

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

(a)

COMMISSIONER

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking Thermal Imaging During Interviews

Petitioner: Caleb L. McGillvary.

Take notice that on October 23, 2024, the Department of Children and Families (Department) received a petition for rulemaking from Caleb L. McGillvary requesting a new “thermal imaging” rule. The proposed rule would require thermal imaging interviews to be conducted as part of the hiring process for individuals who seek to work with children. The thermal imaging interview would assess the individual’s response to videos of children engaged in innocuous activities and outcome options would be provided based on the results of the assessment.

The purpose of the new rule, according to Mr. McGillvary, is to identify individuals who may pose a risk to children and to improve child safety in educational and child care settings.

In accordance with the provisions at N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.3 and 3A:2-2.1, the Department will subsequently mail to the petitioner, and file with the Office of Administrative Law, a notice of action on the petition.

EDUCATION

(b)

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking State Board of Examiners and Certification Limited CE or CEAS in Instructional Area Requirements

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.3

Petitioner: Jeremiah Price-Williams.

Take notice that on October 17, 2024, the State Board of Education (State Board) received a petition for rulemaking from the above petitioner, requesting the State Board amend, repeal, and create regulations related to the Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills.

N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.1(b) and 6A:6-4.1(b) require a petition for rulemaking to state the substance or nature of the rulemaking that is requested, the reasons for the request and the petitioner’s interest in the request, and references to the authority of the agency to take the requested action.

The petitioner seeks to amend, repeal, and create regulations regarding the Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills, and provided the text of the rule regarding the limited certificate of eligibility (CE) at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.3(b)3, but did not specify which regulations at Title 6A of the New Jersey Administrative Code should be amended, repealed, or created. The petitioner’s request questions why the five percent margin of error for the Praxis passing score when a candidate’s grade point average (GPA) is 3.5 or higher applies to only a select few tests and not the Commissioner-approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills (Praxis CORE).

The petitioner states that the Department of Education (Department) should accept a score on the Praxis CORE that is within five percent error if the candidate’s GPA is 3.5 or higher.

The request indicates that the petitioner passed the Praxis CORE in mathematics and the SAT in reading and writing with a score in the 55th percentile nationally but contends that the Department said only the user percentile counts and, therefore, discredited the petitioner’s passing score. The request also indicates that the petitioner later took the reading and writing portions and passed the reading but missed the writing passing

score by six points because the petitioner ran out of time on the last essay. The request further indicates that the petitioner’s GPA is 3.5 and the petitioner would be issued a limited CE if the five percent margin would count toward the Praxis CORE without having to wait 28 days to retake the test.

The petitioner’s request provided the rule at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8A.3(b)3 as the reference to the agency’s authority to take the requested action.

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.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

(c)

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Notice of Fund Availability

New Jersey Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Equity Pilot Grant Program

Take notice that the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) amended Title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 801 et seq.), in part, by adding Section 604 to create the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF) to address inequalities highlighted by the COVID-19 Pandemic with specific regard to the role of high-quality internet in enabling remote work, education, and healthcare access, underscoring the disadvantages faced by individuals and communities lacking such connectivity.

New Jersey was allocated \$194,715,700 in CPF funds from the United States Department of the Treasury, pursuant to the ARP. The New Jersey Department of the Treasury and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU), dated February 5, 2022, which names the DCA as grants manager for CPF funds and instructs the DCA to provide those grant management functions and processes for the State that are necessary to administer, manage, and monitor grant awards and disburse funds accordingly. On December 21, 2023, the DCA and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) entered into an MOU, through which the DCA allocated \$52,768,000 of CPF funds to the BPU to launch the New Jersey Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Equity Pilot Grant Program (“NJBIDE Pilot Program” or “NJBIDE”).

The NJBIDE Pilot Program intended to identify and connect unserved, underserved, and at-risk areas in the State with limited or no access to broadband facilities through targeted broadband infrastructure projects. The goal of NJBIDE is to work with local government officials and non-profit organizations to develop projects that will close the digital divide and provide access to affordable universal access to reliable broadband services with a minimum of 100/100 Mbps (1G symmetrical preferred). Projects must be sustainable for 10 years and capable of supporting existing and Next-Generation applications and streaming services to promote digital equity and economic development through expanded non-traditional workplace, health, and educational opportunities by December 31, 2026. The NJBIDE Pilot Program will focus on fiber-based solutions that enhance and promote remote work and learning, as well as community access to telehealth. A total of \$40,000,000 will be available for award pursuant to the NJBIDE Pilot Program.

Entities which may apply for funding: CPF recipients, such as the State of New Jersey, may award funds to subrecipients, such as other levels or units of government (for example, municipalities or counties), non-profits, cooperatives, electric utilities, or private entities.

Project eligibility requirements: For a project to be an eligible use of CPF funds, it must meet the following criteria:

1. The Capital Project invests in capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring.