



NEW JERSEY

CERTIFICATION

According to its Title II report, New Jersey offers Type A and Type B certificates. As of September 1, 2000, all applicants for initial certification in New Jersey must have a cumulative 2.75 GPA on a 4.0 scale. For initial licensure applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, a passing score on the relevant Praxis tests, and have completed at least 30 hours in a coherent major in the subject area of instruction. Candidates must either have completed a state approved teacher preparation program and have one year of mentored teaching under the New Jersey provisional license or they must have completed an appropriate alternate route to certification.

Elementary Certification

The elementary education endorsement requires a major in liberal arts or pure science.

Middle-Level Certification

This certification requires 30 hours in a coherent major in the area of instruction. No specific course requirements have been located.

Secondary Certification

This certification requires 30 hours in a coherent major in the area of instruction. No specific course requirements have been located.

STANDARDS

Standards for Teachers

New Jersey does not currently have content standards for teachers, but the state is in the process of developing standards.

Standards for Students

Standards in New Jersey are currently under revision. The 1999 Social Studies Curriculum Framework consisted of standards 6.1 to 6.9 in the state's Core Curriculum Content Standards. Standards 6.3 to 6.6 specifically addressed the discipline of history, and these standards emphasized political and diplomatic history, social history, cultures and history, and economics and history, respectively. The draft revision of August 7, 2002, explains that the state is engaging in a process of revision in order to "make the original standards clearer, more relevant to today's world, and more consistent with current trends in social studies research and instruction." Nine social studies standards continue to exist, but changes are taking place.

- ❖ 6.1: Social Studies Skills
 1. Reading, Speaking, and Listening
 2. Information Literacy
 3. Maps and Charts
 4. Historical Understanding
 5. Reference and Research Skills
 6. Social Competence
- ❖ 6.2: Civics
 1. Civic Life, Politics, and Government
 2. American Values and Principles
 3. The Constitution and American Democracy
 4. Citizenship
 5. International Relations
- ❖ 6.3: The Humanities
- ❖ 6.4: World History
 1. Pre-History (grades 4/5–8)
 2. The Ancient Period
 3. The Middle Ages
 4. The Age of Global Encounters
 5. The Age of Global Encounters (grades 9–12)
 6. The Age of Revolutionary Change
 7. The Era of the Great Wars
 8. The Modern World
- ❖ 6.5: United States History
 1. Family and Community (grades K–4)
 2. Nation
 3. Three Worlds Meet (grades 5–12)
 4. Colonization and Settlement
 5. Revolution and the New Nation

6. Expansion and Reform
 7. Civil War and Reconstruction
 8. The Industrial Revolution
 9. The Emergence of Modern America
 10. The Great Depression and World War II
 11. Postwar Years
 12. Contemporary America
- ❖ 6.6: New Jersey History
 1. Family (grades K–2)
 2. Community Life
 3. Regions (grades 2–4)
 4. State
 5. Three Worlds Meet (grades 4–12)
 6. Colonization and Settlement
 7. Revolution and the New State
 8. Economic Expansion and Reform
 9. Civil War and Reconstruction
 10. The Industrial Revolution
 11. The Emergence of Modern New Jersey
 12. The Great Depression and World War II
 13. Postwar Years
 14. Contemporary America
 - ❖ 6.7: Economics
 1. Scarcity and Choice
 2. Economic Resources
 3. The Market Model
 4. Economic Systems and the Role of Government
 5. Economic Institutions
 6. Life From an Economic Perspective
 - ❖ 6.8: Geography
 1. The World in Spatial Terms
 2. Places and Regions
 3. Physical Systems
 4. Human Systems
 5. Environment and Society
 - ❖ 6.9: Sociology and Anthropology
 1. Family and Community
 2. Cultures
 3. Societies

The standards in history are grouped according to time periods (7 in world history, 10 in U.S. history, and 10 in state history). For the world history standard, no content exists for grades K–4. Cumulative Progress Indicators (CPIs) are grouped at grade clusters 5–8 and 9–12. The standards document indicates critical questions of historical study for world history and calls attention to the fact that the seven eras are organized around geographic areas. They are also grouped around the following topics:

- ❖ study of a particular civilization;
- ❖ specific structures within the civilization (political, social, economic);
- ❖ comparative civilizations/societies;
- ❖ connections among civilizations;
- ❖ global processes such as trade, conflict, and demographic change;
- ❖ world religions; and
- ❖ humanities: arts, sciences, and culture.

For the United States history standard, students in grades K–4 study family and community life. Students in grades 5–12 study 10 periods. CPIs have been established for grades 4, 8, and 12. The standard pertaining to New Jersey history fulfills the requirements of a statutory mandate, but it does not necessitate the teaching of a separate course pertaining to New Jersey history. Under this standard, students in grades K–4 learn about family and community life, regions, and state history and geography. Students in grades 5–12 study 10 time periods. CPIs occur at grades 2, 4, 8, and 12.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/EXIT EXAM

School districts in New Jersey can choose from one of two options to be able to grant students a state-endorsed diploma. The first option requires students to participate in a program of study of not fewer than 110 credits in courses designed to meet the Core Curriculum Standards. In the option, at least 15 credits are required in social studies. The second option enables district boards to determine a set number of curricular programs or activities that will enable students to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards for the purpose of graduation.

Exit Exam

Beginning with students who entered the 11th grade for the first time on or after September 1, 2001, students in New Jersey must take the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) in order to graduate. The HSPA measures students' knowledge and skills in the Core Curriculum Content Standards. The exam currently has two sections, language arts literacy and mathematics. Language arts literacy—writing, science, and social studies—have been field-tested. Social studies is scheduled to be implemented by 2004–05.

ASSESSMENT

New Jersey has devised a comprehensive set of assessments that measure students' knowledge and skills related to the Core Curriculum Content Standards at grades 4, 8, and 11. These tests include the Elementary School Proficiency Assessment (ESPA), the Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA) and the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA). The ESPA consists of multiple-choice questions and three open-ended questions. Students take this test in social studies during the fall of their 5th grade year. The NJ ASK4 is replacing the ESPA. The GEPA also includes multiple choice and open-ended questions. Both exams measure students' achievement in civics, history (including economics), and geography. It should be noted that on the statewide assessment schedule for October 2002 and March 2003, tests in social studies are not listed. According to the state, social studies has been taken off of the table for testing since the standards and progress indicators are still problematic.

