

**Notice of Proposal Regarding Proposed Amendments
at N.J.A.C. 6A:32, School District Operations**

The following is the accessible version of the notice of proposal for the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:32. The notice of proposal document includes two sections – [summary](#) and [proposed amendments](#).

Education

State Board of Education

School District Operations

Attendance at Civic Events

Proposed Amendments: N.J.A.C. 6A:32-2.1 and 8.4

Authorized By: New Jersey State Board of Education, Kevin Dehmer, Acting Commissioner,
Department of Education, Acting Secretary, State Board of Education.

Authority: P.L. 2023, c. 274.

Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

Proposal Number: PRN 2025-023.

Submit written comments by May 2, 2025, to

Ambrose Duckett, III, Assistant Commissioner

Division of Field Support and Services

New Jersey Department of Education

PO Box 500

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500

Email: chapter32@doe.nj.gov

The agency proposal follows:

Summary

The Department of Education (Department) proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:32, School District Operations.

The Department proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:32-2.1, Definitions, and 8.4, Student attendance, to align the chapter with P.L. 2023, c. 274, which allows public school students in

grades six through 12 to have one State-excused absence each school year for the purpose of attending a civic event.

The following summarizes the proposed amendments.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-2.1 provides definitions for terms used throughout N.J.A.C. 6A:32 and is proposed for amendment to include the term “civic event” to mirror the definition at N.J.S.A. 18A:36-33.1.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.4, Student attendance, defines student attendance for recording purposes in the school register. This section also sets forth the types of State-excused absences that are established by State statutes: religious observances, participation in observance of Veterans’ Day, and participation in district board of election membership activities. The Department proposes new N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.4(e)7 to include participation in a civic event, up to one day per year for students in grades six through 12, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-33.2, in the list of State-excused absences. The proposed amendment will permit a State-excused absence once per year for students in grades six through 12 who attend a civic event. As in the past, district boards of education can establish student attendance policies that allow for excused absences that extend beyond N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.4(e).

As the Department has provided a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

Social Impact

The Department anticipates that the proposed amendments will have a positive social impact by encouraging students to engage in meaningful civic events. The proposed amendments will ensure consistency in reporting of student attendance and chronic absenteeism rates, both of which can be used as catalysts to improve school climate and culture and student attendance.

Economic Impact

The Department does not anticipate that the proposed amendments will create additional expenses for district boards of education, school leaders, or individual educators. The proposed amendments do not change the responsibilities of district boards of education, charter and renaissance school boards of trustees, and school leaders regarding the daily operation of schools and school districts.

Federal Standards Statement

The proposed amendments will not be inconsistent with or exceed Federal requirements or standards as there are no Federal requirements or standards related to State-excused absences.

Jobs Impact Statement

The Department anticipates that the proposed amendments will have no impact on the generation or loss of jobs in the State.

Agriculture Industry Impact

The proposed amendments will have no impact upon the agriculture industry in the State.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The proposed amendments will not change the existing reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements or place new requirements on small businesses as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq. The proposed amendments impact district boards of education, charter and renaissance school projects boards of trustees, approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSDs), and clinics and agencies. APSSDs and clinics and agencies could be considered small businesses as that term is defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq.

Housing Affordability Impact Analysis

There is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed amendments will have any impact on the affordability of housing in New Jersey. There is an extreme unlikelihood the proposed

amendments will evoke a change in the average costs associated with housing because the proposed amendments concern the daily operations of schools, school districts, charter schools, renaissance school projects, APSSDs, and private agencies that provide educational services by means of public funds.

Smart Growth Development Impact Analysis

The proposed amendments will have an insignificant to no impact on smart growth. There is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed amendments would evoke a change in housing production in Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, pursuant to the State Development and Redevelopment Plan in New Jersey because the proposed amendments apply only to the operation of school districts, charter schools, renaissance school projects, APSSDs, and private agencies that provide educational services by means of public funds.

Racial and Ethnic Community Criminal Justice and Public Safety Impact

There is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed amendments would have an impact on pretrial detention, sentencing, probation, or parole policies concerning juveniles and adults in the State because the proposed amendments apply only to the operation of school districts, charter schools, renaissance school projects, APSSDs, and private agencies that provide educational services by means of public funds. Accordingly, no further analysis is required.

Full text of the proposal follows (additions indicated as boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

Subchapter 2. Definitions

6A:32-2.1 Definitions

The following words and terms shall have the following meanings when used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

...

“Civic event” means an event sponsored by a government entity, a community-based organization, or a nonprofit organization that incorporates elements of service learning whereby students learn and develop through organized service. A civic event shall address an issue of public concern, such as community health and safety or environmental, economic, or community well-being.

...

Subchapter 8. Student Attendance and Accounting

6A:32-8.4 Student attendance

(a) – (d) (No change.)

(e) State-excused absences shall be as follows:

1. – 4. (No change.)

5. College visit(s), up to three days per school year for students in grades 11 and 12; [and]

6. Closure of a busing school district that prevents a student from having transportation to the receiving school[.]; **and**

7. **Participation in a civic event, up to one day per year for students in grades six through 12, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-33.1 and 33.2.**

(f) (No change.)