



Legislative and Agency Update

July 2009

Governor's News

New Jersey registered voters now have more options to vote by mail as an alternative to voting at a polling place. Gov. Jon S. Corzine signed the "Vote by Mail" law that now allows all voters to request a mail-in ballot for an upcoming election, and receive mail-in ballots automatically for additional future elections with one application.

Registered voters in New Jersey interested in voting by mail-in ballot can visit the Division of Elections' [website](#) for more information and to print out an application.

Department of Education News

Technology Standards

The Department of Education has posted on its website the final edited versions of the new Core Curriculum Content Standards – Standard 8: Technology. At a recent meeting with Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy, NJASL leaders discussed the Technology Standards and made several suggestions. As a result of the meeting, NJASL will be cited in the Technology Standards document as a state-level resource for information and assistance. Davy also agreed to include representatives from NJASL as the department's work to phase in the new standards moves forward.

http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/2009/std6_tech.doc

Transforming Secondary Schools Initiative

The department has developed a FAQ on this newly adopted state initiative to reform education in grades 6 through 12. The initiative requires students to meet new comprehensive course and graduation requirements in order to develop skills to succeed in the 21st Century. <http://www.state.nj.us/education/ser/faq/>

Travel Waiver Request for Fall Conference Denied

NJASL Vice-President and Conference Chair Judy Everitt received a response from the commissioner denying NJASL's request for a waiver on the prohibition of reimbursement for overnight travel. In her letter the commissioner said: "...based on a review of the documents you submitted, the Department finds that the content, structure and anticipated attendance of this Annual Fall Conference is such that it does not require that it be held on multiple consecutive days with overnight lodging in order for individuals to benefit from the conference's offerings. For these reasons, your request for a waiver of the overnight travel prohibition is denied."

The commissioner's letter is posted on NJASL's website along with an advisory on allowable expenses for reimbursement and other important information about our conference.

Meeting with Commissioner Lucille E. Davy

NJASL leaders Angela Crockett Coxen, Pat Massey, Mary K. Lewis and I met with the commissioner to discuss several items of interest including:

- The new Core Curriculum Content Standards and NJASL participation.
- The role of SLMS and School Library Media Center.
- The need to strengthen the state's requirement for school libraries staffed by certified SLMS.

State Board of Education

Congratulations to Mary Jane McNally

The State Board of Education approved a resolution to reappoint members to the State Board of Examiners. NJASL leader Dr. Mary Jane McNally is one of the members of the Board who was recommended by the commissioner for reappointment in the resolution. [State Board of Examiners](#)

Student Assessments in Grades 3 & 4

On July 15, the Board adopted a resolution which raises the achievement standards for the 3rd and 4th grade tests in mathematics and language arts. The tests, known as the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) have been redesigned as part of the state's initiative to raise expectations for all students and to prepare students for the demands of the 21st Century.

In adopting the Resolution, the new standards became effective retroactively to the tests administered last May. [Adoption Resolution](#) and [NJ Ask 3-4 Summary](#)

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