

R 3240 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS  
AND SCHOOL LEADERS

**A. Definitions (N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-2.1)**

1. The definitions set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-2.1 shall apply to the words and terms used in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-3 et seq. and 6A:9C-4 et seq. and Policy and Regulation 3240.

**A.B. Components of Professional Development – Definition (N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.2)**

1. Professional development shall align with the Professional Standards for Teachers and the Professional Standards for School Leaders in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3, the standards for ~~be comprised of~~ professional learning opportunities aligned with student learning and educator development needs; and school, school district, and/or State improvement goals.
2. ~~Professional development shall have as its primary focus the improvement of teachers' and school leaders' effectiveness in assisting all students to meet the Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS).~~
- 3.2 Professional development shall encompass a broad range of professional learning that contributes to improved practice, including, but not limited to, include participation in the work of established collaborative teams of teachers, school leaders, and other administrative, instructional, and educational services staff members who commit to working together to accomplish common goals and who are engaged in a continuous cycle of professional improvement focused on:
  - a. Evaluating student learning needs through ongoing reviews of data on student performance; and
  - b. Defining a clear set of educator learning goals based on the rigorous analysis of these data on student performance.



**3** ~~4~~. Professional learning shall incorporate coherent, sustained, and evidenced-based strategies that improve educator effectiveness and student achievement, **such as** ~~including~~ job-embedded coaching or other forms of assistance to support educators' transfer of new knowledge and skills to their work.

**4** ~~5~~. Professional **learning** ~~development~~ may be supported by external expert assistance or additional activities that:

- a. Address defined student and educator learning goals;
- b. Advance primarily ongoing school-based professional **learning** ~~development~~; and
- c. Include, but are not limited to, courses, workshops, institutes, networks, and conferences provided by for-profit and nonprofit entities outside the school such as universities, educational service agencies, technical assistance providers, networks of content specialists, and other education organizations and associations.

~~6. Professional development shall align with the professional standards for teachers and school leaders in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3 and the Standards for Professional Learning in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.3.~~

**C** ~~B~~. Standards for Professional Learning (N.J.A.C. ~~6A:9-15.3~~) **6A:9C-3.3**

1. Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and improves results for all students shall be guided by the following standards:
  - a. Learning communities: Occurs within learning communities committed to continuous improvement, collective responsibility, and goal alignment;
  - b. Leadership: Requires skillful leaders who develop capacity, advocate, and create support systems for professional learning;



# REGULATION

## BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS  
R 3240/Page 3 of 15  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- c. Resources: Requires prioritizing, monitoring, and coordinating resources for educator learning;
- d. Data: Uses a variety of sources and types of student, educator, and system data to plan, assess, and evaluate professional learning;
- e. Learning designs: Integrates theories, research, and models of human learning to achieve its intended outcomes;
- f. Implementation: Applies research on change and sustains support for implementation of professional learning for long-term change; and
- g. Outcomes: Aligns its outcomes with educator performance and student curriculum standards.

~~2. The standards in 1.a. through g. above shall serve as indicators to guide the policies, activities, facilitation, implementation, management, and evaluation of professional development.~~

**D.C.** Requirements for **and Implementation of Teachers'** Individual ~~Teacher~~ Professional Development ~~Planning and Implementation~~ (N.J.A.C. ~~6A:9-15.4~~ **6A:9C-4.4**)

- 1. ~~To meet the professional development requirement,~~ **E**ach teacher shall be guided by an individualized Professional Development Plan (PDP), **pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-128.a** which shall include at least twenty hours per year of qualifying **experiences activities**. The twenty-hour annual requirement shall be **based on the length of full-time employment or an absence, including reduced by a pro rata share reflecting** the use of family or medical leave.
- 2. The content of each **individual** PDP shall be developed by each teacher's supervisor, in consultation with the teacher, and shall align with the Professional Standards for Teachers in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3 and the Standards for Professional Learning in N.J.A.C. ~~6A:9-15.3~~ **6A:9C-3.3**.



# REGULATION

## BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS  
R 3240/Page 4 of 15  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

