scoring student growth objectives;
 - f. The process for preparation of individual professional development plans; and
 - g. The process for preparation of an annual performance report by the Superintendent or designated supervisor and an annual summary conference between the administrator and his or her designated supervisor.
3. The annual summary conference between designated supervisors and the administrator shall be held before the annual performance report is filed. The conference shall occur on or before June 30 of each school year and shall include, but not be limited to, a review of the following:
- a. The performance of the administrator based upon the job description and the scores or evidence compiled using the administrator's evaluation rubric, including, when applicable:
 - (1) The ~~educator's~~ administrator's practice instrument; and

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3223/page 10 of 14

Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

- (2) Available indicators or student achievement measures such as student growth objective scores and student growth percentile scores.
 - b. The progress of the administrator toward meeting the goals of the individual professional development plan or, when applicable, the corrective action plan; and
 - c. The preliminary annual performance report.
 4. If any scores for the administrator's evaluation rubric are not available at the time of the annual summary conference due to pending assessment results, the annual summative evaluation rating shall be calculated once all component ratings are available.
 5. The annual performance report for the administrator shall be prepared by the designated supervisor and shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. A summative rating based on the evaluation rubric;
 - b. Performance area(s) of strength and area(s) needing improvement based upon the job description and components of the administrator's evaluation rubric; and
 - c. The administrator's individual professional development plan or corrective action plan from the evaluation year being reviewed in the report.
 6. The administrator and the designated supervisor shall sign the report within five **administrator** working days of the review.
 7. The Board of Education shall include all performance reports and supporting data, including, but not limited to, written observation reports and additional components of the summative evaluation rating as part of his or her personnel file, or in an alternative,
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3223/page 11 of 14
Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding
Principals, Vice Principals, and
Assistant Principals

confidential location. If reports and data are stored in an alternative, confidential location, the personnel file shall clearly indicate the report's location and how it can easily be accessed. The records shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

H. Corrective Action Plans for Administrators – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5

1. For each administrator rated ineffective or partially effective on the annual summative evaluation, as measured by the evaluation rubrics, a corrective action plan shall be developed by administrator and the Superintendent or the designated supervisor. If the administrator does not agree with the corrective action plan's content, the designated supervisor shall make a final determination.
2. The corrective action plan shall be developed and the administrator and his or her designated supervisor shall meet to discuss the corrective action plan by October 31 of the school year following the year of evaluation except:
 - a. If the ineffective or partially effective summative evaluation rating is received after October 1 of the school year following the year of evaluation, a corrective action plan shall be developed, and the administrator and his or her designated supervisor shall meet to discuss the corrective action plan within twenty-five administrator working days following the school district's receipt of the administrator's summative rating.
3. The content of the corrective action plan shall replace the content of the individual professional development plan required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.3(a) and 4.4(a) and shall:
 - a. Address areas in need of improvement identified in the administrator evaluation rubric;
 - b. Include specific, demonstrable goals for improvement;

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3223/page 12 of 14

Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

- c. Include responsibilities of the evaluated employee and the school district for the plan's implementation; and
 - d. Include timelines for meeting the goal(s).
 4. The administrator's designated supervisor and the administrator on a corrective action plan shall discuss the administrator's progress toward the goals outlined in the corrective action plan during each required post-observation conference. The administrator and his or her designated supervisor may update the goals outlined in the corrective action plan to reflect any change(s) in the administrator's progress, position, or role.
 5. Progress toward the administrator's goals outlined in the corrective action plan:
 - a. Shall be documented in the administrator's personnel file and reviewed at the annual summary conference and the mid-year evaluation. Both the administrator on a corrective action plan and his or her designated supervisor may collect data and evidence to demonstrate the administrator's progress toward his or her corrective action plan goals; and
 - b. May be used as evidence in the administrator's next annual summative evaluation; however, such progress shall not guarantee an effective rating on the next summative evaluation.
 6. Responsibilities of the evaluated administrator on a corrective action plan shall not be exclusionary of other plans for improvement determined to be necessary by the administrator's designated supervisor.
 7. The corrective action plan shall remain in effect until the administrator receives his or her next summative evaluation rating.
 8. There shall be no minimum number of administrator working days an administrator's corrective action plan can be in place.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3223/page 13 of 14
Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding
Principals, Vice Principals, and
Assistant Principals

- I. Administrator Observations and Evaluations – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-6.2
 1. The Superintendent shall determine the duration of observations required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1 for nontenured administrators. Observations include, but are not limited to, observations of meetings, student instruction, parent conferences, and case-study analysis of a significant student issue. The observation shall:
 - a. Be at least twenty minutes in length;
 - b. Be followed within fifteen administrator working days by a conference between the supervisor who made the observation and the nontenured administrator;
 - c. Be followed by both parties to such a conference signing the written or electronic observation report and each retaining a copy of his or her records; and
 - d. Allow the nontenured administrator to submit his or her written objection(s) of the evaluation within ten administrator working days following the conference. The objection(s) shall be attached to each party's copy of the annual performance report.
 2. All tenured administrators shall receive at least one observation per school year.
 3. All nontenured administrators shall receive at least three observations, as required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1.
 - a. The required observations and evaluations for nontenured administrators shall take place before April 30 each year. These observations and evaluations may cover that period between April 30 of one year and April 30 of the succeeding year except in the case of the first year of employment where the three evaluations and observations must have been completed prior to April 30.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3223/page 14 of 14
Evaluation of Administrators, Excluding
Principals, Vice Principals, and
Assistant Principals

- b. The number of required observations and evaluations for nontenured administrators may be reduced proportionately when an individual administrator's term of service is less than one academic year.
4. Evaluations for tenured administrators shall be completed prior to June 30.

Adopted:

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3224/page 1 of 22
Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals,
and Assistant Principals
M

R 3224 EVALUATION OF PRINCIPALS, VICE PRINCIPALS, AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

A. Definitions – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.2

The following words and terms shall have the following meanings when used in Policy and Regulation 3224 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Annual performance report” means a written appraisal of the Principal’s, Vice Principal’s, or Assistant Principal’s performance prepared by the designated supervisor based on the evaluation rubric for his or her position.

“Annual summative evaluation rating” means an annual evaluation rating that is based on appraisals of educator practice and student performance, and includes all measures captured in a Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal evaluation rubric. The four summative performance categories are ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective.

“Calibration” in the context of educator evaluation means a process to monitor the competency of a trained evaluator to ensure the evaluator continues to apply an educator practice instrument accurately and consistently according to the standards and definitions of the specific instrument.

“Chief School Administrator” means the Superintendent of Schools or the Administrative Principal if there is no Superintendent.

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

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 2 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

“Corrective Action Plan” means a written plan developed by the Superintendent or a designated supervisor in collaboration with the Principal, Vice Principal, and Assistant Principal to address deficiencies as outlined in an evaluation. The corrective action plan shall include timelines for corrective action, responsibilities of the individual Principal, Vice Principal, and Assistant Principal and the school district for implementing the plan, and specific support that the district shall provide as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119.

“Department” means the New Jersey Department of Education.

“Designated supervisor” means the supervisor designated by the Superintendent of Schools or designee as the administrator’s supervisor.

“District Evaluation Advisory Committee” means a group created to oversee and guide the planning and implementation of the Board of Education's evaluation policies and procedures as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3.

“Educator practice instrument” means an assessment tool that provides: scales or dimensions that capture competencies of professional performance; and differentiation of a range of professional performance as described by the scales, which must be shown in practice and/or research studies.

“Evaluation” means an appraisal of an individual’s professional performance in relation to his or her job description and professional standards and based on, when applicable, the individual’s evaluation rubric.

“Evaluation rubric” means a set of criteria, measures, and processes used to evaluate all Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals in a specific school district or local education agency. Evaluation rubrics consist of measures of professional practice, based on educator practice instruments and student outcomes. Each Board of Education will have an evaluation rubric specifically for teachers, another specifically for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals, and evaluation rubrics for other categories of teaching staff members.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3224/page 3 of 22
Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals,
and Assistant Principals

“Indicators of student progress and growth” means the results of assessment(s) of students as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessment.

“Individual professional development plan” is as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119.

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

“Observation” means a method of collecting data on the performance of a Principal’s, Vice Principal’s, and Assistant Principal’s assigned duties and responsibilities. An observation for the purpose of evaluation will be included in the determination of the annual summative evaluation rating and shall be conducted by the Superintendent or designee.

“Post-observation conference” means a meeting, either in-person or remotely, between the supervisor who conducted the observation and the Principal, Vice Principal, and Assistant Principal for the purpose of evaluation to discuss the data collected in the observation.

“Principal practice instrument” means an assessment tool that provides scales or dimensions that capture competencies of professional performance; and differentiation of a range of professional performance as described by the scales, which must be shown in practice and/or research studies. The scores from the principal practice instrument are components of the evaluation rubrics and the scores are included in the summative evaluation rating for the individual.

“Scoring guide” means a set of rules or criteria used to evaluate a performance, product, or project. The purpose of a scoring guide is to provide a transparent and reliable evaluation process. Educator practice instruments include a scoring guide that an evaluator uses to structure his or her assessments and ratings of professional practice.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3224/page 4 of 22
Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals,
and Assistant Principals

“Semester” means half of the school year.

“Signed” means the name of one physically written by oneself or an electronic code, sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

“Student growth objective” means an academic goal that teachers and designated supervisors set for groups of students.

