



**Testimony**  
**On**  
**Proposed Changes to Current Charter School Regulation**  
**N.J.A.C. 6A:11, 23A & 26**  
**April 5, 2017**

Thank you for the opportunity to share the thoughts of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA) and its statewide membership on proposed regulatory changes to, and regulation of, Charter Schools, *N.J.A.C. 6A:11, 23A and 26*.

Our members are the principals, assistant principals and supervisory employees at the school building level who are responsible for: developing the educational vision of a school; ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff; implementing curriculum and assessment; and, leading teachers and school staff.

We deeply thank the State Board for the deliberative approach it took in reviewing this regulatory proposal. As we indicated several weeks ago, regulatory change in the charter landscape requires a balanced approach as changes will have a direct and irrevocable impact on students, teachers and school leaders attending both charter and traditional schools across the State.

**Recognizing the Value of New Jersey's Certification System**

**As an Association, we applaud this Board's action to not move forward with the proposed certification changes as it relates to principals, teachers and school business administrators.** As we indicated late last year and earlier this year, we must ensure that ALL educators regardless of the environment they serve in, be it a traditional public or charter school - are adequately prepared to provide instruction and support to students. New Jersey's licensure system, via the existing traditional or alternate route processes, provides the baseline requirements that a teaching staff member should possess to adequately provide teaching and learning. The quality of our educational workforce cannot and should not be jeopardized in the name of ease or expedience. **Thank you for your courage and willingness to listen to the profession on the critical subject.**

We equally appreciate the language incorporated within the amendments to the proposal which better clarify the relationship, breadth and business rules related to charter school student participation in extra-curricular activities. See amendment to *N.J.A.C. 6A:11-4.16*. Similarly, we welcome the amendment which helps ensure comprehensive professional development planning in charter schools. See amendment to proposed changes to *N.J.A.C. 9C:1.1*.

**Satellite Campus & Expedited Charter Renewal**

We would be remiss, however, if we did not comment on the Department's proposal to expand the authority of charter organizations across the State to establish satellite campuses as well as the proposal's expedited renewal process. Prior regulation permitted this only within "priority school" or former Abbott districts. The proposed regulation would expand this to ALL districts where a charter currently exists. Realize that the satellite proposal will have a direct impact on school districts' ability to forecast potential funding changes. Moreover, while districts will be notified of the change, it is not clear what deference a concern raised by a district of residence will have on the charter's request to establish a new satellite. **We would urge the Department to outline, both as it relates to the establishment of satellites, and as it relates to the expedited process generally, what deference a school district input will have. See Subsection © of N.J.A.C. 6A:11-2.3, Subsection (a) of N.J.A.C. 6A:11-2.6 and Subsection (b) of N.J.A.C. 6A:11-4.7.**

We continue to look forward to working with this Board and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) on this code proposal as it moves forward. Thank you for the opportunity to present the concerns and recommendations of the NJ Principals and Supervisors Association. We stand ready to work with the Department, and this Board.