3. The PDP **individual** shall be effective for one year, **updated annually**, and **modified during the year, as necessary, and** shall specify, at least **a minimum**:
  - a. One area for development of professional practice derived from the results of observations and evidence accumulated through the teacher's annual performance evaluation; **and**
  - b. ~~As appropriate, an additional~~ **One** area for development of professional practice **derived from individual** ~~aligned to the teacher's role as a member of his or her collaborative professional learning team, school, or school district improvement goals.~~
  - c. ~~As appropriate, an additional area for development of professional practice aligned with school and/or district improvement goals as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.5 and 15.6; and~~
  - d. ~~Any requirements for professional development stipulated elsewhere in statute or regulation.~~
4. **P**rogress ~~of~~ **on the individual PDP** shall be discussed at the **annual summary conference, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4, but may occur more frequently throughout the year** ~~each teacher in meeting the goals of the PDP must be determined annually and aligned to the district or applicable nonpublic school process for teacher evaluation.~~
5. **Evidence of P**rogress **toward meeting the requirements of the teacher's** ~~on the~~ **individual PDP may be provided by the teacher and/or his or her supervisor, and shall be reviewed as part of each annual summary conference** ~~must be discussed during a minimum of one annual conference between the teacher and his or her supervisor.~~
6. ~~Each teacher shall provide evidence of progress toward meeting the requirements of his or her individual PDP, and this evidence must be reviewed as part of each conference.~~



~~7. The PDP shall be revised at a minimum annually, but may be adjusted as necessary to support the teacher's progress.~~

**68.** All teachers governed by the professional development requirements shall have an individual PDP within thirty instructional days of the beginning of their respective teaching assignments.

~~9. The Board of Education shall ensure all teachers receive the necessary opportunities, support, and resources to engage in ongoing professional learning and to complete the requirements of their respective PDPs.~~

**710.** A teacher's individual PDP goals may necessitate more than the recommended minimum requirements outlined in N.J.A.C. ~~6A:9-15~~ **6A:9C-4** et seq.

**811.** Additional hours of qualifying **experiences** ~~activities~~ may be required for teachers in low-performing schools, as determined by the Commissioner of Education.

**9.** The teacher's designated supervisor shall:

**a.** Use the teacher performance evaluation process and the professional development planning process to monitor each teacher's progress in meeting the professional development requirements and shall take appropriate steps to assure such progress. If a teacher's progress is found to be inadequate, the teacher's designated supervisor shall take appropriate remedial action by applying sound and accepted principles of progressive supervision and other appropriate means; and

**b.** Maintain accurate records of each teacher's progress in meeting the individual professional development requirements, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.3 and N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.4. Such records shall include a copy of each teacher's current PDP and timeline, as well as any documentation and evidence showing the teacher's progress toward meeting the plan's requirements.



# REGULATION

## BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS  
R 3240/Page 6 of 15  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**10. If a teacher leaves the employ of one New Jersey school district and is hired by another, the previous employing school district shall share with the new employing school district the teacher's individual PDP and all supporting documentation. If the current individual PDP is found to be unsuitable to the teacher's new assignment, the new employing school district shall ensure a revised individual PDP and timeline is created within thirty days of hire by the employee's new supervisor in collaboration with the new teacher.**

D. ~~Requirements for~~ School-Level **Plan for Professional Development Planning and Implementation (N.J.A.C. ~~6A:9-15.5~~ 6A:9C-4.2)**

1. The Principal shall oversee the development and implementation of a plan for school-level professional development **and shall ensure:**

**2** a. The school-level professional development plan shall include a description of school-level and team-based professional learning aligned with identified school goals, and **includes** teacher and student learning needs; **and**

b. **All teachers receive the necessary opportunities, support and resources to complete individual professional development requirements pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.4(a).**

23. The school-level plan shall become part of the **school district plan for district's** professional development **plan** **overseen and reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools Board of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.6.**

~~4. The school level professional development plan shall go into effect for the 2013-2014 school year.~~

~~5. The Principal shall ensure all teachers receive the necessary opportunities, support, and resources to complete professional development requirements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.4(a).~~



**F E.** Requirements for District-Level **Plans for** Professional Development Planning and Implementation (N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.6)

**1.** The school district plan shall provide information on school-level and district-wide professional development learning opportunities, the resources being allocated toward their support, a justification for the expenditures, and include any professional development required by statute or regulation

**21.** The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall oversee the development and implementation of **the school district** plans to address the school district's professional development needs **and shall review on an annual basis the school district plan to assess its effectiveness and revise it, as necessary, to meet the school district's learning goals for students, teachers, and school leaders.** ~~School districts sending to the same middle and/or high school may form a regional consortium to develop one district wide plan based on the sending schools' plans.~~

**32.** **When overseeing and reviewing the school district plan, the Superintendent or designee** ~~The Superintendent~~ shall:

- a. Review school-level professional development plans;
- b. Assess the learning needs of students, teachers, and school leaders based on educator evaluation data, school-level plan, and data from school- and district-level performances;
- c. Plan, support, and implement professional ~~development~~ **learning** activities that address the CCCS, and that align with the Standards for Professional Learning in N.J.A.C. ~~6A:9-15.3~~ **6A:9C-3.3** and the Professional Standards for Teachers and School Leaders in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3; ~~and~~
- d. Develop and update, as necessary, the district mentoring plan for **non-tenured teachers including novice professional teachers who hold a CE or CEAS,** ~~new teachers~~ in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.4.
- e. **Present the plan to the Board of Education to review for fiscal; impact; and**



# REGULATION

## BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS  
R 3240/Page 8 of 15  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**f. Certify annually to the Department of Education, through a statement of assurance, that the school district is meeting the requirements for the school district plan as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.2 and that it includes requirements of the district mentoring plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.3.**

4. School districts sending to the same middle and/or high school may form a regional consortium to develop one district-wide plan based on the sending schools' plan.