“Student growth percentile” means a specific metric for measuring individual student progress on Statewide assessments by tracking how much a student’s test scores have changed relative to other students Statewide with similar scores in previous years.

“Superintendent” means Superintendent of Schools or Chief School Administrator.

“Supervisor” means an appropriately certified teaching staff member as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, or Superintendent employed in the district in a supervisory role and capacity, and possessing a school administrator, Principal, or supervisor endorsement as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12 and certified to evaluate a Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal.

B. Applicability of Rules on Collective Bargaining Agreements – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.3

~~The rules in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall not override any conflicting provision(s) of collective bargaining agreements or other employment contracts entered into by a school district in effect on July 1, 2013.~~ No collective bargaining agreement entered into after July 1, 2013, shall conflict with the educator evaluation system established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. or any other specific statute or regulation, nor shall topics subject to bargaining involve matters of educational policy or managerial prerogatives.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3224/page 5 of 22
Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals,
and Assistant Principals

C. Educator Evaluation Data, Information, and Annual Performance Reports
– N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.4

All information contained in annual performance reports and all information collected, compiled, and/or maintained by employees of the Board of Education for the purposes of conducting the educator evaluation process pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq., including, but not limited to, digital records, shall be confidential. Such information shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. Nothing contained in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall be construed to prohibit the Department or a school district from, at its discretion, collecting evaluation data pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123.e. or distributing aggregate statistics regarding evaluation data.

D. Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals –
N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1

1. The Board of Education shall annually adopt evaluation rubrics for all Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals. The evaluation rubrics shall have four defined annual ratings: ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective.
2. The evaluation rubrics for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals shall include all other relevant minimum standards set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123 (P.L. 2012, c. 26, § 17c).
3. Evaluation rubrics shall be submitted to the Commissioner by **August 1** for approval by August **15** of each year.

E. Duties of the Board of Education – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2

1. The Board of Education shall meet the following requirements for the annual evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals, unless otherwise specified:

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 6 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

- a. Establish a District Evaluation Advisory Committee to oversee and guide the planning and implementation of the Board of Education's evaluation policies and procedures as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2 et seq.;
 - b. Annually adopt policies and procedures developed by the Superintendent pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4, including the evaluation rubrics approved by the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(c):
 - (1) The Superintendent shall develop policies and procedures that, at a minimum, ensure student performance data on the Statewide assessment is, upon receipt, promptly distributed or otherwise made available to staff members who were primarily responsible for instructing the applicable students in the school year in which the assessment was taken, as well as to staff members who are or will be primarily responsible for instructing the applicable students in the subsequent school year.
 - c. Ensure the Superintendent annually notifies all Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals of the adopted evaluation policies and procedures no later than October 1. If a Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal is hired after October 1, the Board/Superintendent shall notify all Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals of the policies and procedures at the beginning of his or her employment. All Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals shall be notified of amendments to the policy and procedures within ten **Principal, Vice Principal, and Assistant Principal** working days of adoption;
 - d. Annually adopt by June 1, any Commissioner-approved educator practice instruments and, as part of the process described at N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(c), notify the Department which instruments will be used as part of the school district's evaluation rubrics;
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 7 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

- e. Ensure the Principal of each school within the school district has established a School Improvement Panel pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.1. The panel shall be established annually by August 31 and shall carry out the duties and functions described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2;
 - f. Ensure data elements are collected and stored in an accessible and usable format. Data elements shall include, but not be limited to, scores or evidence from observations for the purpose of evaluation and student growth objective data; and
 - g. Ensure the Superintendent or designee certifies to the Department that any observer who conducts an observation of a Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal for the purpose of evaluation as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4; N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.4; and 6A:10-6.2 shall meet the statutory observation requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119; 18A:6-123.b.(8); and N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1 and the teacher member of the School Improvement Panel requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2.
2. The Board of Education shall ensure the following training procedures are followed when implementing the evaluation rubric for all Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals and, when applicable, applying the Commissioner-approved principal practice instruments:
 - a. Annually provide training on and descriptions of each component of the evaluation rubric for all Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals who are being evaluated in the school district and provide more thorough training for any Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals who are being evaluated for the first time. Training shall include detailed descriptions of all evaluation rubric components including, when applicable, detailed descriptions of student achievement measures and all aspects of the principal practice instrument;
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 8 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

- b. Annually provide updates and refresher training for supervisors who are conducting evaluations in the school district and more thorough training for any supervisor who will evaluate Principals, Vice Principals, or Assistant Principals for the first time. Training shall be provided on each component of the evaluated Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's evaluation rubric before the evaluation of the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal;
- c. The Superintendent shall annually certify to the Department that all supervisors of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals in the school district who are utilizing evaluation rubrics have completed training on and demonstrated competency in applying the evaluation rubrics.

F. District Evaluation Advisory Committee – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3

- 1. Members of the District Evaluation Advisory Committee shall include representation from the following groups: teachers from each school level represented in the school district; central office administrators overseeing the teacher evaluation process; supervisors involved in teacher evaluation, when available or appropriate; and administrators conducting evaluations, including a minimum of one administrator conducting evaluations who participates on a School Improvement Panel. Members also shall include the Superintendent, a special education administrator, a parent, and a member of the Board of Education.
- 2. The Superintendent may extend membership on the District Evaluation Advisory Committee to representatives of other groups and to individuals.
- 3. ~~A Beginning in 2018-2019, the District Evaluation Advisory Committees is not shall no longer be~~ required and the Board of Education shall have the discretion to **establish a** ~~continue the~~ District Evaluation Advisory Committee.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 9 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

- G. Evaluation Procedures for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals - N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4
1. The provisions outlined in Policy and Regulation 3224 and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 shall be the minimum requirements for the evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals.
 2. Evaluation policies and procedures requiring the annual evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals shall be developed under the direction of the Superintendent, who may consult with the District Evaluation Advisory Committee or representatives from School Improvement Panels, and shall include, but not be limited to, a description of:
 - a. Roles and responsibilities for implementation of evaluation policies and procedures;
 - b. Job descriptions, evaluation rubrics for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals, the process for calculating the summative ratings and each component and the evaluation regulations set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1 et seq.;
 - c. Methods of data collection and reporting appropriate to each job description, including, but not limited to, the process for student attribution to teachers, Principals, Vice Principals, Assistant Principals for calculating the median and school-wide student growth percentile;
 - d. Processes for observations for the purpose of evaluation and post-observation conference(s) by a supervisor;
 - e. Process for developing and scoring student growth objectives;
 - f. The process for preparation of individual professional development plans; and
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 11 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

- a. A summative rating based on the evaluation rubric, including, when applicable, a total score for each component as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5;
 - b. Performance area(s) of strength and area(s) needing improvement based upon the job description and components of the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's evaluation rubric; and
 - c. The Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's individual professional development plan or a corrective action plan from the evaluation year being reviewed in the report.
6. The Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal and the designated supervisor shall sign the report within five **Principal, Vice Principal, and Assistant Principal** working days of the review.
 7. The Board of Education shall include all performance reports and supporting data, including, but not limited to, written observation reports and additional components of the summative evaluation rating as part of the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's personnel file, or in an alternative, confidential location. If reports and data are stored in an alternate location, the personnel file shall clearly indicate the report's location and how it can be easily accessed. The records shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.
- H. Corrective Action Plans for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5
1. For each Principal, Vice Principal, and Assistant Principal rated ineffective or partially effective on the annual summative evaluation, as measured by the evaluation rubrics, a corrective action plan shall be developed by the Principal, Vice Principal, or

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3224/page 12 of 22
Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals,
and Assistant Principals

Assistant Principal and the designated supervisor. If the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal does not agree with the corrective action plan's content, the designated supervisor shall make the final determination.

2. The corrective action plan shall be developed and the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal and his or her designated supervisor shall meet to discuss the corrective action plan by October 31 of the school year following the year of evaluation except:
 - a. If the ineffective or partially effective summative evaluation rating is received after October 1 of the school year following the year of evaluation, a corrective action plan shall be developed, and the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal and his or her designated supervisor shall meet to discuss the corrective action plan within twenty-five Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal working days following the school district's receipt of the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's summative rating.
3. The content of the corrective action plan shall replace the content of the individual professional development plan required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.3(a) and 4.4(a) and shall:
 - a. Address areas in need of improvement identified in the principal evaluation rubric;
 - b. Include specific, demonstrable goals for improvement;
 - c. Include responsibilities of the evaluated employee and the school district for the plan's implementation; and
 - d. Include timelines for meeting the goal(s).

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 13 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

4. The designated supervisor and the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal on a corrective action plan shall discuss the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's progress toward the goals outlined in the corrective action plan during each post-observation conference, when required by N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1 or N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.4.
 5. Progress toward the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's goals outlined in the corrective action plan:
 - a. Shall be documented in the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's personnel file and reviewed at the annual summary conference and the mid-year evaluation. Both the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal on a corrective action plan and his or her designated supervisor may collect data and evidence to demonstrate the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's progress toward his or her corrective action plan goals; and
 - b. May be used as evidence in the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's next annual summative evaluation; however, such progress shall not guarantee an effective rating on the next summative evaluation.
 6. Responsibilities of the evaluated Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal on a corrective action plan shall not be exclusionary of other plans for improvement determined to be necessary by the designated supervisor.
 7. The Superintendent or his or her designee, and the Principal, as appropriate, shall conduct a mid-year evaluation of any Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-121.c. The mid-year evaluation shall occur approximately midway between the development of the corrective action plan and the expected receipt of the next annual summative rating. The mid-year evaluation shall include, at a minimum a conference to
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3224/page 14 of 22
Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals,
and Assistant Principals

discuss progress toward the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's goals outlined in the corrective action plan. The mid-year evaluation conference may be combined with a post-observation conference.

