

New Jersey Department of Education

Equivalency Application

“Equivalency” means approval to achieve the intent of a specific rule through an alternate means that is different from, yet judged to be comparable to or as effective as, those prescribed within the rule.

Instructions

Please submit to the executive county superintendent the completed application and the approved district board of education resolution or other documentation indicating the district board of education’s approval of the application.

As the Department cannot approve an equivalency for an entire chapter, subchapter or section, all applications must include a citation at least at the subsection level (e.g., N.J.A.C. 6A:5-1.1(a)). Applications that include a citation for a statute (N.J.S.A. or N.J.S.) or a N.J.A.C. title other than Title 6A will not be accepted.

Application Form

County: Union

County Code #: 39

School District: Township Of Union Public Schools

District Code #: 5290

1. Provide the specific citation(s) for the regulation(s) in Title 6A of the New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C.) that necessitates the proposed equivalency.

N.J.A.C. 6A:30-2.2(b) and 3.2 (a)

2. Describe what the school district intends to accomplish through the equivalency that is currently prevented or disallowed by the existing rule(s).

At proposal level, September 4, 2024, the New Jersey State Board of Education unanimously approved the re-adoption with amendments of N.J.A.C. 6A:30 and the appendices. The Township of Union Public Schools is requesting to utilize the weighted quality performance indicators set forth at proposed Appendix A, Instruction and Program (I&P), Indicators 1 through 7 and existing indicators 8-16 to satisfy the I&P portion of the NJQSAC 2024-25 monitoring and evaluation process. The proposed amendments at Appendix A, I&P Indicators 1 through 7 will go into effect on July 1, 2025. As part of the self-evaluation process, the Township of Union Public Schools will utilize existing weighted quality performance indicators at Appendix A, I&P Indicators 8-16 and the Operations, Fiscal Management, Personnel, and Governance District Performance Reviews (DPRs).

By using a hybrid Appendix A, the Township of Union Public Schools will be provided the opportunity to be evaluated at proposed I&P student performance Indicators 1-7 in accordance to school districts monitored and evaluated in the 2025-2026 school year and beyond. The Township of Union Public Schools believes it is in the best interest of students and the community to measure the district’s effectiveness educating all students using the

proposed weights at I&P Indicators 1-7 to ensure the school district is evaluated in an equitable means to school districts in NJQSAC Cohort 1 and 2 that will be monitored and evaluated in the evaluated in the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.

3. Describe why an equivalency is necessary to accomplish the desired or measurable result(s).

By approving this application, the Commissioner allows the Township of Union Public Schools to be evaluated through an equivalent set of weighted quality performance indicators as proposed for amendments at Appendix A, I&P Indicators 1 through 7. Proposed I&P Indicators 1 through 7 provide greater weight at ELA and math student progress indicators 4 and 5 and reduced weights at ELA, math, and science student achievement Indicators 1 through 3 which provides the Township of Union Public Schools the opportunity to demonstrate growth and achievement in an equitable means during the comprehensive monitoring process in 2024-25 to the school district's peers in NJQSAC Cohorts 1 and 2 that will be monitored and evaluated in 2025-26 school year and beyond.

By using the hybrid Appendix A, the Commissioner will have the ability to accurately assess and hold the Township of Union Public Schools accountable at existing I&P curriculum and policy Indicators 8-16 which total 40 points and proposed I&P Indicators 1 through 7 which total 60 points and better assess the school district's effectiveness regardless of the school year the school district is monitored and evaluated. The Township of Union Public Schools will use existing DPRs for the four other areas of school district effectiveness as set forth at existing Appendix A; Operations, Governance, Fiscal Management and Personnel DPRs.

4. Describe how the proposed equivalency meets the following three criteria, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:5-1.3(a):

- The spirit and intent of N.J.S.A. 18A, applicable Federal laws and regulations, and N.J.A.C. 6A are served by granting the equivalency;
- The provision of a thorough and efficient education to the school district's students is not compromised as a result of the equivalency; and
- There will be no risk to student health, safety or civil rights by granting the equivalency.

The equivalency will use proposed weights at Appendix A, I&P Indicator 1 through 7 which goes into effect on July 1, 2025. The Township of Union Public Schools believes the school district effectiveness at aforesaid indicators should be evaluated by the same means as the school district's peers in NJQSAC Cohorts 1 and 2 that will be monitored and evaluated in the 2025-26 school year and beyond. This does not compromise the provision of a thorough and efficient education, instead, ensures the school district is evaluated in an equitable manner at I&P Indicators 1 through 7 as the school district's peers in Cohorts 1 and 2.

There is no risk to the health, safety, or civil rights of students by granting the waiver. Granting the waiver will illustrate the strides the students and staff of the (school district's name) have made over the last three years.

5. Describe the process, including solicitation of input and public comment, employed to inform the community, parents, district board of education members, administrators and staff during the proposal's development.

The Township of Union Public Schools worked with our community and Board of Education allowing the community time to comment on the proposal through public comment. We worked with our administrators and Curriculum and Instruction department to understand the changes and which would be best for our students and community.

Certification

I certify the information presented in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Chief School Administrator Name:

Signature:



Date (mm/dd/yy):

1/6/2025