

CHAPTER 171

AN ACT concerning required instruction for teachers and supplementing chapter 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.18A:26-2.8 Instruction in autism, developmental disabilities awareness, teaching methods, required for N.J. instructional certificate.

1. Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, a regionally-accredited institution of higher education offering coursework for a New Jersey instructional certificate shall incorporate the recommendations developed by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 2 of this act on instruction in autism and other developmental disabilities awareness and methods of teaching students with autism and other developmental disabilities into existing course curriculum.

C.18A:26-2.9 Recommendations for autism, developmental disabilities awareness instruction, teaching methods.

2. a. The Commissioner of Education shall develop recommendations for autism and other developmental disabilities awareness instruction and methods of teaching students with autism and other developmental disabilities for teacher preparation programs in accordance with section 1 of this act and shall submit the recommendations to the State Board of Education. In developing the recommendations, the commissioner shall consult with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, representatives from entities that promote awareness about autism and other developmental disabilities and provide programs and services to people with autism and other developmental disabilities, including, but not limited to Autism Speaks, The Autism Center of New Jersey Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, and representatives of the education community, including, but not limited to the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, and the New Jersey Professional Teaching Standards Board.

b. The Commissioner of Education shall develop recommendations to incorporate autism and other developmental disabilities awareness instruction and methods of teaching students with autism and other developmental disabilities for teacher and paraprofessional in-service and other training programs, where appropriate, and shall submit the recommendations to the State board. In developing the recommendations, the commissioner shall consult with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, representatives from entities that promote awareness about autism and other developmental disabilities and provide programs and services to people with autism and other developmental disabilities, including, but not limited to Autism Speaks, The Autism Center of New Jersey Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, and representatives of the education community, including, but not limited to the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, and the New Jersey Professional Teaching Standards Board.

c. The recommendations developed by the commissioner pursuant to subsections a. and b. of this section shall address the following:

- (1) characteristics of students with autism and other developmental disabilities;

- (2) curriculum planning, curricular and instructional modifications, adaptations, and specialized strategies and techniques;
- (3) assistive technology; and
- (4) inclusive educational practices, including collaborative partnerships.

C.18A:26-2.10 Regulations.

3. The State Board of Education, based upon the recommendations developed by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 2 of this act, shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved September 12, 2007.