8. The Superintendent shall ensure Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals with a corrective action plan receive one observation and a post-observation conference in addition to the observations required in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.4 for the purpose of evaluation as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.2 and 5.4.
 9. The corrective action plan shall remain in effect until the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal receives his or her next summative evaluation rating.
 10. There shall be no minimum number of Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal working days a Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's corrective action plan can be in place.
- I. Components of Principal Evaluation Rubrics – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.1
1. Unless otherwise noted, the components of the principal evaluation rubrics shall apply to teaching staff members holding the position of Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal and holding a valid and effective standard, provisional, or emergency administrative certificate.
 2. The principal evaluation rubric shall meet the standards provided in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Measures of student achievement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.2; and
 - b. Measures of principal practice pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.3 and 5.4.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 15 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

3. To earn a summative rating, the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal shall have a student achievement score, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.2 and a principal practice score pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.3 and 5.4.
 4. Each score shall be converted to a percentage weight so all measures make up 100 percent of the evaluation rubric. By August 31 prior to the school year in which the evaluation rubric applies, the Department shall provide on its website the required percentage weight of each component and the required summative rating scale. All components shall be worth the following percentage weights or fall within the following ranges:
 - a. If, according to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.2(b), the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal receives a school-wide student growth percentile score as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.2(c), the score shall be at least ten percent and no greater than forty percent of evaluation rubric rating as determined by the Department.
 - b. Measure of average student growth objective for all teachers, as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.2(d), shall be at least ten percent and no greater than twenty percent of evaluation rubric rating as determined by the Department.
 - c. Measure of administrator goal, as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.2(e), shall be no less than ten percent and no greater than forty percent of evaluation rubric rating as determined by the Department.
 - d. Measure of principal practice, as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.3(b), shall be no less than fifty percent of evaluation rubric rating.
 5. Standardized assessments, used as a measure of student progress, shall not be the predominant factor in determining a Principal's annual summative rating.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 16 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

6. The Department shall periodically collect principal evaluation rubric data that shall include, but are not limited to, component-level scores and annual summative ratings.
- J. Student Achievement Components of Principal Evaluation Rubrics – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.2
1. Measures of student achievement shall be used to determine impact on student learning and shall include the following components:
 - a. The school-wide student growth percentile of all students assigned to the Principal;
 - b. Average student growth objective scores of every teacher, as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.2(e), assigned to the Principal; and
 - c. Administrator goals set by Principals, Vice Principals, or Assistant Principals in consultation with their supervisor pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.2(e), which shall be specific and measurable, based on student growth and/or achievement data.
 2. The school-wide student growth percentile score shall be included in the annual summative rating of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals who are assigned to a school as of October 15 and who are employed in schools where student growth percentiles are available for students in one or more grades. If the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal is employed in more than one school, the Superintendent shall assign to the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal, as appropriate, the school-wide student growth percentile from one school and shall notify the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal at the beginning of the school year of the student growth percentile assignment.
 3. The Department shall calculate the school-wide student growth percentile for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 17 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

4. The average student growth objective scores of all teachers, as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.2(e), shall be a component of the Principal's annual summative rating. The average student growth objective scores for Vice Principals or Assistant Principals shall be determined according to the following procedures:
 - a. The Principal, in consultation with the Vice Principal or Assistant Principal, shall determine prior to the start of the school year, which teachers, if not all teachers in the school, shall be linked to the Vice Principal's and Assistant Principal's average student growth objective score.
 - b. If the Vice Principal or Assistant Principal does not agree with the list of teachers linked to his or her name for the purposes of this measurement, the Principal shall make the final determination.
 5. Administrator goals for Principals, Vice Principals, or Assistant Principals shall be developed and measured according to the following procedures:
 - a. The designated supervisor shall determine for all Principals, Vice Principals, or Assistant Principals, the number of required administrator goals which shall reflect the achievement of a significant number of students within the school. By August 31 prior to the school year in which the evaluation rubric applies, the Department shall provide on the Department's website the minimum and maximum number of required goals, which will be at least one goal and no more than four goals.
 - b. Principals, Vice Principals, or Assistant Principals shall develop, in consultation with their designated supervisor, each administrator goal. Each Vice Principal and Assistant Principal shall set goals specific to his or her job description or adopt the same goals as his or her Principal. If the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal and
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 18 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

his or her designated supervisor do not agree upon the administrator goal the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's designated supervisor shall make the final determination.

- c. Administrator goals and the criteria for assessing performance based on those objectives shall be determined, recorded, and retained by the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal and his or her designated supervisor by October 31 of each school year, or within twenty-five **Principal, Vice Principal, and Assistant Principal** working days of the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's start date if he or she begins work after October 1.
- d. The administrator goal score shall be approved by the designated supervisor of the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal. The Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's administrator goal score, if available, shall be discussed at his or her annual summary conference and recorded in his or her personnel file.

K. Principal Practice Component of Evaluation Rubric – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.3

- 1. Measures of principal practice shall include a measure determined through a Commissioner-approved principal practice instrument and may include a leadership measure determined through the Department-created leadership rubric.
 - 2. Principal practice component rating shall be based on the measurement of the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's performance according to the school district's Commissioner-approved principal practice instrument. Observations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.4 shall be used as one form of evidence for this measurement.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 19 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

3. Leadership practice shall be determined by a score on a leadership rubric, which will assess the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's ability to improve student achievement and teaching staff member effectiveness through identified leader behaviors. The rubric will be posted on the Department's website and annually maintained.
- L. Principal, Vice Principal, and Assistant Principal Observations – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.4
1. The Superintendent or his or her designee, shall conduct observations for the evaluation of Principals pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-121 and he or she shall be trained pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(b).
 2. A Principal, or the Superintendent or his or her designee, shall conduct observations for the evaluation of Vice Principals and Assistant Principals pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-121.
 3. For the purpose of collecting data for the evaluation of a Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal, an observation, as described in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119 and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.2, may include, but is not limited to: building walk-through, staff meeting observation, parent conference observation, or case study analysis of a significant student issue.
 4. Post-observation conferences shall include the following procedures:
 - a. A supervisor who is present at the observation shall conduct a post-observation conference with the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal being observed. A post-observation conference shall occur no more than fifteen Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal working days following each observation.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 20 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals

- b. The post-observation conference shall be for the purpose of reviewing the data collected at the observation, connecting the data to the principal practice instrument and the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's individual professional development plan, collecting additional information needed for the evaluation, and offering areas to improve effectiveness.
 - c. With the consent of the observed Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal, post-observation conferences for individuals who are not on a corrective action plan may be conducted via written communication, including electronic communication.
 - d. One post-observation conference may be combined with the Principal's, Vice Principal's, or Assistant Principal's annual summary conference as long as it occurs within the required fifteen Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal working days following the observation.
 - e. A written or electronic observation report shall be signed by the supervisor who conducted the observation and post-observation and the Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal who was observed.
 - f. The Principal, Vice Principal, or Assistant Principal shall submit his or her written objection(s) of the evaluation within ten **Principal, Vice Principal, and Assistant Principal** working days following the conference. The objection(s) shall be attached to each party's copy of the annual performance report.
5. Each tenured Principal, Vice Principal, and Assistant Principal shall be observed as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.4, at least two times during each school year. Each nontenured Principal, Vice Principal, and Assistant Principal shall be observed as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.4 at least three times during each school year, as
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

R 3224/page 21 of 22

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals,
and Assistant Principals

required by N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1. An additional observation shall be conducted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5(h) for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals who are on a corrective action plan.

M. Principal Practice Instrument – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-7.3

1. The principal practice instrument approved by the Department shall meet the following criteria:
 - a. Incorporate domains of practice and/or performance criteria that align to the **2015 2008 ISLLC** Professional Standards for **Educational School** Leaders developed by the **National Policy Board for Educational Administration (NPBEA) Interstate School Leadership Licensure Consortium** incorporated herein by reference, ~~available at:~~

http://www.cesso.org/documents/2008/educational_leadership_policy_standards_2008.pdf;
 - b. Include scoring guides for assessing principal practice that differentiate among a minimum of four levels of performance, and the differentiation has been shown in practice and/or research studies. Each scoring guide shall clearly define the expectations for each category and provide a conversion to four rating categories;
 - c. Rely on, to the extent possible, multiple sources of evidence collected throughout the school year, including, but not limited to, evaluation of a Principal's leadership related to:
 - (1) Implementing high-quality and standards-aligned curriculum, assessments, and instruction; and
 - (2) Evaluating the effectiveness of teaching staff members and supporting their professional growth.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
R 3224/page 22 of 22
Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals,
and Assistant Principals

- d. Include descriptions of specific training and implementation details required for the instrument to be effective.

Adopted:

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

R 4146/page 1 of 6

Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member

R 4146 NONRENEWAL OF NONTENURED SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER

A. Evaluations

1. Each nontenured support staff member shall be evaluated at least one time each school year.
2. Evaluations shall set forth both the strengths and weaknesses of the nontenured support staff member in order to provide an accurate assessment of his/her performance and to encourage the improvement of that performance.
3. Supervisors shall constructively point out performance deficiencies and offer assistance to nontenured support staff members in the improvement of professional skills.

