

New Jersey State Board of Education Update

The State Board of Education met Wednesday, January 7, 2004 to consider a varied agenda including the following issues:

The board gave final approval to high school graduation requirements that include the following new/revised requirements that take effect for the 2004-2005 ninth grade class:

- * 5 credits in world language or demonstration of proficiency (replaces 10 credit requirement that was not implemented)
- * 5 credits in visual/performing arts (reduced from 10 credits in arts or practical arts)
- * 5 credits in career education/life skills or vocational-technical education
- * Technological literacy infused across the curriculum

The board continued its detailed review of the Core Curriculum Content Standards, focusing this month on the Social Studies standards. Final adoption of the standards is expected in March 2004.

Following the Dec. 17 adoption of the revised Licensure Code, the Board began to consider the first group of amendments to the code. The changes under consideration do not impact school library media specialists.

- * EMAnj will be working on smooth implementation of the new licensure requirements for SLMS, and will address the details for a voluntary mentoring program and the required coursework in education topics for librarians under the new "alternate route."

Commissioner Librera outlined plans for a new accountability system that will combine monitoring, state intervention, and Abbott oversight. The new system will examine five key categories of district performance, and provide a range of state assistance or partial/full state intervention to help districts address deficiencies. The NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJ QSAC) will require legislation to revise the state takeover law and new monitoring regulations to be introduced in April.

Please let me know if you have any questions about these or other issues.

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