



New Jersey School Boards Association

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August 7, 2019

TESTIMONY ON CHANGES TO *N.J.A.C. 6A:9* and *6A:9B*

The New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) is a federation of the state's local boards of education and includes the majority of New Jersey's charter schools as associate members. NJSBA provides training, advocacy and support to advance public education and promote the achievement of all students through effective governance.

The NJSBA believes that continuous efforts to improve and increase the supply of qualified candidates for school employment are beneficial as long as those efforts do not compromise the quality of the applicant pool.

In October 2018, NJSBA's Task Force on Educational Opportunities for the Non-College-Bound Learner issued its final report. The project's ultimate goal: Identify strategies to better equip students with the skills required in a job market that is rapidly changing due to advances in artificial intelligence, automation, robotics, and other factors. These strategies, reflected in the Task Force's 69 recommendations, encompass best practices by local school districts, changes in state and federal policy, and action by the NJSBA and other stakeholders. The Task Force concluded its work with a clarion call for a reevaluation of the philosophy that guides our educational system, a redefinition of the roles of comprehensive high schools, county vocational-technical school districts and county colleges, and a formal plan for the future of our preK-12 education system.

As part of those 69 recommendations, the task force addressed the shortage of CTE instructors. The task force recommended that:

- NJDOE and the State Board of Education should clarify CTE teacher certification and preparation requirements that contain conflicting and ambiguous provisions involving required levels of education and the substitution of work experience for a college degree.
- NJDOE and the State Board of Education should consider revisions to alternate-route-to-certification qualifications to encourage more skilled individuals to become licensed to teach CTE programs.

- NJDOE and the State Board of Education should relax teacher certification standards in vocational instructional areas to allow credit for years of working experience.
- NJDOE and the State Board of Education should create a new certification category, or amend existing requirements, to enable non-CTE teachers to instruct in the STEM/STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics) learning areas.

Based on these beliefs and recommendations, the NJSBA supports the proposed changes to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9* and *N.J.A.C. 6A:9B* to address the shortage of qualified teachers in career and technical education programs.