B. Nonrenewal Recommendation

1. When a nontenured support staff member's performance does not meet the standards of the **school** district, **employment will not be offered to the nontenured support staff member's immediate supervisor for the next succeeding** ~~shall recommend to the Superintendent, no later than April 1, that the support staff member should not be reemployed in the following~~ school year.
2. The nontenured support staff member shall be informed by the Superintendent of Schools, in writing, that employment for the next succeeding school year will not be offered. This written notice shall be provided to the nontenured support staff member in accordance with the **timelines and** terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, individual contract, or any other agreement between the parties.
3. A recommendation by the Superintendent **to not renew the nontenured support staff member for nonrenewal** may be based upon the nontenured support staff member's evaluations, job performance, or any factor affecting his/her employment in **the school this** district.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

R 4146/page 2 of 6

Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member

4. A nontenured support staff member contract can ~~only~~ be renewed **only** upon the Superintendent's recommendation and a majority vote of the full **membership of the** Board. The Board **shall** ~~may~~ not withhold its approval for arbitrary and capricious reasons.
- C. Nonrenewal Action
1. **Prior to notifying the nontenured support staff member of the nonrenewal, the Superintendent shall notify the Board of the recommendation not to renew the nontenured support staff member's contract and the reasons for the recommendation.** ~~The Superintendent will notify Board members of the recommendation not to renew a nontenured teaching staff member's contract before notifying the nontenured teaching staff member of the recommendation to not renew. The Superintendent may notify the Board members of the recommendation not to renew the nontenured **support teaching** staff member's contract and the reasons for the recommendation in a written notice to the Board ~~prior to May 15. In or in~~ the alternative, ~~the Superintendent may notify the Board members of the recommendation not to renew a nontenured teaching staff member in an executive session. Using this option~~ **If notification is provided to the Board in executive session**, the Superintendent and the Board will meet in executive session **in accordance with the timelines and terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, individual contract, or any other agreement between parties** ~~prior to May 15 to review the Superintendent's recommendation(s) for nonrenewal of nontenured teaching staff members.~~~~
 - a. Notice of the executive session shall be given in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 and individual notice shall be given, not less than forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting, to those nontenured support staff members whose possible nonrenewal will be discussed at the meeting. If any such **nontenured support staff member** ~~employee~~ requests the discussion take place in public, the recommendation for his/her nonrenewal will be severed from any other nonrenewal recommendation and will be scheduled for discussion at a public meeting.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

R 4146/page 3 of 6

Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member

2. **The Superintendent will ensure the timelines for nonrenewal action are in accordance with the timelines and terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, individual contract, or any other agreement between the parties.**
 32. A nontenured support staff member not recommended for renewal by the Superintendent is deemed not renewed. A Board of **Education** vote is not required on the Superintendent's recommendation(s) to not renew a nontenured support staff member's contract.
- D. Notice of Nonrenewal
- ~~1. Notice of the Superintendent's decision not to renew shall be given to each nontenured support staff member not recommended for renewal in accordance with the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, individual contract, or any other agreement between the parties. The Board may delegate the Superintendent or the Board Secretary to give the written notice of nonrenewal.~~
 12. The nonrenewal notice shall be ~~in writing and~~ provided to the nontenured support staff member not recommended for renewal **by the Superintendent** in accordance with the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, individual contract, or any other agreement between the parties. If hand delivered, a record shall be made of the date on which delivery was made. If sent by mail, the notice shall be sent registered mail, return receipt requested, to the nontenured support staff member's address of record.
- E. Request for Statement of Reasons
1. **Any nontenured support staff member receiving notice that a contract for the succeeding school year will not be offered may, within fifteen calendar days thereafter, request in writing a statement of the reasons for such nonemployment which shall be given to the nontenured support staff member in writing thirty calendar days after the receipt of such request. A nonrenewed support staff member will be given a written statement of the reasons for which he/she was not renewed**

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

R 4146/page 4 of 6

Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member

~~provided the support staff member's request for a statement of reasons has been received by the Superintendent within fifteen calendar days after the support staff member has received written notice of his/her nonrenewal.~~

2. The statement of reasons for a nonrenewal will set forth, with as much particularity as possible, the precise reasons for the nonrenewal. Where the nonrenewal is based on performance deficiencies recorded in the **nontenured support staff member's** ~~employee's~~ evaluations and the **nontenured support staff member** ~~employee~~ has been given a copy of those evaluations, the statement of reasons may incorporate the evaluations by reference.
 3. The statement of reasons may be prepared by the Superintendent or the Board Secretary and shall be delivered to the **nontenured support staff member** ~~employee~~ who requested **the statement of reasons** ~~it~~ within thirty calendar days after the receipt of the **nontenured support staff member's** ~~employee's~~ request **for the statement of reasons**.
- F. Nonrenewal Appearance

1. **Whenever the nontenured support staff member has requested in writing and received a written statement of reasons for non-reemployment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.2, the nontenured support staff member may request in writing an informal appearance before the Board. The written request shall be submitted to the Board within ten calendar days of the nontenured support staff member's receipt of the Board's statement of reasons** ~~A support staff member who has requested a statement of reasons for his/her nonrenewal will be granted an informal appearance before the Board to discuss those reasons, provided that he/she had submitted to the Superintendent a written request for such an appearance no later than ten calendar days after the support staff member's receipt of the written statement of reasons.~~
2. ~~A date for the~~ **The** informal appearance shall be scheduled within thirty calendar days from the **nontenured** support staff member's receipt of the Board's statement of reasons. ~~The appearance shall be conducted at an executive session for which notice has been given in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-13.~~

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

R 4146/page 5 of 6

Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member

3. The Board will **exercise discretion in determining** ~~determine~~ a reasonable length of time **for the proceeding to be devoted to the appearance**; depending upon each instance's specific circumstances.
4. The proceeding of an informal appearance before the Board may be conducted **in executive session** pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:4-12(b)(8). **If conducted in executive session notice must be given in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-13.**
53. **The Board shall provide the nontenured support staff member adequate written notice regarding the date and time of the informal appearance.** ~~The support staff member requesting the appearance shall be given written notice, no later than forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting at which it is scheduled, of the date, time, place, and duration of the appearance.~~
64. **The nontenured support staff member's appearance before the Board shall not be an adversary proceeding. The purpose of the appearance shall be to provide the nontenured support staff member the opportunity to convince Board of Education members to offer reemployment.** ~~The purpose of the appearance shall be to permit the nonrenewed support staff member to convince the members of the Board to offer reemployment. To those ends, the appearance shall be informally conducted. This appearance provides a mechanism by which the nontenured support staff member, whose renewal has not been recommended by the Superintendent, can appeal to the Board, on which the Superintendent sits as a non-voting member pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.~~
7. The proceeding of an informal appearance before the Board shall be conducted with the President of the Board presiding ~~and the appearance shall not be an adversary proceeding.~~
85. The **nontenured** support staff member may be represented by an attorney or by one individual of his/her choosing. ~~He/She~~ **The nontenured support staff member** may present, **on his or her behalf**, witnesses ~~to testify on his/her behalf. Witnesses who do~~

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

R 4146/page 6 of 6

Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member

not need to present testimony under oath; and ~~their statements may be recorded. The~~ **shall not be cross-examined by the Board** ~~will hear witnesses and shall not cross-examine them.~~ Witnesses **shall** ~~will~~ be called **one at a time** into the meeting to address the Board ~~one at a time~~ and shall be excused from the meeting after making their statements.

G. Final Determination

1. ~~A nontenured support staff member not recommended for renewal by the Superintendent is deemed not renewed.~~ A Board vote is not required on the Superintendent's recommendation(s) to not renew a nontenured support staff member. However, after an informal appearance before the Board, the Superintendent may make a recommendation for reemployment **of the nontenured support staff member** to the voting members of the Board. ~~The voting members of the Board, by a majority vote of the full Board in public session, must approve the reemployment based on the Superintendent's recommendation.~~ **If the Superintendent recommends the nontenured teaching staff member for reemployment, the voting members of the Board must, by a majority vote of the full Board at a public session, approve or not approve the reemployment.**
2. The Board may, with a majority vote of its full membership in public session and without the recommendation of the Superintendent, offer the nontenured support staff member reemployment after the informal appearance before the Board.
34. **Within three working days following the informal appearance, the Board shall notify the affected nontenured support staff member, in writing, of its final determination. The Board may delegate notification of its final determination to the Superintendent or Board Secretary.** ~~The final determination will be delivered to the nontenured support staff member, in writing, no later than three days following the informal appearance. The Board may delegate the Superintendent or the Board Secretary to deliver the final determination.~~

Issued:

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

STUDENTS
R 5460.02/page 1 of 7
Bridge Year Pilot Program
M

R 5460.02 BRIDGE YEAR PILOT PROGRAM

All public school districts, including charter and renaissance schools, that enroll high school students must offer all eligible students the opportunity to participate in the Bridge Year Pilot Program (P.L. 2020 c.41).

To participate in the Bridge Year Pilot Program, eligible students must notify their host high school's Bridge Year Liaison of their intent to participate by February 15 of their senior year.

