



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

JON S. CORZINE
Governor
Commissioner

LUCILLE E. DAVY

March 9, 2009

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Lucille E. Davy
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Revised High School Graduation Requirements

At its February meeting, the State Board of Education approved a proposal to revise high school graduation requirements. These changes are intended to ensure all students are prepared for college and a career in the 21st century. The proposed Standards and Assessment code will be published in the *New Jersey Register* for a 60-day public comment period and can be accessed at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sboe/meetings/2009/February/public/Item%20C.%20High%20School%20Graduation%20Amendments.doc>.

The proposed changes include an increase from 110 to 120 credits in courses designed to meet all of the Core Curriculum Content Standards. There is also an emphasis on aligning teaching and learning to 21st century learning outcomes that promote creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, and communication and collaborating skills.

The proposed requirements include:

- **Language Arts Literacy** – 20 credits aligned to grade 9 to 12 standards;
- **Math** – 15 credits including Algebra I or the content equivalent (effective with the 2008-2009 9th grade class), geometry or the content equivalent (effective 2010-2011 9th grade class), and a third year of math that builds upon Algebra I and geometry and prepares students for college and 21st century careers (effective with the 2012-2013 9th grade class);
- **Science** – 15 credits including laboratory biology or the content equivalent (effective with the 2008-2009 9th grade class); chemistry, environmental science or physics (effective with the 2010-2011 9th grade class); and an additional lab/inquiry-based science (effective with the 2012-2013 9th grade class);
- **Social Studies** – 15 credits including U.S. and world histories, integrated civics, economics, geography and global content;

- **Economics** – 2.5 credits in financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy (effective with the 2010-2011 9th grade class); and
- **Health and Physical Education, Visual and Performing Arts, World Languages, Technological Literacy and Career Education and Consumer, Family and Life Skills** – requirements remain the same.

The revised regulations also include a move to competency or end of course testing at the secondary level. This spring pilot testing will continue for all students who are enrolled in biology classes this year. Pilot testing will also occur in Algebra I and Algebra II for districts who volunteer to participate. The department will provide further updates on the schedule for these tests, and when they count for graduation in the coming months.

There are several other revisions to the Standards and Assessment regulations that implement the essential elements of New Jersey's secondary transformation initiative. The proposal also includes a two-year pilot of personalized student learning plans to follow students from middle school through high school graduation. The personalized plans would set learning goals for students based on their personal, academic and career interests, and would include the involvement of teachers, counselors and parents. Personalized learning plans will be instrumental in discovering how each child learns best and in what subjects and careers he or she holds an interest. Once the pilot is completed, districts will implement based on a phased-in schedule.

Please contact Willa Spicer, Deputy Commissioner, at 609-984-5069 or Jay Doolan, Assistant Commissioner, at 609-292-1083 if you have any questions or comments. You can also provide written comments about the proposal to: President, State Board of Education, with the address of the letterhead on page 1.

LED.JD.hem.Revised.HS.Graduation.Requirements

c: Members, State Board of Education
 Senior Staff
 Kim Belin
 Kathryn Forsyth
 Executive County Superintendents
 NJ LEE Group
 Garden State Coalition of Schools

WELLS, JAWORSKI & LIEBMAN, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Thomas M. Wells (NJ, VT & OH)
James E. Jaworski (NJ & NY)
Stuart D. Liebman (NJ)
James J. Delia (NJ)
Kenneth A. Porro (NJ)
AnnMarie Palermo-Smits (NJ & NY)
Darrell M. Felsenstein (NJ)

Lisa R. Aljian (NJ & NY)
Cheryl Morrissey (NJ & NY)
Of Counsel

Jill F. Rosenfeld (NJ & NY)
Andrew S. Kohut (NJ & NY)
Nicole E. Cleenput (NJ & NY)
Sylvia Hall (NJ & NY)

12 Route 17 North, P.O. Box 1827
Paramus, New Jersey 07653-1827

(201) 587-0888
Telefax (201) 587-8845
(201) 587-0074

www.wellslaw.com

Writer's Email Address:
@wellslaw.com

*Please Reply to
Paramus, New Jersey Office*

*1986-2009
Celebrating 23 Years of Service!*

1040 Ave of the Americas - 24th Flr
New York, New York 10018
(212) 847-9560

55 Madison Avenue, Suite 400
Morristown, New Jersey 07960
(973) 285-3360

10 Stuyvesant Avenue
Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071
(201) 531-8989

149 E. Main Street
Tuckerton, New Jersey 08087
(609) 296-6666

25 D Main Street
Bristol, Vermont 05443
(802) 453-5765

March 6, 2009

Mr. Joseph Abate, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools
Township of Lyndhurst
420 Fern Avenue
Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071

*Re: Lyndhurst Board of Education
Policy Disclaimer*

Dear Mr. Abate:

Kindly note the following as to suggested Policy Disclaimer language:

The employee herein acknowledges receipt of the Lyndhurst Board of Education governance manual. ("Manual") The Manual is a guide for personnel policies, benefits and general information and it is **not** an employee contract and is outside of any applicable collective bargaining agreement. The employee acknowledges that nothing in this Manual constitutes an agreement, contract, promise or guarantee by the Lyndhurst Board of Education to give or maintain any benefit or to continue the employment of any person, unless said employee is subject to an applicable collective bargaining agreement. The employee acknowledges that the policies in this Manual supersede those previously communicated and that the Lyndhurst Board of Education has the right to make changes as it deems appropriate,

WELLS, JAWORSKI, LIEBMAN & PATON, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MR. JOSEPH ABATE, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
TOWNSHIP OF LYNDHURST
March 6, 2009
Page 2 of 2

with or without notice. The employee understands and agrees that the Manual applies to the employer-employee relationship, for all employees including but not limited to both certified and non-certified personnel. **Again, this Manual does not constitute a contract of employment with any employee, staff member or administrator, or a contract for any benefit, procedures, or policies described herein.**

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to Frank DiMaria, Auditor for his review and comment.

Very truly yours,
Dictated by Ken Porro
But Signed in his Absence
To Avoid Delay in Mailing
KAP:ml

cc: Frank DiMaria, Auditor
Nicole E. Cleenput, Esq.