



**TESTIMONY ON THE NJ QUALITY SINGLE ACCOUNTABILITY CONTINUUM  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
January 4, 2012**

The New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), a federation of 587 local school districts with 62 associate charter school members, thanks the State Board of Education for the opportunity to share its beliefs concerning the NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC).

The NJSBA believes the state should regularly monitor school districts' progress toward achieving their established goals, objectives and standards. The NJSBA believes that it is the responsibility of the State to see that the resources necessary to achieve goals are available and used efficiently. To these ends, the proposed N.J.A.C. 6A:30 streamlines the NJQSAC process, making monitoring more efficient and less time-consuming for districts and allowing districts to utilize limited administrative resources in a better fashion. The proposed amendments to the NJQSAC process will allow districts to focus attention and resources on factors that directly impact student achievement, fiscal accountability and local district governance. The amendments to the NJQSAC process create a more concise self-evaluation for districts while enabling the system to continue serving as an accountability tool for the Department.

The proposed streamlined process reduces the number of indicators from 334 to 54. However, it maintains the rigorous standards necessary for excellence as districts would still need to achieve 80 percent of the number of indicators in each of the five sections to be considered "high performing."

In addition, the proposal calls for each district's superintendent to annually submit to the Department of Education a "Statement of Assurance" document to verify that the school system is meeting 49 other standards in each of the five sections. The local school board must approve the document by saying that it attests, to the best of its knowledge, that the district is complying with the standards in the Statement of Assurance.

NJSBA believes NJQSAC can play an important role to help school boards achieve goals. Making this process more efficient and less time-consuming would allow districts to more effectively use limited administrative resources and to focus attention on factors that directly impact student achievement, fiscal accountability and local district governance.

NJSBA looks forward to working with the Department of Education as this proposal progresses.