A. Bridge Year Liaison

1. To facilitate compliance with the requirements of the Bridge Year Pilot Program, each public high school in a school district shall designate a school staff member as a Bridge Year Liaison.
2. The school's Bridge Year Liaison shall serve as the school's point of contact for students interested in participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program, facilitate planning of the Bridge Year students' academic services, and regularly communicate with the respective county college regarding students' academic progress.
3. Bridge Year Liaisons shall develop, in consultation with Bridge Year students, an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) for each student.
4. The Bridge Year Liaison:
 - a. Shall collect and report attendance in accordance with the school district's policy for those students participating in classes not at the host high school consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6. Attendance for classes at the host high school shall be collected and recorded in the normal course;
 - b. Must receive reports from the institution of higher education that a Bridge Year student attends at least quarterly. The reports must demonstrate, in a manner specified by the student's ILP, the student's academic progress and performance; and

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

STUDENTS

R 5460.02/page 2 of 7

Bridge Year Pilot Program

- c. Shall ensure that at the conclusion of each semester of the Bridge Year, the student's high school transcript reflects any high school and college credits earned during the Bridge Year in accordance with Policy and Regulation 5460.02.

B. Student Eligibility

1. To be eligible to participate in Bridge Year Pilot Program, a student must:
 - a. Be in the graduating classes of 2021 or 2022;
 - b. Meet all applicable high school graduation requirements by the end of their senior year of high school;
 - c. Be nineteen years old or younger during the entirety of the Bridge Year; a student that would turn twenty years old before the end of their Bridge Year is not eligible to participate;
 - (1) A student with disabilities is eligible to participate if the student will turn twenty years old during the Bridge Year due to services provided under the student's individualized education program (IEP); and
 - d. Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 during the Bridge Year.
2. Students with disabilities who receive special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) must be granted the opportunity to participate in a school district's Bridge Year Pilot Program in accordance with Federal and State special education requirements.
 - a. Regarding the Bridge Year's age requirements in B.1.c. above, school districts that have students with disabilities who have satisfied their State and local graduation requirements, but may need an extra year of services, and

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

STUDENTS
R 5460.02/page 3 of 7
Bridge Year Pilot Program

will not turn twenty-one years old before June 30, may receive services for another year as determined by the student's IEP team, which includes the student and the student's parent(s).

- b. The school district's Bridge Year Liaison should collaborate with the student's IEP team as the services provided to students with disabilities should be focused on transition services. Services shall be delivered via the IEP.

C. Academics

1. Individual Learning Plans (ILP)

- a. Each Bridge Year student's academic and co-curricular goals for the Bridge Year shall be defined in an ILP. A student's ILP shall detail the activities and strategies for accomplishing these goals, including, but not limited to, counseling, academic support, coursework, and co-curricular or athletic participation. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) developed an ILP template for school districts, which will be available on the NJDOE's webpage.

- (1) In developing a student's ILP, a school district should utilize the considerations outlined in Bridge Year Pilot Program (P.L. 2020 c.41) Implementation Guidance.

- b. To ensure ample time to plan for the implementation of services outlined in the ILP, each Bridge Year student's ILP shall be completed by May 15, but no later than June 1 of the student's senior year.

2. Academic and Course Requirements

- a. Students participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program shall meet the following academic and course requirements:

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

STUDENTS

R 5460.02/page 4 of 7

Bridge Year Pilot Program

- (1) During the fall semester, students shall take between nine and twelve credits at the host high school, county college in the county in which the host high school is located, or a combination thereof;
 - (2) During the spring semester, students shall take between nine and twelve credits at the county college in the county in which the host high school is located;
 - (3) During either semester, students may take up to three credits offered by a four-year institution of higher education at any high school in the State or any other location to fulfill the student's credit requirements described in C.2.a.(1) and (2) above;
 - (4) Students who pursue a Bridge Year and participate in a spring sport sanctioned by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) shall enroll in less than twelve college credits, or otherwise be enrolled in a number of college credits as to not be considered a full-time college student, in each of the fall and spring semesters during the student's Bridge Year;
 - (5) During the Bridge Year, students do not need to participate in health, safety, and physical education as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5, 7, and 8 (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1.vi); and
 - (6) A Bridge Year student shall be considered a non-matriculated student of the respective county college.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

STUDENTS
R 5460.02/page 5 of 7
Bridge Year Pilot Program

- b. School districts that do not operate on the basis of fall and spring semesters should meet the spirit of the academic and course requirements outlined in C.2.a. above and ensure that Bridge Year students meet their total credit requirements for the entirety of the Bridge Year Pilot Program.
3. Graduation
 - a. As stated in B.1.b. above, all students must meet all applicable high school graduation requirements by the end of their senior year of high school before participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program.
 - b. The Bridge Year student may participate in the graduation ceremony at the end of his or her senior year or the end of his or her Bridge Year.
 - c. The student's diploma will be withheld and formal matriculation from high school will be deferred until completion of the Bridge Year Pilot Program.
 - (1) Participating students are only held to the graduation requirements of their senior year and are not required to meet the graduation requirements of their Bridge Year in order to receive their high school diploma.
 - (a) For example, 12th graders in the graduating class of 2021 – whose Bridge Year would take place during the 2021-2022 school year – will be held only to the graduation requirements applicable to the class of 2021, as modified pursuant to Executive Order 214 by the Governor of New Jersey, and not to the graduation requirements for the class of 2022.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

STUDENTS

R 5460.02/page 6 of 7

Bridge Year Pilot Program

- d. At the conclusion of each semester of the Bridge Year Pilot Program, the host high school shall update the student's high school transcript to reflect any high school credits earned during the Bridge Year.
- e. If a student decides to pursue a Bridge Year in the fall semester, but does not continue the Bridge Year in the spring semester, the student's host high school shall release all final transcripts and other records as necessary and as may be requested.

D. Data Reporting

1. NJ SMART

- a. The NJDOE will add a new field in the NJ SMART SID Management to indicate whether 12th graders are planning to participate in the Bridge Year Pilot Program in the following year (beginning in the 2020-2021 school year) or whether a 12th grader is currently participating in a Bridge Year Pilot Program (beginning in the 2021-2022 school year).
- b. School districts will be required to begin entering this information for all 12th graders beginning with the June 2021 snapshot.

2. School and District Accountability

- a. Students participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program will continue to be included in the accountability calculations for both Every Student Succeeds Act school accountability and New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) district accountability during their Bridge Year.
 - (1) This would include graduation rate and chronic absenteeism calculations for both school and district accountability.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

STUDENTS
R 5460.02/page 7 of 7
Bridge Year Pilot Program

- (2) Students participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program will not count as graduates for graduation rate calculations until they receive a diploma at the end of the Bridge Year.

E. Athletic Requirements

1. Students participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program are eligible to participate in NJSIAA sanctioned sports at their host high school – and only at their host high school – during the spring season of their Bridge Year.
 - a. Bridge Year students are not eligible to participate in fall or winter sports during their Bridge Year.
2. Students must meet the eligibility requirements outlined by the NJSIAA.
3. A student who decides not to continue their Bridge Year in the spring semester shall not be eligible to participate in a spring sports program or extracurricular activities.
4. Bridge Year students participating in spring athletics are subject to the athletic code of conduct, and any other applicable codes, rules, or school district policies as other students participating in the spring sport.

Issued:

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES
R 6471/page 1 of 27
School District Travel ~~Procedures~~
M

R 6471 SCHOOL DISTRICT TRAVEL PROCEDURES

A. Definitions (N.J.S.A. 6A:23A-1.2)

1. For the purpose of this Policy, “travel expenditures” means those costs paid by the school district using local, State, or Federal funds, whether directly by the school district or by employee reimbursement, for travel by school district employees and district Board of Education members, to the following five types of travel events:
 - a. Training and seminars – means all regularly scheduled, formal residential or non-residential training functions conducted at a hotel, motel, convention center, residential facility, or at any educational institution or facility;
 - b. Conventions and conferences – means general programs, sponsored by professional associations on a regular basis, which address subjects of particular interest to a school district or are convened to conduct association business. The primary purpose of employee attendance at conferences and conventions is the development of new skills and knowledge or the reinforcement of those skills and knowledge in a particular field related to school district operations. These are distinct from formal staff training and seminars, although some training may take place at such events;
 - c. School district sponsored events – means conferences, conventions, receptions, or special meetings, where the school plans, develops, implements, and coordinates the event and is the event’s primary financial backer. School district employees are actively involved in working the event and other employees may attend as participants;

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 2 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- d. Regular school district business travel – means all regular official business travel, including attendance at meetings, conferences, and any other gatherings which are not covered by the definitions included in a., b., and c. above. Regular school district business travel also includes attendance at regularly scheduled in-State county meetings and Department-sponsored or association-sponsored events provided free of charge and regularly scheduled in-State professional development activities with a registration fee that does not exceed \$150 per employee or district Board member. The \$150 limit per employee or district Board member may be adjusted by inflation; and
- e. Retreats – means meetings with school district employees and school Board members, held away from the normal work environment at which organizational goals and objectives are discussed. If available, school district facilities shall be utilized for this type of event.

