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New Jersey Association of School Librarians

Legislative and Agency Update

October 2009

State Board of Education

Proposed NJQSAC Regulations

On October 21, the State Board of Education reviewed a department initiated proposal to amend the state's regulations for the N.J.A.C. 6A:30 *Evaluation and Performance of School Districts* (QSAC). At the meeting, the department presented the amendment NJASL submitted and recommended that it be included in the proposed regulations. The change 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.

After a brief discussion, the Board voted to approve NJASL's proposed amendment to the Regular District Performance Review (DPR) for Instruction and Program, Section C. Instruction Indicator #8. The amended language is as follows:

"The district requires and verifies that teachers and other instructional staff effectively use *school library resources and technology* to support learning, increase productivity and create products across all NJCCCS areas."

Also, the required documentation local school districts must present in order to meet Indicator #8 will be amended to include *K-12 Library Skills/Information Literacy/Library Media Curriculum*. (NJASL's recommended additions are in italics.)

Department of Education News

New CCCS Templates

The Department of Education has published model unit and lesson plans to be used with the 2009 Core Curriculum Content Standards. The new templates are tools that can help school districts define instructional plans for a specific course in the curriculum for any content area.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/2009/updtemplate.pdf>

New Procedures and Timelines for Professional Development Plans

Starting in the 2010 – 2011 school year, teachers, school administrators, and local and county professional development committees must follow new guidelines in order to meet the state's mandate for ongoing professional development. New regulations adopted by the State Board of Education call for school-level planning for teacher professional development with a focus on opportunities for learning teams within schools by grade level and content area.

According to the Department of Education, the goal of these new regulations is to shift the focus from district-level one shot in-service workshops to collaborative professional learning within schools. Planning documents and templates for the creation and review of the new school-level and district-level professional development plans that are required of all New Jersey districts and schools have been developed and are available on the department's website at <http://www.nj.gov/education/profdev/pd/teacher/>

Additionally, to assist school and district committees in developing their respective plans, the department offered additional guidance in two informational webinars which are available as a downloaded recording at the link provided above.

Facility Guide for Technology in New Jersey Schools

Based on recommendations developed under the direction of the NJ School Development Authority the Department of Education has released a new facility guide for technology planning for schools. The guidelines contained in the document are intended to replace the information found in a prior document published in 1997 and are to be used as a resource for those involved in new construction, renovations, and technology upgrade initiatives.

Goals for the new facilities guide document are:

- To serve as an up-to-date resource for schools involved in new construction projects or schools with technology upgrade initiatives, including additions and renovations.
- To help schools and districts plan for and make intelligent decisions regarding technology and technology infrastructure.
- To insure that key stakeholders are involved in all stages of the technology planning process. The new Guide is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/techno/facstan/facstan.pdf>

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Vol. 17 – 10/31/2009