

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The board of education believes that constructive attitudes and concepts involving the dignity of all kinds of work belong in the curriculum from the beginning grades. Therefore, in fulfillment of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, the board shall develop and implement a comprehensive guidance and counseling system that is designed to provide students opportunities to enhance career awareness, exploration, preparation, and decision-making skills necessary for success in the workplace. The board shall ensure that educational programs shall continuously expose pupils to the nature of the wide variety of careers available. The 21st Century Life and Careers Student Learning Standard shall be infused into the curriculum throughout the grades in age appropriate activities. When any hands-on experience requires use of power tools, etc., all eye protection and other appropriate safety regulations shall be observed.

Career Education and Counseling

The board shall develop and implement a comprehensive guidance and academic counseling program for all students to facilitate career awareness, exploration, and preparation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.2. This program shall:

- A. Be linked to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards;
- B. Be infused throughout the K-12 curriculum;
- C. Be supported by professional development programs;
- D. Take into consideration the American School Counselor Association's National Standards for School Counseling Programs;
- E. Provide developmental career guidance and academic counseling linked to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards designed to:
  - 1. Assist students in making and implementing informed educational and career choices, including opportunities to change career focus;
  - 2. Support students' academic attainment, career development, and personal/social development;
  - 3. Develop the student's understanding of the relationship between academic attainment, career development, and personal/social development;
  - 4. Encourage students to create and maintain portfolios consisting of student accomplishments in academic and career oriented work;
- F. The board shall ensure that students with disabilities (age 14 or younger), if determined appropriate by IEP, have career and academic counseling coordinated with transitional services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7;
- G. The board shall develop and implement curriculum and instructional methods that:
  - 1. Are integrated with technological literacy;
  - 2. Provide all students with an understanding of the career application of knowledge and skills learned in the classroom; and
  - 3. Provide all students with the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real or simulated career challenges.
- H. The board will develop and implement for all students a system of career development activities that:

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1. Offers the opportunity to explore career interests within, one or more of the Career Clusters (listed below) that are linked to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards;
  2. Allows district boards of education to select the appropriate format for offering career-development activities based on district resources, community needs and student interest;
  3. Allows the board to select an appropriate delivery format that may include an integrated curriculum based on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards or specialized programs that reflect the needs of students and the community; and
  4. Instills the concept of the need for continuous learning throughout one's life.
- I. The board shall offer all high school students the opportunity to actively explore career interests by participation in structured learning experiences that are linked to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards:
1. Structured learning experiences should give students opportunities to demonstrate and apply a high level of academic attainment and to develop career and personal/social goals;
  2. Interested students may voluntarily select structured learning experiences that are co-curricular or extra-curricular activities and taking place within the school district, at a work site, or in the community;
  3. The board shall ensure students participating in school-sponsored, paid, or unpaid external structured learning experiences are supervised by school personnel and conform to federal and state law.

The board directs the chief school administrator or his or her designee to take reasonable measures to expand student awareness of and encourage participation in fields that are non-traditional for their sex, and to expand both access to and success in high-growth fields for both men and women.

Career and Technical Education Programs

*\*NOTE: THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS FOR DISTRICTS THAT OPERATE APPROVED CAREER TECHNICAL PROGRAMS AND/OR SEND STUDENTS TO COUNTY VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS*

For purposes of this policy, "career and technical education" means organized educational activities that: offer a sequence of courses that provide individuals with the coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further education and careers in current or emerging professions; provide technical skill proficiency, an industry-recognized credential, a certificate, or an associate degree; may include prerequisite courses (other than a remedial course) that meet the requirements of this definition; and include competency-based applied learning that contributes to the academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning and problem-solving skills, work attitudes, general employability skills, technical skills, and occupation-specific skills, and knowledge of all aspects of an industry. To ensure that all students have access to career and technical instruction:

- A. The existence of the same career and technical education program at this district shall not negate a student's right to apply to and, if accepted, attend a county vocational school, subject to the following limitations:
1. The board shall not be responsible for the tuition and transportation costs of any resident student admitted to the vocational school within this county, when the district's vocational school (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:54-5 et seq.), offers the same program as the county vocational school where the student has been admitted. A program shall be deemed the same if it is approved by the Department Education and is assigned the same Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code, and meets or exceeds all applicable program performance standards; and
  2. The board shall not be responsible for the tuition, transportation costs, and nonresident fee (where applicable) of any resident student admitted to a county vocational school outside this county when the district's vocational school (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:54-5 et seq.), or the local county vocational school, offers the same program as the non-resident county vocational school where the student has been admitted. A program shall be deemed the same, for purposes of this section, if it is approved by the Department in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:19-3.1 and 3.2, is assigned the same Classification of

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Instructional Programs (CIP) code, and meets or exceeds all applicable program performance standards.

- B. The chief school administrator shall allow county vocational schools and their designated representatives' reasonable opportunity, during school hours, to present information about the county vocational schools' programs to students in local districts in grades six through 12. The district may not in any manner inhibit student access to such information.

