

Regulation 3221

Evaluation of Teachers

A. Definitions – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.2

The following words and terms shall have the following meanings when used in Policy and Regulation 3221 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Announced observation” means the person conducting an evaluation for the purpose of evaluation will notify the teacher of the date and the class period the observation will be conducted.

“Annual performance report” means a written appraisal of the teacher’s performance prepared by the Principal or designee based on the evaluation rubric for his or her position.

“Annual summative evaluation rating” means an annual evaluation rating that is based on appraisals of educator practice and student performance, and includes all measures captured in a teacher’s evaluation rubric. The four summative performance categories are ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective.

“Calibration” in the context of educator evaluation means a process to monitor the competency of a trained evaluator to ensure the evaluator continues to apply an educator practice instrument accurately and consistently according to the standards and definitions of the specific instrument.

“Chief School Administrator” means the Superintendent of Schools or the Administrative Principal if there is no Superintendent.

“Commissioner” means Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education.

“Co-observation” means two or more supervisors who are trained on the practice instrument who observe simultaneously, or at alternate times, the same lesson or portion of a lesson for the purpose of training.

“Corrective Action Plan” means a written plan developed by a teaching staff member serving in a supervisory capacity in collaboration with the teacher to address deficiencies as outlined in an evaluation. The corrective action plan shall include timelines for corrective action, responsibilities of the individual teacher and the school district for implementing the plan, and specific support that the district shall provide.

“Department” means the New Jersey Department of Education.

“District Evaluation Advisory Committee” means a group created to oversee and guide the planning and implementation of the Board of Education's evaluation policies and procedures as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3.

“Educator practice instrument” means an assessment tool that provides: scales or dimensions that capture competencies of professional performance; and differentiation of a range of professional performance as described by the scales, which must be shown in practice and/or research studies. The scores from the teacher practice instrument are components of the teacher’s evaluation rubrics and the scores are included in the summative evaluation rating for the individual.

“Evaluation” means an appraisal of an individual’s professional performance in relation to his or her job description, professional standards, and Statewide evaluation criteria that incorporates analysis of multiple measures of student achievement or growth and multiple data sources.

“Evaluation rubrics” means a set of criteria, measures, and processes used to evaluate all teachers in a specific school district or local education agency. Evaluation rubrics consist of measures of professional practice, based on educator practice instruments and student outcomes. Each Board of Education will have an evaluation rubric specifically for teachers, another specifically for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals, and evaluation rubrics for other categories of teaching staff members.

“Indicators of student progress and growth” means the results of assessment(s) of students as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessment.

“Individual professional development plan” means a written statement of goals developed by a teaching staff member serving in a supervisory capacity in collaboration with a teaching staff member that: aligns with professional standards for teachers set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3.3 and the New Jersey Professional Development Standards; derives from the annual evaluation process; identifies professional goals that address specific individual, district or school needs, or both; and grounds professional development activities in objectives related to improving teaching, learning, and student achievement. The individual professional development plan shall include timelines for implementation, responsibilities of the employee and the school district for implementing the plan, and specific support and periodic feedback that the district shall provide.

“Job description” means a written specification of the function of a position, duties and responsibilities, the extent and limits of authority, and work relationships within and outside the school and school district.

“Long observation” means an observation for the purpose of evaluation that is conducted for a minimum duration of forty minutes or one class period, whichever is shorter.

“Observation” means a method of collecting data on the performance of a teacher's assigned duties and responsibilities. An observation for the purpose of evaluation will be included in the determination of the annual summative evaluation rating and shall be

conducted by an individual employed in the school district in a supervisory role and capacity and possessing a school administrator, Principal, or supervisor endorsement as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-1.1.

“Post-observation conference” means a meeting, either in-person or remotely, between a supervisor who conducted the observation and the teacher for the purpose of evaluation to discuss the data collected in the observation.

“Scoring guide” means a set of rules or criteria used to evaluate a performance, product, or project. The purpose of a scoring guide is to provide a transparent and reliable evaluation process. Educator practice instruments include a scoring guide that an evaluator uses to structure his or her assessments and ratings of professional practice.

“Short observation” means an observation for the purpose of evaluation that is conducted for at least twenty minutes.

“Signed” means the name of one physically written by oneself or an electronic code, sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

“Student growth objective” is an academic goal that teachers and evaluators set for groups of students.

