



December 7, 2020

**Position Statement
Supporting
S-3187 (Pou)**

Postpones New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) review for certain school districts to accommodate disruption due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), a federation of all local school boards in the state, **supports S-3187**. The NJSBA believes that the Legislature intended the State to determine the broad goals of education (i.e., goals that are commonly considered essential for all students to achieve in order for them to function politically, socially and economically in a democratic society) and to monitor and evaluate local districts to determine whether they are making sufficient progress toward achieving those goals.

NJQSAC is a single, comprehensive accountability system that consolidates and incorporates the monitoring requirements of applicable State and Federal programs. Under NJQSAC, school districts are evaluated in five key component areas of school district effectiveness — instruction and program, personnel, fiscal management, operations, and governance — to determine the extent to which school districts are providing a thorough and efficient education. To accommodate the workload involved in monitoring the school districts in the State, only a certain number of school districts are required to undergo the monitoring in any one year according to a schedule established by the Commissioner of Education. This bill would postpone the comprehensive review under NJQSAC for school districts in order to allow them and the N.J. Department of Education (NJDOE) to focus their time and resources on addressing issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In May 2020, the NJSBA issued [*Searching for a New Normal: A Special Report on the Reopening of New Jersey's Schools*](#). In that report, the NJSBA recommended that districts be given the financial and regulatory flexibility they need by suspending or revising NJQSAC so that districts are not penalized for taking actions necessary to address the pandemic. That same month, the NJDOE provided limited relief to districts by suspending those indicators of NJQSAC that required in-person inspection or interaction. ([See, Rule Modification pursuant](#)

[to Executive Order 103](#)) In August 2020, with districts trying to meet the challenges of safely reopening their schools, the NJSBA issued a second report, [Choosing the Best 'Road Back' for Our Children](#). In that report, the NJSBA renewed its call for further NJQSAC relief during the pandemic. **S-3187 provides districts with that needed relief** while continuing the important collaboration between local districts and the NJDOE to ensure that all children are provided with a thorough and efficient education during these unprecedented times.

The NJSBA urges the Senate Education Committee to unanimously approve S-3187.