

PUBLIC NOTICE

EDUCATION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking

Standards and Assessment

Graduation Requirements

N.J.A.C. 6A:8

Petitioner: Robyn LaTorre.

Take notice that on April 26, 2017, the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) received a petition for rulemaking from the above petitioner requesting the State Board of Education amend N.J.A.C. 6A:8 to add computer programming as a world language for purposes of the State's high school graduation requirements.

The petitioner specifically requests the State Board adopt amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1viii to specify computer programming or coding, such as C++, Javascript, Swift, HTML, XML, or Python, can satisfy the requirement for high school students to earn at least five credits in world languages or to demonstrate proficiency via an assessment.

The petitioner's request indicates the specific amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 would be beneficial to all students, but especially those pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The petitioner's request indicates most undergraduate degrees in STEM fields require computer language coursework and a student's critical-thinking skills, mathematical reasoning, and logistical mindset are enhanced when learning to code. The petitioner, who is a high school teacher, indicated the addition to the world languages requirement would offer a more complete education to 21st century learners.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2, the Department shall subsequently mail to the petitioner, and file with the Office of Administrative Law, a notice of action on the petition.