

Accountability Regulations Survey - Business Administrators

Accountability Regulations Introduction

The New Jersey School Boards Association needs your input on a critical issue: New Jersey's school district Accountability Regulations (*N.J.A.C. 6A:-23*), which will sunset in November.

Currently, the NJSBA Accountability Regulations Task Force, formed late last year, is reviewing the regulations, which were first adopted in 2008. The project's goal is development of proposed revisions that will ensure responsible and efficient school business and non-instructional operations without red tape, administrative burden, and additional expense.

The following questions address various provisions of the regulations and their impact on the administration and finances of local school districts. Your input will enable NJSBA to develop recommendations that it will present to the State Board of Education this fall. This survey is being sent separately to school board presidents, superintendents and business administrators, as we are seeking the perspectives of each group. (*Please note: NJSBA will not release the names of respondents or their individual responses when reporting the survey results.*)

1. PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

Name:

School district:

Email address:

2. I am a...

3. County where my school district is located...

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N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3 Administration and Board Member Accountability.

CSA SALARY CAP: Establishes maximum salaries based on district enrollment, with stipends allowed for a shared superintendent position and overseeing a district with a high school. This provision also allows bonuses for achievement merit goals.

4. In my district this provision has been:

- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No impact
- Somewhat detrimental
- Detrimental
- Don't know

Comment

ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT REVIEW: Requires Executive County Superintendents to review contracts for superintendents, assistant superintendents and school business administrators. The review includes all emoluments, including contributions to health benefits costs, sick and vacation leave, and other benefits.

5. In my district, this provision has been:

- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No impact
- Somewhat detrimental
- Detrimental
- Don't know

Comment

**N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5 Additional Measures to Ensure Effective and Efficient Expenditures of Funds
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS: Governs public relations activities and professional
services contracts, including requests for proposals, and sets maximum dollar amounts.**

6. In my district, this provision has been:

- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No impact
- Somewhat detrimental
- Detrimental
- Don't know

Comment

LEGAL SERVICES: Limits who on the school board and in school administration may seek legal advice from the board attorney, and under what circumstances. Establishes procedures to be followed prior to contacting the board attorney.

7. In my district, this provision has been:

- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No impact
- Somewhat detrimental
- Detrimental
- Don't know

Comment

MEALS/REFRESHMENTS: Restricts school district expenditures for certain activities, such as meals and refreshments for employees at back-to-school luncheons and similar events.

8. In my district, this provision has been:

- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No impact
- Somewhat detrimental
- Detrimental
- Don't know

Comment

N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-6 Conditions for Receipt of State Aid

NEPOTISM: Requires school boards to adopt policies addressing employment of "relative" and "immediate family member" that are different than those in the School Ethics Act and sets limits on board member participation in hiring and negotiations.

9. In my district, this provision has been:

- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No impact
- Somewhat detrimental
- Detrimental
- Don't know

Comment

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 School District Travel Policies and Procedures

TRAVEL/TRAINING REIMBURSEMENT: Governs board member travel and professional development, including a 50-mile-from-conference-site limit for reimbursement of overnight travel expenses.

10. In my district, this provision has been:

- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No impact
- Somewhat detrimental
- Detrimental
- Don't know

Comment

PRE-APPROVAL: Requires pre-event approval for board members to attend conferences, training events and programs, unlike the process for employees, who may have an annual pre-set per-person dollar amount to cover travel for training and professional development.

11. In my district, this provision has been:

- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No impact
- Somewhat detrimental
- Detrimental
- Don't know

Other (please specify)

N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-8 Annual Budget Development and Submission

ADMINISTRATIVE SPENDING GROWTH LIMIT: Implements statute that sets a permissible range, limited to 2.5%, for the cumulative annual growth in spending for administrative line items. Included in the administrative spending growth limit are administrators' salaries; principals and assistant principals' salaries; professional services such as attorney and auditor; communications/telephone costs; in-house training and meeting supplies; costs of secretaries and clerks.

12. In my district, this provision has been:

- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No impact
- Somewhat detrimental
- Detrimental
- Don't know

Comment

N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-15 State Aid Calculation and Aid Adjustment for Charter Schools

PAYMENTS TO CHARTER SCHOOLS: Addresses the method of calculating payments to charter schools, by taking an enrollment count once per year and adjusting once at the end of the year.

13. In my district, this provision has been:

- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No impact
- Somewhat detrimental
- Detrimental
- Don't know

Comment

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-17 Tuition Public Schools

PUBLIC SCHOOL TUITION: Prescribes method to determine tuition rates for regular public schools; for a new school district; for county vocational/technical public schools; and for county special services schools.

14. In my district, this provision has been:

- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No impact
- Somewhat detrimental
- Detrimental
- Don't know

Comment

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18 Tuition for Private Schools for Students With Disabilities

PRIVATE SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS: Determines tuition payments by public school districts to private schools for students with disabilities.

15. In my district, this provision has been:

- Beneficial
- Somewhat beneficial
- No impact
- Somewhat detrimental
- Detrimental
- Don't know

Comment