

State Board of Examiners

**The NJSBA believes** that the composition of the State Board of Examiners should include the Commissioner of Education, a representative from the office of the Secretary of Higher Education, three college deans, five local administrators, five teachers, three local board of education members including one vocational board member and two public members. *[Authority: BD 6/79, BD 4/93-SR, DA 11/96-SR, DA 5/02-SR, DA 11/06-SR, DA 11/11-SR, DA 12/16-SR]*

Teacher Preparation Programs

- A. **The NJSBA believes** that the responsibility to evaluate and approve teacher preparation programs leading to certification belongs to the Department of Education. *[Authority: BD 6/79, BD 4/93, DA 11/96-SR, DA 11/11-SR]*
- B. **The NJSBA believes** that teacher education programs should include instruction and training in conflict resolution and diversity sensitivity. *[Authority: DA 11/99-ER(A), DA 5/02-SR, DA 11/06-SR, DA 11/11-SR, DA 12/16-SR]*

Teacher Certification

- A. **The NJSBA believes** that, while the authority for teacher certification rests with the state, true accountability for the integrity of teaching standards can only be achieved by establishing a new system of renewable state certification which includes the issuance and periodic renewal of certificates based upon demonstrated teacher competencies, continued professional development, educational achievements, and local districts' evaluations of teacher performance.
- B. **The NJSBA believes** that to ensure statewide consistency in the process of certificate renewal, the State Board of Education should establish statewide criteria for the issuance and renewal of teaching certificates and a state-administered appeals process for teachers denied issuance and/or renewal of instructional certificates. The State Board, in consultation with the office of the Secretary of Higher Education, should also develop guidelines regarding continuing education, professional development activities, and local district staff development and/or inservice programs.
- C. **The NJSBA believes** that a system of renewable certification which meets the Association's goals and provides a series of various levels of state certificates, should include provisions for:
- Provisional Certificates, to be issued to beginning teachers upon completion of state requirements and to teachers whose Standard Instructional Certificate has lapsed;
  - Standard Instructional Certificates, to be issued after teachers have demonstrated competence in their subject area and in the professional knowledge and skills necessary for effective teaching and learning. Such certificates would be valid for a specified period, such as five years, and would require teachers to meet state-wide criteria, including ongoing professional development, and recommendations from the employing local district;
  - Standard Instructional Certificates would be renewable indefinitely upon their expiration, if the teacher had during the terms of the certificate, met state-wide criteria and has obtained the recommendation of the local district, based on an evaluation of the teacher's performance;

- An optional Master Teacher Certificates which would require: a Master's Degree in education or a related field; a minimum of six years of successful teaching experience under the Standard Instructional Certificate; current employment; and, local district recommendation based on evaluation of teaching performance, leadership skills and other criteria as set by the State Board of Education;

The Master Teacher Certificate would be renewable every seven years based upon the teacher's fulfillment of state-criteria and local district recommendation based on evaluation of teaching performance;

- Provisions addressing situations in which teachers fail to complete the requirements for the renewal of their certification; and
- Grandfathering Provisions, which would exempt holders of the current Standard Instructional Certificate from the renewal requirements of the new system. *[Authority: DA 12/75-CR Certification, DA 5/76-B, BD 6/79, BD 12/82, BD 10/83, BD 3/93, DA 11/96-SR, DA 5/02-SR, DA 11/06-SR, DA 11/11-SR, DA 12/16-SR]*

Teacher Certification and Ongoing Professional Development

- A. **The NJSBA believes** that teacher certification must be based on demonstrated effective teaching practices and ongoing professional development which fosters continuous quality of instruction throughout a teacher's career.
- B. **The NJSBA believes** that the state's criteria for certification should include mentoring of new teachers and a requirement that all teachers engage in ongoing professional growth during their careers. This continuing education requirement should be designed to promote continued competency, development of teaching skills and increased breadth of knowledge and should be consistent with local professional development plans and individual professional improvement plans. *[Authority: DA 12/75-CR (Certification), DA 5/76-B, BD 6/79, BD 12/82, BD 10/83, BD 3/93, DA 11/96-SR, DA 11/11-SR]*
- C. **The NJSBA believes** that the state's institutions of higher education, individual teachers and the education profession as a whole, need to be partners with the state and local boards of education in supporting continued improvement of instructional techniques through teachers' ongoing professional growth. To support local school district professional development programs, the state should create a funding mechanism and promote collaborative efforts that maximize training resources. *[Authority: DA 12/75-CR (Certification), DA 5/76-B, BD 6/79, BD 12/82, BD 10/83, BD 3/93, DA 11/96-SR, DA 5/02-SR, DA 11/06-SR, DA 11/11-SR, DA 12/16-SR]*

Teaching Endorsement

- A. **The NJSBA believes** that a World Language endorsement should be based on oral proficiency in the designated language. *[Authority: DA 11/00-7]*
- B. **The NJSBA believes** that the New Jersey Department of Education should develop an appropriate, separate endorsement category in the technology area. *[Authority: DA 11/00-5, DA 5/02-SR, DA 11/06-SR, DA 11/11-SR, DA 12/16-SR]*

**Cross References:**

4110	Tenure
4111	Recruitment, selection and hiring
4116	Evaluation
4131	Staff development
4131.1	Inservice education/visitations/conferences
5131.5	Vandalism/violence
5142	Pupil safety
6141	Curriculum design/development
6171.2	Gifted and talented

**Certification** (continued)

4112.2

- 6171.4 Special education
- 6178 Early childhood education/preschool

Key Words: certification, endorsement, professional development