“Student growth percentile” means a specific metric for measuring individual student progress on Statewide assessments by tracking how much a student’s test scores have changed relative to other students Statewide with similar scores in previous years.

“Superintendent” means Superintendent of Schools or Chief School Administrator.

“Supervisor” means an appropriately certified teaching staff member, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, employed in the school district in a supervisory role and capacity, and possessing a school administrator, Principal, or supervisor endorsement as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-1.1.

“Teacher” means a teaching staff member holding the position of teacher and holding a valid and effective standard, provisional, or emergency instructional certificate.

“Teaching staff member” means a member of the professional staff of any district or regional Board of Education, or any county vocational school district Board of Education, holding office, position, or employment of such character that the qualifications for such office, position, or employment require him or her to hold a valid, effective, and appropriate standard, provisional, or emergency certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners. Teaching staff members include the positions of school nurse and school athletic trainer. There are three different types of certificates that teaching staff members work under:

1. An instructional certificate (holders of this certificate are referred to in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. as “teachers”);
2. Administrative certificate; and

3. Educational services certificate.

“Unannounced observation” means the person conducting an observation for the purpose of evaluation will not notify the teacher of the date or time the observation will be conducted.

“Validity” means the extent to which evidence and theory support an interpretation of scores from a measurement instrument for a particular use of the instrument. In the context of evaluating educator practice, this means the evidence gathered using the instrument supports correct and useful inferences and decisions about the effectiveness of the practice observed.

B. Applicability of Rules on Collective Bargaining Agreements – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.3

The rules in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall not override any conflicting provision(s) of collective bargaining agreements or other employment contracts entered into by a school district in effect on July 1, 2013. No collective bargaining agreement entered into after July 1, 2013, shall conflict with the educator evaluation system established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. or any other specific statute or regulation, nor shall topics subject to bargaining involve matters of educational policy or managerial prerogatives.

C. Educator Evaluation Data, Information, and Written Reports – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.4

All information contained in written performance reports and all information collected, compiled, and/or maintained by employees of the Board of Education for the purposes of conducting the educator evaluation process pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall be confidential. Such information shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. Nothing contained in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall be construed to prohibit the Department from, at its discretion, collecting evaluation data pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123.e or distributing aggregate statistics regarding evaluation data.

D. Evaluation of Teachers – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1

1. The Board of Education annually shall adopt evaluation rubrics for teachers. The evaluation rubrics shall have four defined annual ratings: ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective.
2. The evaluation rubrics for teachers shall include all other relevant minimum standards set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123.b. (P.L. 2012, c. 26, § 17c).
3. Evaluation rubrics shall be submitted to the Commissioner by June 1 for approval by August 1 of each year.

E. Duties of the Board of Education – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2

1. The Board of Education shall meet the following requirements for the annual evaluation of teachers, unless otherwise specified:
 - a. Establish a District Evaluation Advisory Committee to oversee and guide the planning and implementation of the Board of Education's evaluation policies and procedures as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq.
 - b. Annually adopt policies and procedures developed by the Superintendent pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4, including the evaluation rubrics approved by the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(c).
 - c. Ensure the Superintendent annually notifies all teachers of the adopted evaluation policies and procedures no later than October 1. If a teacher is hired after October 1, the Board/Superintendent shall notify the teacher of the policies and procedures at the beginning of his or her employment. All teachers shall be notified of amendments to the policy and procedures within ten teacher working days of adoption.
 - d. Annually adopt by June 1, any Commissioner-approved educator practice instruments and, as part of the process described at N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(c), notify the Department which instruments will be used as part of the school district's evaluation rubrics.
 - e. Ensure the Principal of each school within the school district has established a School Improvement Panel pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.1. The panel shall be established annually by August 31 and shall carry out the duties and functions described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2.
 - f. Ensure data elements are collected from the implementation of the teaching practice instrument and store the data in an accessible and usable format. Data elements shall include, but not be limited to, scores or evidence from observations for the purpose of evaluation.
 - g. Ensure each Principal in the district certifies any observer who conducts an observation of a teacher for the purpose of evaluation as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4(h); N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4; and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.4, shall meet the statutory observation requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-119; N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123.b(8); and N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1 and the teacher member of the School Improvement Panel requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2.
2. The Board of Education shall ensure the following training procedures are followed when implementing the evaluation rubric for all teachers and, when applicable, applying the Commissioner-approved educator practice instruments:
 - a. Annually provide training on and descriptions of each component of the evaluation rubric for all teachers who are being evaluated in the school district and provide more thorough training for any teacher who is being

evaluated for the first time. Training shall include detailed descriptions of all evaluation rubric components including, when applicable, detailed descriptions of student achievement measures and all aspects of the educator practice instruments;