~~3. The Superintendent shall review on an annual basis the school district plan to assess its effectiveness and revise it as necessary to meet the school district's learning goals for students, teachers, and school leaders.~~

~~4. The school district plan shall provide information on school level and district wide professional development opportunities, the resources being allocated toward their support, and a justification for the expenditures.~~

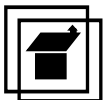
~~5. The school district plan shall include any professional development required by statute or regulation.~~

~~6. The Superintendent shall be responsible for the content and implementation of the district professional development plan. The Superintendent shall present the plan to the Board of Education to review for fiscal impact.~~

**GF. Requirement for and Implementation of School Leaders' the Professional Development Plan Requirement for School Leaders (N.J.A.C. ~~6A:9-15.7~~ 6A:9C-4.3)**

~~1. The Board of Education shall oversee and review for the Superintendent professional development that links to individual, school, and district professional development goals and to the school district's professional development plan.~~

~~2. The Superintendent shall oversee and review for each Principal and Supervisor professional development that links to individual,~~





# REGULATION

## BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS  
R 3240/Page 9 of 15  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

school, and district professional development goals and the school district's professional development plan.

13. Each school leader ~~The Superintendent, Principals, and Supervisors~~ shall **create, implement, and complete an** fulfill the professional development requirement through the creation, implementation, and completion of a **individual** professional development plan **PDP** that:
  - a. Aligns with the Professional Standards for School Leaders set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3.4 and the Standards for Professional Learning in N.J.A.C. ~~6A:9-15.3~~ **6A:9C3.3**;
  - b. Derives from the results of observations, evidence, and recommendations included in the annual performance evaluation of the **school leader** ~~Superintendent, Principals, or Supervisors~~;
  - c. Identifies professional **learning** goals that address specific individual, school, or school district goals; ~~and~~
  - d. Grounds professional **learning** ~~development activities~~ in objectives related to improving teaching, learning, and student achievement, and **aligns to the** ~~in support of the school and/or school district professional development plan.~~ **;and**
  - e. **Includes training on: school law, ethics, and governance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-8.2 and other statutory requirements related to student safety, bullying and harassment, and well-being.**
2. **The Superintendent of Schools shall develop an individual PDP for review by the Board of Education. In developing the individual PDP, the following process shall be followed:**
  - a. **The Board shall review the Superintendent's individual PDP, including the individual training needs pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.3(a)5, and shall ensure the**



**individual PDP aligns to school district goals and to the school district's plan for professional development.**

- b. The Superintendent shall submit annually to the Board evidence of progress toward completion of the individual PDP. The Superintendent also shall submit every three to five years, depending on the length of his or her contract with the Board, summative evidence of plan completion.**
  - c. The Superintendent may appeal to the Executive County Superintendent if he or she disagrees with the Board regarding PDP contents or progress toward completion. The Executive County Superintendent shall have final decision-making authority on all such matters.**
- 3. Leaders whose positions require a Principal or supervisor endorsement, or whose positions require a Chief School Administrator endorsement but who do not serve as a Chief School Administrator or Superintendent of a school district, shall develop in collaboration with the Superintendent or designee an individual PDP and shall provide evidence of progress toward fulfillment of his or her plan. Each Superintendent or designee shall:**
  - a. Review each Principal's, supervisor's, or other school leader's individual PDP, including the individual training needs pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.3(a)5, and shall ensure it aligns to school and school district goals and the school district's plan for professional development;**
  - b. Meet with the Principal, supervisor, or other school leader at mid-year to assess progress toward his or her PDP's completion or modification; and**
  - c. Review the individual PDP's status as part of the Principal's, supervisor's, or other school leader's annual performance evaluation.**



# REGULATION

## BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS  
R 3240/Page 11 of 15  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**4. The school leader's designated supervisor, or the Board of Education in the case of the Superintendent, shall:**

**a. Use the performance evaluation process and professional development planning process to monitor the school leader's progress in meeting the professional development requirements. If a school leader's progress is found to be inadequate, the school leader's designated supervisor or the Board shall take appropriate remedial action by applying sound and accepted principles of progressive supervision and other appropriate means; and**