Career and Technical Instruction

Career and technical instruction shall be designed to prepare individuals:

- A. For life skills and paid employment as skilled workers or technicians or paraprofessionals in recognized occupations and in new or emerging job markets;
- B. For enrollment in advanced or highly skilled career and technical education programs;
- C. For making informed and meaningful occupational choices; and
- D. To achieve and combination of the above objectives.

District Career and Vocational Programs

*\*NOTE: THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS FOR DISTRICTS THAT OPERATE APPROVED CAREER AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS OR COUNTY VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS*

The board shall provide secondary and postsecondary students with career and technical education programs and programs of study in Department-recognized Career Clusters that, in fulfillment of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, shall:

- A. Include implementation of curriculum and instructional methods that incorporate academic and technical standards;
- B. Include structured learning experiences (SLE) that are supervised, in-depth learning experiences aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards that are designed to offer students the opportunity to more fully explore career interests within one or more of the Career Clusters. SLEs are designed as rigorous activities that are integrated into the curriculum and that provide students with opportunities to demonstrate and apply a high level of academic and/or technical skills, and develop personal, academic, and career goals;
- C. Address industry standards, where available;
- D. Provide a variety of learning experiences to best serve the multiple learning styles of students;
- E. Provide for multiple pathways to prepare for careers and gainful employment, and/or continuing education, such as college, postsecondary career and technical education, specialized certification, and/or registered apprenticeships;
- F. Encourage life-long learning and productive citizenship.

The chief school administrator shall seek and use all available state, federal and private sources of revenue for the financial support of career and technical education in this district. The chief school administrator will develop regulations by which the career and technical education program shall be annually evaluated.

Levels of Performance

The board of education shall meet the levels of performance prescribed by the Department of Education in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:19-5.1, in the following areas:

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- A. For secondary students, and postsecondary students in two- and four-year institutions of higher education:
1. Academic attainment in reading/language arts;
  2. Technical skill attainment;
  3. Student graduation rates;
  4. Academic attainment in mathematics;
  5. Placement-employment, postsecondary education, or advanced training, or military service;
  6. Non-traditional student participation; and
  7. Non-traditional student completion.
- B. For postsecondary students in county vocational school districts:
1. Technical attainment;
  2. Credential, certificate, or degree attainment;
  3. Placement-employment, further education, or military service;
  4. Retention-education, employment, or military service;
  5. Non-traditional student participation; and
  6. Non-traditional student completion.

All students shall have equal and bias-free access to career and technical education programs and a full range of possible occupational, professional, and career and technical education choices including careers in the science and technology industries and nontraditional careers, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional/sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, pregnancy, disability, English proficiency, immigration status, housing status or socioeconomic status.

The board of education shall strive to make continuous and significant improvement in career and technical achievement of career and technical education students, and levels of performance shall be objective, quantifiable, and measurable. The board shall also identify in the local plans the level of performance targeted for each of the core indicators of performance.

All pupils participating in career and technical education programs supervised by this board or in shared-time programs are considered to be regularly enrolled in the schools of this district, and subject to the policies and rules of this board, including rules regarding attendance for those periods when they are not assigned to outside work projects or other classes.

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Key Words

Career Education, Vocational-technical Education

**New Jersey Career Clusters:**

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources  
 Architecture and Construction  
 Arts, A/V Technology and Communications  
 Business Management and Administration  
 Education and Training  
 Finance  
 Government and Public Administration  
 Health Science  
 Hospitality and Tourism

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Human Services  
 Information Technology  
 Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security  
 Manufacturing  
 Marketing  
 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics  
 Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

<b>Legal References:</b>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:38-36	Employment certificates to part-time pupils; revocation
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-12.1, -12.2	Protective eye devices required for teachers, pupils and visitors in certain cases
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:54-20	Powers of board (county vocational schools)
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:54E-1 through -5	Business and school partnerships
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:7-1.7	Equality in school and classroom practices
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-2.2	Authority for the state plan for vocational education
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-3.2	Career education and counseling
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-5.1	Graduation requirements
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:9B-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	State board of examiners and certification
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:9B-9.4, -11.3, -14.19 through -14.21	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:19-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Career and technical education programs and standards
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:19-1.2, -2.1, -2.3, -3.1, -5.1, -5.2, -6.1, -6.5, -6.7, -6.8	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:23A-17.4	Method of determining tuition rates for county vocational schools
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-12.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Operation and Maintenance of Facilities
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-12.2, -12.5	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:30-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, P.L.109-270

**Possible**

<b>Cross References:</b>	*3220/3230	State funds; federal funds
	*3516	Safety
	*5142	Pupil safety
	*5145.4	Equal educational opportunity
	*6010	Goals and objectives
	*6121	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
	*6141	Curriculum design/development
	*6142.2	English as a second language; bilingual/bicultural

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.