- b. Provide training on the teacher practice instrument for any supervisor who will conduct observations for the purpose of evaluation of teachers. Training shall be provided before the observer conducts his or her first observation for the purpose of evaluation;
- c. Annually provide updates and refresher training on the teacher practice instrument for any supervisor who will observe teaching practice for the purpose of increasing accuracy and consistency among observers;
- d. Annually require each supervisor who will conduct observations for the purpose of evaluation of a teacher to complete two co-observations during the academic year:
 - (1) At least one co-observation shall be completed by December 1;
 - (2) Co-observers shall use the double observation to calibrate teacher practice instruments, promote accuracy in scoring, and to continually train themselves on the instrument; and
 - (3) A co-observation may count as a required observation for the purpose of evaluation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4, as long as the observer meets the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.3 and 4.4. A co-observation shall count as one required observation under N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4.
- e. The Superintendent shall annually certify to the Department that all supervisors of teachers in the school district who are utilizing educator practice instruments have completed training on the instrument and its application and have demonstrated competency in applying the educator practice instruments.

F. District Evaluation Advisory Committee – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3

- 1. Members of the District Evaluation Advisory Committee shall include representation from the following groups: teachers from each school level represented in the school district; central office administrators overseeing the teacher evaluation process; supervisors involved in teacher evaluation, when available or appropriate; and administrators conducting evaluations, including a minimum of one administrator conducting evaluations who participates on a School Improvement Panel. Members also shall include the Superintendent, a special education administrator, a parent, and a member of the Board of Education.

2. The Superintendent may extend membership on the District Evaluation Advisory Committee to representatives of other groups.
3. Beginning in 2017-2018, the District Evaluation Advisory Committees shall no longer be required and the Board of Education shall have the discretion to continue the District's Evaluation Advisory Committee.

G. Evaluation Procedures for Teachers – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4

1. The provisions outlined in Policy and Regulation 3221 and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 shall be the minimum requirements for the evaluation procedures for teachers.
2. Evaluation policies and procedures requiring the annual evaluation of all teachers shall be developed under the direction of the Superintendent, who may consult with the District Evaluation Advisory Committee or representatives from School Improvement Panels, and shall include, but not be limited to, a description of:
 - a. Evaluation rubrics for all teachers;
 - b. Roles and responsibilities for implementation of evaluation policies and procedures;
 - c. Job descriptions and evaluation criteria based upon school district goals, student achievement, instructional priorities, and the evaluation regulations set forth in this N.J.A.C. 6A:10 et seq.;
 - d. Methods of data collection and reporting appropriate to each job description, including, but not limited to, the processes for observations for the purpose of evaluation and post-observation conference(s) by the teacher's supervisor, or his or her designee;
 - e. The process for preparation of individual professional development plans; and
 - f. The process for preparation of an annual written performance report by the teacher's supervisor or designee, and an annual summary conference between the teacher and his or her supervisor, or the supervisor's designee.
3. The annual summary conference between the supervisor and the teacher shall be held before the written performance report is filed. The conference shall include, but not be limited to, a review of the following:
 - a. The performance of the teacher based upon the job description and the scores or evidence compiled using the teacher's evaluation rubric, including the teacher practice instrument;

