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New Jersey Association of School Librarians

Legislative and Agency Update

November 2009

Legislative News

New Leaders in Both the Senate and Assembly

Shortly after the General Election on November 3 Democrats in both houses of the Legislature began the process of selecting the Assembly Speaker and Senate President for the 2010-2011 legislative session. Members of the 214th Legislature will take their oath of office in January 2010 and Senator Stephen Sweeney will become the new President of the State Senate and Assemblywoman Shelia Y. Oliver will assume the position of Speaker of the General Assembly. Sweeney represents Legislative District 3 in Salem, Cumberland, and Gloucester Counties. Oliver represents Legislative District 34 in Essex and Passaic Counties.

Department of Education News

Changes in Secondary School Assessments for High School Graduation

In a memo to local school districts, Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer alerted school officials about particular changes in current assessment designs for certain secondary school assessments. The memo describes changes in the writing component of the Language Arts Literacy assessment of the HSPA, the Special Review Assessment, and both the end of course Biology and Algebra I competency assessments (regardless of grade level). Local school districts may also participate in the Algebra II end of course assessments at their own expense. [Update on Secondary School Assessment Policy and Programs](#)

Pending Regulations

The regulations governing **Programs and Practices for School Districts** which require certain school library media services under the direction of certified School Library Media Specialists have yet to be readopted by Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy. The sunset date for this chapter of code was

November 29, 2009.

Also, the proposal level rules for monitoring are still open for comment. On October 21, the State Board of Education reviewed and approved a request from NJASL to amend the state's regulations for the N.J.A.C. 6A:30 **Evaluation and Performance of School Districts (QSAC)**. The change in the monitoring regulations advanced by NJASL aims to provide some measure of accountability to encourage school districts to comply with N.J.A.C. 6A:13-2.1(h) which requires districts to provide certain school library media services under the direction of a certified School Library Media Specialist. Visit [Take Action Now on the NJASL Advocacy Wiki](#) for additional information.

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Vol. 18 – 11/30/2009