

Public Notice

Education

State Board of Education

Notice of Action of Petition for Rulemaking

Student Transportation

Safety

District Board of Education Safety Policies

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1

Petitioner: Jamie Epstein, Esq.

Take notice that on July 26, 2023, the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) received a petition for rulemaking from the above petitioner, requesting the State Board amend N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1(c) to add a requirement that bus contractors must provide district boards of education with a live video feed of the interior of their buses while transporting students.

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1(c) requires district boards of education to develop a policy to ensure that the school administration conducts ongoing random checks of school bus transportation operations. The subsection requires the checks to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Verifying that drivers possess a valid commercial driver's license (CDL) with proper endorsements to operate the type(s) and class(es) of vehicle(s) used to transport students as set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:27-12.1(d);
- Verifying that the vehicle(s) being used to transport students has a valid registration, insurance, and inspection sticker as set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.6 and 7.1; and
- Conducting a pre-trip inspection of buses.

The petitioner sought to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1(c) to add the following as a fourth requirement: “‘FAJR's LAW,’ Bus contractors shall provide a live video monitor feed to the District Boards of Education of the interior of their buses while transporting students.”

A notice acknowledging receipt of the petition was published in the September 5, 2023, New Jersey Register at 55 N.J.R. 1963(a). In accordance with applicable law, the Department of Education (Department) reviewed the petition and has determined that additional time is needed to deliberate about it. Additional time is needed for the Department to determine the possible fiscal and operational impacts on school bus contractors and school districts.

Accordingly, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2(a)3 and 6A:6-4.2(b)3, this matter will be referred for further deliberation for a period not to exceed 90 days.