- b. The progress of the teacher toward meeting the objectives of the individual professional development plan or, whenever applicable, the corrective action plan;
 - c. Available indicators or scores of student achievement or growth such as student growth objective scores and student growth percentile scores, as applicable; and
 - d. The preliminary annual written performance report.
 4. If any scores for the teacher's evaluation rubric are not available at the time of the annual summary conference due to pending assessment results, the annual summative evaluation rating shall be calculated once all component ratings are available.
 5. The annual written performance report shall be prepared by the teacher's Principal or designee, and shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. A summative rating based on the evaluation rubric, including a total score for each component as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4;
 - b. Performance area(s) of strength and area(s) needing improvement based upon the job description, observations for the purpose of evaluation and the teacher practice instrument;
 - c. An individual professional development plan developed by the supervisor and the teacher or, when applicable, a corrective action plan from the evaluation year being reviewed in the report; and
 - d. A summary of student achievement scores or growth indicators.
 6. The teacher and the preparer of the annual written performance report shall sign the report within five teacher working days of the review.
 7. The annual summary conference and annual written performance report shall be completed prior to June 30.
 8. The Board of Education shall add all written performance reports and supporting data, including, but not limited to, indicators of student progress and growth for a teacher as part of his or her personnel file. The records shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

H. Corrective Action Plans for Teachers – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5

1. For each teacher rated ineffective or partially effective on the annual summative evaluation rating, as measured by the evaluation rubrics, a corrective action plan

shall be developed by the teacher and the Superintendent or the teacher's supervisor.

2. If the summative evaluation rating is calculated before the end of the school year, then the corrective action plan shall be developed and the teacher and his or her supervisor shall meet to discuss the corrective action plan prior to September 15 of the following school year. The conference to develop and discuss the corrective action plan may be combined with the teacher's annual summary conference that occurs at the end of the year of evaluation.
3. If the ineffective or partially effective summative evaluation rating is received after the start of the school year following the year of evaluation, then a corrective action plan must be developed, and the teacher and his or her supervisor shall meet to discuss the corrective action plan within fifteen teacher working days following the school district's receipt of the teacher's summative rating.
4. The content of the corrective action plan shall replace the content of the individual professional development plan required in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.4(c) and 15.7(c) until the next annual summary conference.
5. The content of the corrective action plan shall:
 - a. Address areas in need of improvement identified in the teacher evaluation rubric;
 - b. Include specific, demonstrable goals for improvement;
 - c. Include responsibilities of the evaluated employee and the school district for the plan's implementation; and
 - d. Include timelines for meeting the goal(s).
6. The teacher's supervisor, or his or her designee, and the teacher on a corrective action plan shall discuss the teacher's progress toward the goals outlined in the corrective action plan during each post-observation conference, when required by N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1 or N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4.
7. Progress toward the teacher's goals outlined in the corrective action plan, and data and evidence collected by the supervisor and/or the teacher to determine progress between the time the corrective action plan began and the next annual summary conference, shall be documented in the teacher's personnel file and reviewed at the annual summary conference or the mid-year evaluation.
8. Progress toward the teacher's goals outlined in the corrective action plan may be used as evidence in the teacher's next annual summative evaluation; however,

such progress shall not guarantee an effective rating on the next summative evaluation.

9. Responsibilities of the evaluated teacher on a corrective action plan shall not be exclusionary of other plans for improvement determined to be necessary by the teacher's supervisor.
 10. The School Improvement Panel shall ensure teachers with a corrective action plan receive a mid-year evaluation as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:6-120.c. If the corrective action plan was created on or prior to September 15 of the academic year, the mid-year evaluation shall occur before February 15; if the corrective action plan was created after September 15, the mid-year evaluation shall occur before the annual summary conference. The mid-year evaluation shall include, at a minimum:
 - a. One observation in addition to the observations required in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4 for the purpose of evaluation as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.2 and described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4(a), the length of which shall be determined by the Superintendent or the Principal and shall be the same length for all teachers with a corrective action plan; and
 - b. One post-observation conference in addition to the observations required in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.2 and described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4(b), during which progress toward the teacher's goals outlined in the corrective action plan shall be reviewed.
 11. Tenured teachers with a corrective action plan shall be observed by multiple observers for the purpose of evaluation as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4(c)2.
- I. School Improvement Panel – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3 et seq.
1. School Improvement Panel Membership – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.1
 - a. The School Improvement Panel shall include the Principal, a Vice Principal, and a teacher who is chosen in accordance with b. below by the Principal in consultation with the majority representative. The Principal may appoint additional members to the School Improvement Panel as long as all members meet the criteria outlined in this section and N.J.S.A. 18A:6-120.a and the teacher(s) on the panel represents at least one-third of its total membership.
 - b. The Principal annually shall choose the teacher(s) on the School Improvement Panel through the following process:
 - (1) The teacher member shall be a person with a demonstrated record of success in the classroom. Beginning in academic year 2015-

2016, a demonstrated record of success in the classroom means the teacher member shall have been rated effective or highly effective in the most recent available annual summative rating.