B. Maximum Travel Budget (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3)

- 1. Annually in the prebudget year, the Board of Education shall establish by resolution a maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year, which the school district shall not exceed. The resolution shall also include the maximum amount established for the prebudget year and the amount spent to date.
 - a. The maximum school district travel expenditure amount shall include all travel supported by local and State funds.
 - b. The Board may exclude travel expenditures supported by Federal funds from the maximum travel expenditure amount.
 - (1) If Federal funds are excluded from the established maximum amount, the Board shall include in the resolution the total amount of travel supported by Federal funds from the prior year, prebudget year, and projected for the budget year.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 3 of 27

School District Travel Procedures

- c. Exclusion of Federal funds from the annual maximum travel budget shall not exempt such travel from the requirements applicable to State and local funds.
 2. The Board of Education may authorize an annual maximum amount per employee for regular business travel only for which Board of Education approval is not required.
 - a. The annual maximum shall not exceed \$1,500 and shall be subject to the approval requirements in N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1.
 - b. Regular school district business travel as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2 and in this Regulation shall include attendance at regularly scheduled in-State county meetings and Department-sponsored or association-sponsored events provided free of charge. It also shall include regularly scheduled in-State professional development activities for which the registration fee does not exceed \$150 per employee or Board member.
 - c. Regular school district business travel shall require approval of the Superintendent prior to obligating the school district to pay related expenses and prior to attendance at the travel event.
 - (1) The Superintendent shall designate an alternate approval authority to approve travel requests in his or her absence when necessary to obtain timely district Board of Education approval.
 - (2) The Superintendent shall establish, in writing, the internal levels of approval required prior to his or her approval of the travel event, as applicable.
- C. Travel Approval Procedures (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.4)
 1. All travel requests for employees of the school district shall be submitted to the Superintendent or designee and approved in writing by the Superintendent and approved by a majority of the Board of Education's full voting membership, except if the Board of Education has excluded regular business travel from prior approval in Policy 6471 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3(b), prior to obligating the school district to pay related expenses and prior to attendance at the travel event.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 4 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- a. The Superintendent shall designate an alternate approval authority to approve travel requests in his or her absence when necessary to obtain timely Board approval.
 - b. The Superintendent shall establish, in writing, the internal levels of preliminary approval required prior to the Superintendent's approval of the travel event, as applicable.
 - (1) The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall review all travel requests either before or after the Superintendent's approval and prior to submission of the Board for approval to determine if the expenses as outlined in the request are in compliance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7, the current State travel payment guidelines established by the Department of the Treasury, and the current guidelines established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget.
 - (a) If any travel expenses requested are not in compliance with the guidelines outlined above, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will return the request to be revised in accordance with the guidelines outlined above.
 - (b) The Superintendent may deny the request, approve the request conditioned upon the staff member assuming the financial responsibility for those travel expenses that are not in compliance with the guidelines, or may return the request to the school staff member to be revised in accordance with the guidelines outlined above.
2. All travel requests for Board members shall require prior approval by a majority of the Board's full voting membership, except where the Board has excluded regular business travel from prior approval pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3(b), and the travel shall be in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24 and 24.1.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES
R 6471/page 5 of 27
School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

3. The Board of Education may approve, at any time prior to the event, travel for multiple months as long as the approval detailed in Board of Education minutes itemizes the approval by event, total cost, and number of employees and/or Board members attending the event. General or blanket pre-approval shall not be authorized.
 4. All travel requests shall receive prior approval of the Board of Education except if the Board has excluded from the requirements prior Board approval of any travel caused by or subject to existing contractual provisions, including grants and donations, and other statutory requirements, or Federal regulatory requirements in Policy 6471 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.4(d). For the exclusion of prior Board approval to apply, the required travel event shall be detailed, with number of employee(s), Board member(s), and total cost in the applicable contract, grant, donation, statute, or Federal regulation.
 - a. This shall not include general grant guidelines or regulations that are permissive, but do not require the travel event, unless the specific travel event, number of employee(s), Board member(s), and total cost is detailed in the approved grant, donation, or other fund acceptance agreement.
 - b. This shall not include general contractual provisions in employment contracts for continuing education or professional development, except if the Board has included in its policy a maximum amount per employee for regular business travel that does not require prior Board of Education approval pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3.
 5. If occasional unforeseen situations arise wherein a travel request cannot obtain prior approval of the Board of Education, justification shall be included in the text of the travel request.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 6 of 27

School District Travel Procedures

- a. Such requests shall require prior written approval of the Superintendent or designee, and the Executive County Superintendent or designee.
 - b. The Board shall ratify the request at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
 - c. Travel to conferences, conventions, and symposiums shall not be considered emergencies and shall not be approved after the fact.
6. Subsequent to pre-approval by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board of Education, reimbursement of prospective employee travel expense shall be pre-approved by the Executive County Superintendent.
- D. Required Documentation for Travel (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.5)
1. The Board of Education requires the documentation listed in D.2. below to justify the number of employees attending an event and the benefits to be derived from their attendance;
 2. Neither the Superintendent or designee, nor the Board of Education shall approve a travel request unless it includes, at a minimum, the following information:
 - a. The name and date(s) of the event;
 - b. A list of Board members and/or employees to attend, either by name and title;
 - c. The estimated cost associated with travel;
 - d. A justification and brief statement that includes the primary purpose for the travel, the key issues that will be addressed at the event, and their relevance to improving instruction or the operation of the school district.
 - (1) For training events, the statement must include whether the training is for a certification required for continued employment, continuing education

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 7 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

requirements, requirements of Federal or State law, or other purpose related to the programs and services currently being delivered or soon to be implemented in the school district; or related to school district operations;

- e. The account number and funding source - Federal, State, private, or local; and
 - f. For annual events, the total attendance and cost for the previous year.
3. The school district shall maintain documentation on file that demonstrates compliance with the Board of Education's travel policy, including travel approvals, reports, and receipts for all school district funded expenditures, as appropriate.
- E. School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Responsibilities Regarding Accounting for Travel (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.6)
- 1. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall prepare itemized travel budgets by function and object of expense for each cost center, department, or location maintained in the school district's accounting system, as applicable, as part of the preparation of and documentation for the annual school district budget.
 - a. The aggregate amount of all travel budgets shall not exceed the Board of Education approved maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3.
 - 2. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall maintain separate accounting for school district travel expenditures, as necessary, to ensure compliance with the school district's maximum travel expenditure amount. The separate accounting tracking system may include, but need not be limited to, a separate or offline accounting of such expenditures or expanding the school district's accounting system. The tracking system shall be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with Policy and Regulation 6471 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7, and shall be in a detailed format suitable for audit.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 8 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

3. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall review and approve the cost and supporting documentation required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 and submitted by the person(s) having incurred travel expense. The School Business Administrator shall not approve or issue payment of travel expenditures or reimbursement requests until all required documentation and information to support the payment has been submitted, and shall not approve any travel expenditure that, when added to already approved travel expenditures, would exceed the Board of Education approved maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year.
 4. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be responsible for the adequacy of documentation of transactions processed by his or her staff and the retention of the documentation to permit audits of the records.
 5. A Board of Education employee, a Board member, or an organization shall not receive partial or full payment for travel and travel-related expenses in advance of the travel, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1 et seq. The payment of travel and travel-related expenses, including travel-related purchases for which a purchase order is not applicable, shall be made personally by a school district employee or Board member and reimbursed at the conclusion of the travel event. N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.6, Policy 6471, and this Regulation do not preclude the school district from paying the vendor directly with the proper use of a purchase order (for example, for registration, airline tickets, hotel).
- F. Sanctions for Violations of Travel Requirements (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.7)
1. A Board of Education that violates its established maximum travel expenditure, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, or that otherwise is not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 travel limitations, may be subject to sanctions by the Commissioner as authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-23 and 24, including reduction of State aid in an amount equal to any excess expenditure pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12 and 18A:7F-60.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 9 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

2. The staff member designated as the final approval authority for travel who approves any travel request or reimbursement in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 and Policy and Regulation 6471 shall reimburse the school district in an amount equal to three times the cost associated with attending the event, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12.
3. An employee or Board member who violates the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 and Policy and Regulation 6471 shall be required to reimburse the school district in an amount equal to three times the cost associated with attending the event, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12.
4. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.7(d), there must be procedures to monitor compliance and application of the penalty, as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.7, upon determination a violation has occurred after Board of Education payment of the event.
 - a. In addition to the annual audit test procedures to ensure compliance as required in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.7(e) and F.5. below, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will designate a staff member to review travel payments that are being recommended to the Board for payment prior to Board approval and travel payments previously approved by the Board for payment and paid for any violations.
 - (1) In the event the annual audit test procedures or the review by the staff member designated by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary determines a travel payment recommended to the Board for payment or a travel payment previously approved by the Board and was paid in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 and Policy and Regulation 6471, the school district auditor or the staff member designated by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall inform the Superintendent of Schools of the violation in writing.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES
R 6471/page 10 of 27
School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- (2) The Superintendent shall determine if a violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 requires a penalty in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.7.
 - (3) If a violation is determined prior to payment or reimbursement of the travel event, the Superintendent may exclude application of any additional penalties.
 5. The annual audit conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 shall include test procedures to ensure compliance with the Board of Education's policy and travel limitations set forth in this section and N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12.
- G. Prohibitive Travel Reimbursements (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.8)
1. The following types of expenditures are not eligible for reimbursement:
 - a. Subsistence reimbursement for one-day trips, except for meals expressly authorized by and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.12;
 - b. Subsistence reimbursement for overnight travel within the State, except where authorized by the Commissioner in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.11;
 - c. Travel by Board members or employees whose duties are unrelated to the purpose of the travel event or who are not required to attend to meet continuing educations requirements or to comply with law or regulation;
 - d. Travel by spouses, civil union partners, domestic partners, immediate family members, and other relatives;
 - e. Costs for employee attendance for coordinating other attendees' accommodations at the travel event;

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 11 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- f. Lunch or refreshments for training sessions and retreats held within the school district, including in-service days and for employee participants traveling from other locations within the school district;
- g. Training to maintain a certification that is not required as a condition of employment (For example: CPE credits to maintain a CPA license if the employee is not required to be a CPA for continued school district employment);
- h. Charges for laundry, valet service, and entertainment;
- i. Limousine services and chauffeuring costs to, or during, the event;
- j. Car rentals, either utilized for airport transportation or transportation at a conference, convention, etc., unless absolutely necessary for the conduct of school district business. Justification shall accompany any request for car rentals. If approved, the most economical car rental is to be used, including the use of subcompacts and discounted and special rates. An example of the justified use of a car rental is when an employee is out of State, making inspections at various locations, and the use of public transportation is impracticable. When car rental is authorized, the employee shall not be issued an advance payment for the anticipated expense associated with the rental;
- k. Alcoholic beverages;
- l. Entertainment costs, including amusement, diversion, social activities, and any costs directly associated with such costs (such as tickets to shows or sports events, meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and gratuities);
- m. Gratuities or tips in excess of those permitted by Federal per diem rates;
- n. Reverse telephone charges or third party calls;

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

- o. Hospitality rooms;
- p. Souvenirs, memorabilia, promotional items, or gifts;
- q. Air fare without documentation of quotes from at least three airlines and/or on-line services; and
- r. Other travel expenditures that are unnecessary and/or excessive.

