



**State of New Jersey**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

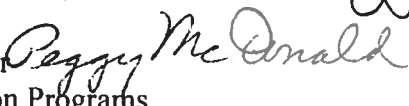
KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF  
*Commissioner*

June 25, 2013

**TO:** Chief School Administrators  
Directors of Special Education  
Administrators of a State Facility  
Administrators of a Charter School  
Administrators of an Approved Private School for the Disabled  
Administrators of a College Preparation Program for Speech-language Specialist  
Statewide Special Education Advisory Council  
Agencies or Organizations Concerned with Special Education

**FROM:** Robert R. Higgins, Ph.D., Director   
Office of Certification and Induction

Peggy McDonald, Director   
Office of Special Education Programs

**SUBJECT:** Elimination of the Emergency Speech Certificate  
Amendments to requirements for Speech-language specialists  
Clarification regarding Contracted Providers for Speech-language services

This is to inform you that the New Jersey State Board of Education recently adopted amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:9. The amendments, effective July 2, 2013, included changes to subchapter 13, which eliminate the emergency speech-language specialist certificate and establish study requirement options for a new certificate of eligibility for speech-language specialist. Please note that the elimination of the emergency certificate was mandated by federal rules. The amendments also establish employment and study requirements for the subsequent provisional certificate for speech-language specialist, which is issued upon hiring, and the requirements for the permanent or standard certificate.

Please note that no emergency speech certificates (initial or renewal) will be issued after July 2, 2013. However, emergency certificates in effect on July 2, 2013 will remain valid until July 31, 2013.

Individuals who meet the requirements in new subsections N.J.A.C. 6A:9-13.6(e)1 or 2 may apply for the certificate of eligibility and seek employment in any public school district or Department-approved private school for students with disabilities. In order to ensure continuity of service, the Office of Certification will expedite all applications for this certificate of eligibility.

Candidates who acquire a speech-language specialist certificate of eligibility and obtain an offer of employment for a speech-language specialist position would then be eligible for the provisional certificate per requirements in the new subsections N.J.A.C. 6A:9-13.6(f) and (g). Should you have any questions regarding provisional certification, please contact Judy Cifone, manager, Certification and Induction, at (609) 984-6377.

With respect to clarification about contracted providers for speech-language services, please note that in addition to the regulations regarding Department-approved clinics and agencies (per N.J.A.C. 6A:14-5.1 and 5.2), the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) requires state licensure for private practitioners and for individuals employed by private clinics or agencies that contract with the public schools. Thus, school districts should be contracting only with providers who have obtained the appropriate state licensure required by the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

RH/PM/JW/RS

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Commissioner Christopher D. Cerf  
Senior Staff  
Susan Martz  
John Worthington  
Kathy Ehling  
Executive County Superintendents  
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers  
Executive County School Business Administrators  
County Supervisors of Child Study  
Members, NJ LEE Group  
Garden State Coalition of Schools