(2) The majority representative, in accordance with a. above, may submit to the Principal, teacher member nominees for consideration.

(3) The Principal shall have final decision making authority and is not bound by the majority representative's list of nominees.

c. The teacher member shall serve a full academic year, except in case of illness or authorized leave, but may not be appointed more than three consecutive years.

d. All members of the School Improvement Panel shall be chosen by August 31 of each year.

2. School Improvement Panel Responsibilities – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2

a. The School Improvement Panel shall:

(1) Oversee the mentoring of teachers according to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8 and support the implementation of the school district mentoring plan;

(2) Conduct evaluations of teachers pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 and 4.4;

(3) Ensure corrective action plans for teachers are created in accordance to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5(j); and conduct mid-year evaluations for teachers who are on a corrective action plan; and

(4) Identify professional development opportunities for all teachers based on the review of aggregate school-level data, including, but not limited to, educator evaluation and student performance data to support school-level professional development plans described in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.5.

b. To conduct observations for the purpose of evaluation, the teacher member shall have:

(1) Agreement of the majority representative;

(2) An appropriate supervisory certificate; and

(3) Approval of the Principal who supervises the teacher being observed.

c. The teacher member who participates in the evaluation process shall not serve concurrently as a mentor under N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.4.

J. Components of Teacher Evaluation Rubric – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.1

1. The components of the teacher evaluation rubric described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.1 et seq. shall apply to teachers holding the position of teacher and holding a valid and effective standard, provisional, or emergency instructional certificate.

2. Evaluation rubrics for all teachers shall include the requirements described in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123, including, but not limited to:

a. Measures of student achievement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.2; and

b. Measures of teacher practice determined through a teacher practice instrument and other measures described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.3 and 4.4.

3. Each measure shall be converted to a percentage weight so all measures make up 100 percent of the evaluation rubric. By April 15 prior to the school year the evaluation rubric applies, the Department shall provide on its website the required percentage weight of each measure. All components shall be worth the following percentage weights or fall within the following ranges:

a. If, according to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.2(b), a teacher receives a median student growth percentile, the student achievement component shall be at least forty percent and no more than fifty percent of a teacher's evaluation rubric rating as determined by the Department.

b. If, according to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.2(b), a teacher does not receive a median student growth percentile, the student achievement component shall be at least fifteen percent and no more than fifty percent of a teacher's evaluation rubric rating as determined by the Department.

c. Measures of teacher practice described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.3 and 4.4 shall be at least fifty percent and no more than eighty-five percent of a teacher's evaluation rubric rating as determined by the Department.

4. Standardized tests, used as a measure of student progress, shall not be the predominant factor in determining a teacher's annual summative rating.

K. Student Achievement Components – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.2

1. Measures of student achievement shall be used to determine impact on student learning. The measures shall include the following components pursuant to 2. below and, when required by the Department, as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.1(c):
 - a. The median student growth percentile of all students assigned to a teacher, which shall be calculated as set forth in 3. below; and
 - b. Student growth objective(s), which shall be specific and measurable, based on available student learning data, aligned to the Core Curriculum Content Standards, and based on growth and/or achievement.
 - (1) For teachers who teach subjects or grades not covered by the Core Curriculum Content Standards, student growth objective(s) shall align to standards adopted or endorsed, as applicable, by the State Board.
2. The median student growth percentile shall be included in the annual summative rating of a teacher who:
 - a. Teaches at least one course or group within a course that falls within a standardized-tested grade or subject. The Department shall maintain on its website a course listing of all standardized-tested grades and subjects for which student growth percentile can be calculated pursuant to 4. below;
 - b. Teaches the course or group within the course for at least sixty percent of the time from the beginning of the course to the day of the standardized assessment; and
 - c. Has at least twenty individual student growth percentile scores attributed to his or her name during the academic year of the evaluation. If a teacher does not have at least twenty individual student growth percentile scores in a given academic year, a maximum of three years of student growth percentiles may be used, including the academic year of the latest summative evaluation rating.
3. The Department shall calculate the median student growth percentile for teachers using students assigned to the teacher by the school district.
4. The Department shall periodically collect data that include, but are not limited to, component-level scores. For teachers who have a student growth percentile score:
 - a. The Board of Education shall submit to the Department final ratings for all components, other than the student growth percentile, for the annual summative rating; and

teacher practice instrument. Observations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4 shall be used as one form of evidence for the measurement.