H. Travel Methods (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.9)

1. For the purpose of section H. of this Regulation and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.9, "transportation" means necessary official travel on railroads, airlines, shuttles, buses, taxicabs, rideshares, school district-owned or leased vehicles, and personal vehicles.
2. The purchase or payment of related transportation expenses shall be made by purchase order or personally by a school district employee or Board member and reimbursed at the conclusion of the travel event. An actual invoice or receipt for each purchase or expense shall be submitted with a claim for reimbursement.
3. Pursuant to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Travel Circulars and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq., the following travel methods requirements shall apply:
 - a. Air and rail tickets shall be purchased via the Internet, if possible, using airline or online travel services such as Travelocity, Expedia, or Hotwire.
 - b. Air travel shall be authorized only when determined that it is necessary and advantageous to conduct school district business.
 - (1) The most economical air travel should be used, including the use of discounted and special rates.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES
R 6471/page 13 of 27
School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- (2) The following options should be considered when booking tickets:
 - (a) Connecting versus nonstop flights;
 - (b) Departing earlier or later compared to the preferred departure time;
 - (c) Utilizing alternative airports within a city, for example, Chicago, Illinois-Midway Airport versus O'Hare Airport;
 - (d) Utilizing alternative cities, for example, Newark versus Philadelphia;
 - (e) Utilizing "low cost" airlines; and
 - (f) Exploring alternate arrival and/or departure days.
- (3) No employee or Board member can earn benefits as a result of school district funded travel. Employees and Board members shall be prohibited from receiving "frequent flyer" or other benefits accruing from school district funded travel.
- (4) Airfare other than economy (that is, business or first class) shall not be fully reimbursed by the school district except when travel in such classes:
 - (a) Is less expensive than economy;
 - (b) Avoids circuitous routings or excessive flight duration; or
 - (c) Would result in overall transportation cost savings.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 14 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- (5) All airfare other than economy and not covered by the above exceptions purchased by an employee or Board member shall be reimbursed only at the economy rate for the approved destination.
 - (6) Cost estimates on travel requests and associated authorizations shall be consistent with current airline tariffs, with consideration of available special fares or discounts, for the requested destination.
 - (7) Airline tickets shall not be booked until all necessary approvals have been obtained.
 - (8) Additional expenses over and above the authorized travel request shall be considered only for factors outside the purchaser's control. The burden of proof shall be placed upon the purchaser and any additional expenses incurred without sufficient justification and documentation, as determined by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, shall not be reimbursed.
 - (9) Justification shall accompany requests for airline ticket reimbursement when purchased by employees or Board members contrary to H.3.b.(1) through (8) above. Sufficient justification shall be considered only for factors outside the purchaser's control. Noncompliant purchases without sufficient justification shall not be reimbursed.
- c. Rail travel shall be authorized only when determined that it is necessary and advantageous to conduct school district business.
- (1) The most economical scheduling of rail travel shall be utilized, including excursion and government discounts, whenever applicable.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 15 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- (2) The use of high-speed rail services, such as Acela, shall not be authorized.
 - (3) All rail travel shall be processed in the same manner as prescribed for air travel in H.3.b. above.
- d. Use of a school district-owned or -leased vehicle shall be the first means of ground transportation. Use of a personally owned vehicle on a mileage basis shall not be permitted for official business where a school district-owned or -leased vehicle is available.
- (1) Mileage allowance in lieu of actual expenses of transportation shall be approved by the Board and allowed at the rate authorized by the annual State Appropriations Act, or a lesser rate at the Board's discretion for an employee or Board member traveling by his or her personally owned vehicle on official business.
 - (a) If any condition in an existing negotiated contract is in conflict with the OMB Travel Circulars, such as the mileage reimbursement rates, the provisions of the existing contract shall prevail.
 - (2) Parking and toll charges shall be allowed in addition to mileage allowance.
 - (3) Reimbursement for travel to points outside the State by automobile shall be permitted when such arrangements prove to be more efficient and economical than other means of public transportation.
 - (4) In determining the relative costs of private and public transportation, all associated costs (that is, tolls, taxicabs, airport or station transfers, etc.) shall be considered.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 16 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- (5) All employees and Board members using privately owned cars in the performance of their duties for the school district shall present a New Jersey Insurance Identification Card indicating that insurance coverage is in full force and effect with companies approved by the State Department of Banking and Insurance. The card shall be made available to the Superintendent or designee before authorization to use privately owned cars.
 - (6) Employees and district Board members who are out-of-State residents shall provide appropriate insurance identification in lieu of the New Jersey Insurance Identification Card.
 - e. School district-owned or -leased vehicles shall be utilized in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.12.
 - f. Necessary taxicab or rideshare charges shall be permitted. However, travel to and from airports, downtown areas, and between hotel and event site shall be confined to regularly scheduled shuttle service, whenever such service is complimentary or is less costly. If shuttle service is not available, taxicabs or rideshares may be used.
 - g. Cruises shall not be permitted for travel events or transportation.
- I. Routing of Travel (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.10)
- 1. Pursuant to State travel guidelines as established by the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Office of Management and Budget, and presented in the OMB Travel Circulars:
 - a. All travel shall follow the most direct, economical, and usually traveled route. Travel by other routes as a result of official necessity shall be eligible for payment or reimbursement only if satisfactorily established in advance of such travel.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 17 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- b. If a person travels by indirect route for personal convenience, the extra expense shall be borne by the individual.
 - c. Reimbursement for expenses shall be based only on charges that do not exceed what would have been incurred by using the most direct, economical, and usually traveled route.
- J. Subsistence Allowance – Overnight Travel (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.11)
- 1. Pursuant to the State travel guidelines as established by the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Office of Management and Budget, and presented in the OMB Travel Circulars, one-day trips that do not involve overnight lodging shall not be eligible for subsistence reimbursement, except for meals expressly authorized by and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.12.
 - 2. Pursuant to the OMB Travel Circulars, generally, overnight travel shall not be eligible for subsistence reimbursement if travel is within the State. Overnight travel is permitted if it is authorized pursuant to 3. below, or is a required component by the entity issuing a grant, donation, or other funding agreement with the school district. The specific required overnight in-State travel event shall be detailed in the final grant, donation, or other fund acceptance agreement along with the number of authorized travelers and total cost. All reimbursements shall be subject to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 unless the funding acceptance agreement specifies otherwise.
 - 3. Pursuant to the State travel regulations as established by the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Office of Management and Budget, and presented in the OMB Travel Circulars, the Commissioner shall be authorized to grant waivers for overnight travel for Board members and school district employees to attend in-State conferences.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES
R 6471/page 18 of 27
School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- a. Such waivers will be granted in only extremely limited circumstances when the sponsoring organization can demonstrate the conference is broad and multi-disciplinary in scope, incorporates content offerings from numerous specialty areas, and includes important professional development opportunities and/or required training.
- b. The sponsoring organization shall demonstrate the conference's content, structure, scheduling, and anticipated attendance necessitate that it be held on multiple consecutive days with overnight lodging. When such waivers are granted, individual school districts or individuals shall not be required to submit waiver requests for attendance at these conferences.
- c. Sponsors of in-State conferences may submit to the Commissioner a request for a waiver of this prohibition by providing information regarding the conference as follows:
 - (1) The name and dates of the event;
 - (2) Justification for the length of the conference and the necessity to hold events for each day beyond the first day of the conference;
 - (3) Identification of all other conferences sponsored or co-sponsored by the organization (whether single or multi-day) in the previous year;
 - (4) A description of the target audience by position title and/or educational certificate and endorsement;
 - (5) Justification of the importance of the target audience attending the event;
 - (6) The cost of registration;