**b. Maintain accurate records of each school leader's progress in meeting the individual professional development requirements, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.3. Such records shall include a copy of each school leader's current PDP and timeline, as well as any documentation and evidence showing the school leader's progress toward meeting the plan's requirements.**

**5. If a school leader leaves the employ of one New Jersey school district and is hired by another, the school leader's designated supervisor, or the Board of Education in the case of the Superintendent, shall ensure a revised individual PDP appropriate to the new assignment is developed in collaboration with the school leader.**

~~4. Each active school leader shall be required to provide evidence of progress toward fulfillment of his or her plan. Evidence shall include:~~

~~a. A narrative account detailing plan goals and their achievement; and~~

~~b. Documentation of professional growth activities such as school based learning activities, training, university coursework, action research, and study groups. Study~~



# REGULATION

## BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS  
R 3240/Page 12 of 15  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

groups may include school, district, county and/or State associations and organizations, school and district collaborative teams, and virtual learning communities.

5. Leaders whose positions require a Principal or Supervisor endorsement shall have an annual plan developed in collaboration with the Superintendent or designee holding a Chief School Administrator endorsement.
6. Leaders whose positions require a Chief School Administrator's endorsement, but who do not serve as a Chief School Administrator of the school district, shall have an annual plan developed in collaboration with the Superintendent or designee holding a Chief School Administrator endorsement.
7. The Superintendent or designee holding a Chief School Administrator endorsement shall meet with Principals, Supervisors, or other school administrators at mid year to assess progress toward completion or modification of the plan.
8. The Superintendent or designee holding a Chief School Administrator endorsement shall review the status of the professional development plan as part of the Principals', Supervisors', or other district administrators' annual performance evaluation.
9. The Superintendent shall develop a professional development plan for review by the Board of Education.
10. The Superintendent shall provide to the Board of Education annual evidence of progress toward completion of the professional development plan and summative evidence of plan completion every three to five years, depending on the Superintendent's contract with the Board of Education.
11. In cases where there is disagreement between the Superintendent and the Board of Education regarding plan contents or progress toward completion, the Superintendent may appeal to the Executive County Superintendent, who will have final decision-making authority on all such matters.



**G. Requirements for School Leader Professional Development in Ethics, Law, and Governance (N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.8)**

1. All professional development plans for active school leaders serving on a permanent or interim basis whose positions require possession of a Chief School Administrator, Principal, or Supervisor endorsement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-12.3 shall ensure the completion of appropriate training on: school law, ethics, and governance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-8.2; and other statutory requirements related to student safety and well-being. To meet this ongoing requirement, the specific training needs of each school leader will be reviewed annually as part of the professional development planning process.

**H. Monitoring and Assistance (N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.9)**

1. The Board of Education shall monitor and enforce the professional development requirements for teachers and school leaders set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15 et seq.
2. The Board of Education shall actively assist and support the provision of opportunities and resources, and the efforts by teachers and school leaders to meet the professional development requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.1 et seq.
3. To ensure that the professional development requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15 et seq. reflect a policy of continuous improvement, constructive support, and timely intervention, the Department of Education shall establish accountability procedures pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30.
4. It is the responsibility of supervisors and school district administrators through the teacher performance evaluation process and the professional development planning process to monitor each teacher's progress in meeting the professional development requirements and to take appropriate steps to assure such progress.



# REGULATION

## BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS  
R 3240/Page 14 of 15  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In any instance where a teacher's progress is found to be inadequate, the school district administration shall take appropriate remedial action by applying sound and accepted principles of progressive supervision and other appropriate means.

5. It is the responsibility of a school leader's immediate supervisor, or the Board of Education in the case of the Superintendent, to monitor each school leader's progress in meeting the professional development requirements. Monitoring shall be accomplished through the performance evaluation and professional development planning processes. In any instance where a school leader's progress is found to be inadequate, the school leader's immediate supervisor or Board of Education shall take appropriate remedial action.

6. The school district administration shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records of each educator's progress in meeting the professional development requirements outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15 et seq. Such records shall include a copy of each educator's current professional development plan and timeline, as well as any documentation and evidence showing the educator's progress toward meeting the plan's requirements.

7. If a teacher leaves the employ of one New Jersey school district and is hired by another, the previous employing school district must share with the new employing school district the teacher's PDP and all supporting documentation. If the current professional development plan is found to be unsuitable to the teacher's new assignment, the new employing school district must ensure a revised professional development plan and timeline are created within thirty days of hire by the employee's new supervisor in collaboration with the new teacher.

8. If a school leader leaves the employ of one New Jersey school district and is hired by another, the new employing school district or Board of Education shall ensure that a revised professional development plan appropriate to the new assignment is developed in collaboration with the school leader.



# REGULATION

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BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS  
R 3240/Page 15 of 15  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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