M. Teacher Observations – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4

1. For the purpose of teacher evaluation, observers shall conduct the observations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123.b.(8) and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5 and 3.2, and they shall be trained pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(b).
2. Observation conferences shall include the following procedures:
 - a. A supervisor who is present at the observation shall conduct a post-observation conference with the teacher being observed. A post-observation conference shall occur no more than fifteen teaching staff member working days following each observation. A pre-conference shall be required pursuant to 4. below.
 - b. The post-observation conference shall be for the purpose of reviewing the data collected at the observation, connecting the data to the teacher practice instrument and the teacher's individual professional development plan, collecting additional information needed for the evaluation of the teacher, and offering areas to improve effectiveness.
 - c. If agreed to by the teacher, post-observation conferences for short observations of tenured teachers who are not on a corrective action plan may be conducted via written communication, including electronic communications.
 - d. A pre-conference, when required, shall occur within seven teaching staff member working days prior to the observation, not including the day of the observation.
3. Each teacher shall be observed as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4, at least three times during each school year, but not less than once during each semester. For all teachers, at least one of the required observations shall be announced and preceded by a pre-conference, and at least one of the required observations shall be unannounced. The Superintendent shall decide whether the third required observation is announced or unannounced. The following additional requirements shall apply:
 - a. Nontenured teachers shall receive a minimum of three observations within the timeframe set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1, and observations for all other teachers shall occur prior to the annual summary conference, which shall occur prior to the end of the academic school year.

- b. Teachers on a corrective action plan shall receive observations within the timeline set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5.
 - c. Nontenured teachers shall be observed during the course of the year by more than one appropriately certified supervisor, either simultaneously or separately, by multiple observers, with the following provisions:
 - (1) A co-observation shall fulfill the requirement in this section for multiple observers.
 - (2) One co-observation shall count as one observation required in 4. below.
 - d. One post-observation conference may be combined with a teacher's annual summary conference as long as it occurs within the required fifteen teaching staff member working days following the observation for the purpose of evaluation.
 - e. A written evaluation report shall be signed by the supervisor who conducted the observation and post-observation and the teacher who was observed.
 - f. The teacher shall submit his or her written objection(s) of the evaluation within ten teacher working days following the conference. The objection(s) shall be attached to each party's copy of the annual written performance report.
4. Each observation required for the purpose of evaluations shall be conducted for the minimum duration based on the following groups:
- a. A nontenured teacher who is in his or her first or second year of teaching in the school district shall receive at least two long observations and one short observation.
 - b. A nontenured teacher who is in his or her third or fourth year of teaching in the school district shall receive at least one long observation and two short observations.
 - c. A tenured teacher shall receive at least three short observations.

N. Teacher Practice Instrument – N.J.A.C. 6A:10-6.2

- 1. The teacher practice instrument approved by the Department shall meet the following criteria:

- a. Include domains of professional practice that align to the New Jersey Professional Standards for Teachers pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3;
 - b. Include scoring guides for assessing teacher practice that differentiate among a minimum of four levels of performance, and the differentiation has been shown in practice and/or research studies. Each scoring guide shall:
 - (1) Clearly define the expectations for each rating category;
 - (2) Provide a conversion to the four rating categories: ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective;
 - (3) Be applicable to all grades and subjects; or to specific grades and/or subjects if designed explicitly for the grades and/or subjects; and
 - (4) Use clear and precise language that facilitates common understanding among teachers and administrators.
 - c. Rely, to the extent possible, on specific, discrete, observable, and/or measurable behaviors of students and teachers in the classroom with direct evidence of student engagement and learning; and
 - d. Include descriptions of specific training and implementation details required for the instrument to be effective.
2. For Commissioner-approval of a teacher practice instrument in 2015 or any year thereafter, the instrument shall include a process to assess competency on the evaluation instrument which the school district may choose to use as a measure of competency.

Adopted: 25 September 2008

Revised: 23 January 2014