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 19 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- (7) A detailed list and description of any activities to be charged to the participants by the sponsor separate from the registration fee, such as luncheons, workshops, entertainment, etc., including:
 - (a) The cost of the activity;
 - (b) Whether participation is mandatory or voluntary; and
 - (c) The purpose such as social, guest speaker, working session, etc.
 - (8) A copy of agenda or program for the event;
 - (9) A brief statement that includes the primary purpose of the event, the key issues that will be addressed at the event, and their relevance to improving instruction or the operation of a school or school district;
 - (10) For training events, whether the training is needed for a certification required for continued employment, continuing education requirements, or requirements of Federal or State law; and
 - (11) For annual events, total attendance, and registration cost for the previous year.
4. If a waiver of the prohibition on overnight travel is granted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.11, it shall permit reimbursement for travel expenses only for individuals whose home-to-convention commute exceeds fifty miles.
 5. Overnight travel within the State shall not be eligible for subsistence reimbursement if travel is on the day prior to the start of the conference. Reimbursement shall be prohibited for lodging prior to check-in time for the first day of the event or after check-out time on the last day of the event.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 20 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

6. The United States General Services Administration publishes a schedule of Federal per diem rates in the Federal Register for approved overnight travel by the event location. The latest Federal per diem rates schedule for lodging, meals, and incidental expenses by location can be found at www.gsa.gov. The following restrictions apply to allowable per diem reimbursements:
 - a. Allowable per diem reimbursement for lodging, meals, and incidentals shall be actual reasonable costs, not to exceed the Federal per diem rates for the event location. Registration and conference fees are not subject to the Federal per diem rate caps. If the event location is not listed, the maximum per diem allowance shall be equal to the standard Continental United States (CONUS) per diem rates published by the General Services Administration for meals, incidental expenses, and lodging.
 - b. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12.o., reimbursement for lodging expenses for overnight travel, out-of-State or in-State as authorized by the Commissioner, may exceed the Federal per diem rates if the hotel is the site of the convention, conference, seminar, or meeting and the going rate of the hotel is in excess of Federal per diem rates.
 - (1) If the hotel at the site of the current travel event is not available, lodging may be paid for similar accommodations at a rate not to exceed the hotel rate at the site of the current event.
 - (2) If there is no hotel at the site of the current travel event (for example, Atlantic City Convention Center), then reimbursement for lodging shall not exceed the Federal per diem rate.
 - c. If the meal is not part of a one-sum fee for a travel event, reimbursement may be approved for the full cost of an official convention meal that the employee or Board member attends, when such meal is scheduled as an integral part of the convention or conference proceedings. Receipts shall be submitted to obtain reimbursement in such situations. The amount of the Federal per diem rate for the corresponding meal shall be deducted from that day's subsistence allowance.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 21 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- d. The allowance for a meal(s) or incidentals shall not be eligible for reimbursement when included and paid in the registration fee, the cost of lodging, or transportation charge.
 - e. Receipts shall be required for all hotel and incidental expenses. Meal expenses under the Federal per diem allowance limits shall not require receipts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12.o.(3), unless required by the Board of Education.
 - f. If the total per diem reimbursement is greater than the Federal per diem rates, the costs shall be considered excessive in the absence of substantial justification accompanying the travel voucher submitted by the employee or district Board member. In such cases, receipts shall be submitted for all costs, including meals.
 - g. Employees and Board members shall patronize hotels and motels that offer special rates to government employees unless alternative lodging offers greater cost benefits or is more advantageous to the conduct of school district business.
 - h. Actual subsistence expenses shall not be reimbursable if paid by the traveler to a member of his or her family, to another school district employee, or to a family member of another school district employee.
- K. Meal Allowance – Special Conditions – and Allowable Incidental Travel Expenditures (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.12)
- 1. Meals for in-State travel shall not be eligible for reimbursement except as expressly authorized within N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.
 - 2. A meal allowance may be provided to employees or Board members in relation to one-day, out-of-State trips required for school business purposes that do not require an overnight stay. The reimbursement for breakfast, lunch, and/or dinner

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

shall not exceed the amounts authorized in State travel regulations as published by the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Office of Management and Budget, and presented in the OMB Travel Circulars.

3. Lunch for off-site training sessions may be authorized for an amount up to \$7 per person only when it is necessary that employees or Board members remain at a site other than their school district and there are no viable options for lunch at the off-site location.
 - a. Per N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12.a.(1)(d), employee and Board member retreats shall be held onsite unless there is no school district site available.
 - b. If lunch is included in a lump-sum registration fee for an off-site training session, the full amount is eligible for reimbursement, if reasonable. Providing lunch for on-site staff meetings and in-service days or for employees who come from other parts of the school district shall not be permitted. (See K.4. below.)
 - c. Refreshments for breaks may also be provided at training sessions held at a site other than the school district.
 4. Subsistence expenses for an employee or Board member shall not be allowed within the school district or within a radius of ten miles thereof, except for meals expressly authorized by and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.12. Non-allowed expenses include, but are not limited to, meals and refreshments for on-site staff meetings and in-service days.
 5. Reimbursement may be approved for the cost of an official luncheon or dinner, up to \$10 and \$15, respectively, that an employee or Board member is authorized to attend, if the meal is scheduled as an integral part of an official proceeding or program related to school district business and the employee's or Board member's responsibilities.
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 23 of 27

School District Travel Procedures

- a. School district business above refers to the management operations of the school district and does not refer to activities that benefit students and are part of the instructional program. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8(b)4, all reasonable expenditures related to school district employees that are essential to the conduct of a student activity are permitted.
6. Regular meetings, special meetings, and work sessions of the Board of Education shall be limited to light meals and refreshments for all Board members.
 - a. The meals may be served to employees who are required to attend the event and if it is impractical for the employee to commute to and from his or her residence between the end of the work day and the beginning of the event, or if the employee is required to remain at the school district to prepare for the event.
 - b. The school district shall acquire the light meals and refreshments by the solicitation of quotes, if required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.
 - c. If the school district's food service program can prepare comparable meals at a lower cost, the food service program shall be used.
 - d. The average cost per meal shall not exceed \$10.
 - e. The school district shall purchase or prepare food that is sufficient to provide each district Board member, dignitary, non-employee speaker, or allowable staff member one meal. Meals should be carefully ordered to avoid excess. Unintended left over food should be donated to a charitable shelter or similar facility, if at all possible.
7. Reimbursement may be approved for allowable telephone and incidental travel expenses that are essential to transacting official business.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 24 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

- a. Charges for telephone calls on official business may be allowed. The voucher shall show the dates on which such calls were made, the points between which each call was made, and the cost per call.
 - b. Employees and Board members using their personally owned telephone for business may request reimbursement, less Federal Communications Tax. Calls for business are tax exempt and the telephone company will make allowances for the tax if the employee or Board member certifies to the telephone company when paying bills for personally owned phones that said calls were business calls.
 - c. Incidental expenses, defined as "non-meal tips" by the State travel regulations, when necessarily incurred by the traveler in connection with the transaction of official business, may be submitted for reimbursement only when the necessity and nature of the expense are clearly and fully explained on the travel voucher and the voucher is approved. Travel vouchers shall be supported by receipts showing the quantity and unit price.
- L. Records and Supporting Documents (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.13)
1. All persons authorized to travel on business shall keep a memorandum of expenditures chargeable to the school district, noting each item at the time and date the expense is incurred.
 2. The travel voucher shall be completed by the employee or Board member to document the details of the travel event. The travel voucher shall be signed by the employee or Board member to certify the validity of the charges for which reimbursement is sought. The form also shall bear the signatures of approval officials for processing.
 3. Sufficient documentation shall be maintained centrally by the school district to support payment and approval of the travel voucher.

July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES

R 6471/page 25 of 27

School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

4. In addition to the documentation required for reimbursement, each person authorized to travel shall submit a brief report that includes the primary purpose for the travel, the key issues addressed at the event, and their relevance to improving instruction or the operations of the school district. This report shall be submitted prior to receiving reimbursement.
 5. Documentation for requests for travel reimbursement shall show:
 - a. The date(s) and individual points of travel, number of miles traveled between such points, and kind of conveyance used;
 - b. If the distance traveled between individual points is greater than the usual route between the points, the reason for the greater distance shall be stated;
 - c. The hours of the normal work day and actual hours worked shall be shown when requesting meal reimbursement for non-overnight travel;
 - d. Original receipts shall be required for all reimbursable expenses, except for meals that qualify for per diem allowances and for parking meters;
 - e. Actual vendor receipts for personal credit card charges shall be attached to reimbursement requests. Credit card statements shall not be accepted as documentation of expenses;
 - f. Personal charges on a hotel bill shall be deducted and shown on the bill;
 - g. When lodging is shared jointly, the fact shall be stated on the travel voucher;
 - h. Where travel is not by the most economical, usually traveled route, the employee or Board member reimbursement request shall set forth the details of the route, the expenses actually incurred, the hour of departure, the hour of arrival, and an explanation for the use of costlier travel arrangements;
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July 12, 2021 REGULATIONS - DRAFT

FINANCES
R 6471/page 27 of 27
School District Travel ~~Procedures~~

3. When a travel event has a total cost that exceeds \$5,000, regardless of the number of attendees, or when more than five individuals from the school district are to attend a travel event out-of-State, the school district shall obtain prior written approval of the Executive County Superintendent.
 - a. The Executive County Superintendent shall promptly review the request and render a written decision within ten business days.

4. For all employee and Board member travel events out of the country, regardless of cost or number of attendees, the school district shall obtain prior written approval of the Executive County Superintendent.
 - a. Such requests shall be supported by detailed justification.
 - b. The Executive County Superintendent shall promptly review the request and render a written decision within ten business days.
 - c. It is expected that approvals will be rare.

Adopted:
