



**NJPSA Position Statement in Support of S-1553/A-4525  
Before the Assembly Education Committee  
February 9, 2023**

The statewide membership of the NJ Principals and Supervisors Association strongly supports A-4525/S-1553, legislation that will address the educator shortage crisis facing our schools, by modifying certain teacher certification requirements. A-4525 (Lampitt, Jaffer) strikes an important balance to our members by inserting flexibility and removing unnecessary barriers within the current teacher certification process.

Specifically, this legislation recognizes that the requirement for teacher candidates to pass the Praxis Core examinations no longer makes sense. Teacher candidates demonstrate their basic skills proficiency in other ways including SAT, ACT, and other assessments that occur during the admissions or higher education programs. Their subsequent graduation with a college degree certainly demonstrates basic skills proficiency. At a time when educators are in short supply and potential candidates are not pursuing a career path in education, it is time to make deliberative choices that make the education field and its pathway more accessible and desirable to potential teacher candidates without compromising teacher quality. Eliminating the Praxis is low-hanging fruit in this conversation since candidates demonstrate their proficiency in an alternate way.

Our members do believe that it is important for teacher candidates to pass the Praxis II subject tests in the subjects they will be teaching. Principals and supervisors have stepped up to the plate to welcome and help develop new teachers in their schools. They have also taken on this extended mentorship and development role where legislation has allowed teacher candidates to waive one of the existing certification requirements (GPA, course credits, Praxis). We believe that our experienced teachers and school leaders can work with new teachers to make them successful. The one requirement that we think should NOT be waived, is the area of subject content knowledge as demonstrated through Praxis tests. We are ready to take the time to fill in the gaps in areas of effective teaching styles, classroom management and the like but we cannot fill in gaps in the content teacher candidates should have learned in college.

For these reasons, we thank you Chairwoman Lampitt and Assemblywoman Jaffer for the amendments to A-4525 that maintain subject matter content requirements while loosening unnecessary certification components that create barriers to the profession.

NJPSA supports A-4525 and urges its passage out of committee today.

Submitted by:  
Debra J. Bradley  
NJPSA Director of Government Relations