

Archived Information

New Jersey Department of Education

TEACHER QUALITY - The most aggressive activity within the state at the current time is related to the issue of teacher quality.

GOAL -

- Increase in the content area proficiency of NJ teachers.
- Increase in the recruitment, retention, and development of highly qualified teachers for the state with a special emphasis on minority teachers of math and science in urban centers
- Establishment of a clearer relationship between content area proficiency and the teaching/learning process

SUMMARY - The NJ Department of Education is revising the licensure code for teachers at all levels. Additionally, the department is expanding its development of its pioneer and highly regarded alternate route programs for teacher preparation. Closely related is the department's development of multiple paths for currently employed teachers to demonstrate the proficiencies required under NCLB.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/RESULTS

- The department has developed a series of partnerships with professional organizations, business organizations, and institutions of higher education around the development of standards based teacher/administrator preparation programs.
- The state is a SAELP (State Action for Education Leadership Programs) recipient and has adopted standards for administrator preparation programs.

PLAN - The department will:

- Focus continued efforts to raise public awareness in areas of math & science performance;
- Complete the adoption of its new licensure code regulating the preparation of teachers in both pre-service and post-service areas;
- Continue work with institutions of higher education to revise the pre-service programs for teacher preparation based on national and state standards;
- Continue the development of a network of providers for the delivery of teacher professional development programs designed to meet requirements of "highly qualified" teacher/paraprofessional provisions of NCLB;
- Continue to develop multiple pathways for teachers to achieve and demonstrate proficiency/competency in areas of math and science;
- Continue recruitment/retention efforts for teachers of math and science.