

§1 - C.18A:55-3
§§2,3 –
C.18A:22-8a &
18A:22-8b
§4 - C.18A:7F-5.3
§5 - C.18A:11-11
& Note to
18A:17-14.1,
18A:17-15,
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§6 –
C.18A:17-20.2a
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P.L. 2007, CHAPTER 53, *approved March 15, 2007*
Assembly, No. 5 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning school district accountability, revising various
2 parts of the statutory law and supplementing Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7

8 1. (New section) As a condition of receiving State aid, a school
9 district shall:

10 a. examine all available group options for every insurance policy
11 held by the district, including any self-insurance plan administered
12 by the New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group on
13 behalf of districts, and shall participate in the most cost effective
14 plans;

15 b. take steps to maximize the district's participation in the
16 federal Universal Service Program (E-rate) and the ACT
17 telecommunications program offered through the New Jersey
18 Association of School Business Officials;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted
and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted December 14, 2006.

1 c. participate in the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services
2 (ACES) Program offered through the New Jersey School Boards
3 Association, unless the district is able to demonstrate to the
4 commissioner that it receives goods or services at a cost less than or
5 equal to the cost achieved by participants in the program;

6 d. take appropriate steps to maximize the district's participation
7 in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program, with
8 maximum participation defined by the commissioner; and

9 e. refinance all outstanding debt for which a 3% net present
10 value savings threshold is achievable.

11
12 2. (New section) a. The Commissioner of Education shall
13 promulgate "user-friendly," plain language budget summary forms
14 for the use of school districts. The commissioner shall also
15 promulgate a procedure for the submission by each school district
16 of the required budget summary form to the Department of
17 Education following the approval of the budget.

18 b. The plain language budget summary shall provide the public
19 with information in summary form about the budget of the school
20 district and shall include, in addition to an abbreviated version of
21 the formal budget adopted by the school district, such statistical
22 information as the commissioner determines to be useful for the
23 public's understanding of the school district's fiscal matters and
24 condition, and shall also include, but not be limited to, the
25 following information for both the district's budget year and the
26 prebudget year: all line items of appropriation aggregated by item
27 type; the school tax rate; the equalized school tax rate; revenues by
28 major category; the amount of available surplus; a description of
29 unusual revenues or appropriations, with a description of the
30 circumstances of the revenues or appropriations; and a list of shared
31 service agreements in which the district is participating.

32 c. The plain language budget summary shall be submitted to the
33 Department of Education in such form as determined by the
34 commissioner, and, upon its receipt of the summary, the department
35 shall make the summary available to the public through an Internet
36 website maintained by the department in an easily accessible
37 location. The information on the web site shall be presented as data
38 that can be downloaded by the public for comparative purposes
39 using commonly-used software.

40
41 3. (New section) Not later than the first day of the sixth month
42 next following the enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
43 before the Legislature as this bill), the Commissioner of Education
44 shall promulgate the "user friendly," plain language budget
45 summary forms and procedures required pursuant to section 2 of
46 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

1 4. (New section) a. In addition to other items prescribed by the
2 Commissioner of Education pursuant to subsection c. of section 5 of
3 P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-5), the Commissioner of Education shall
4 require a school district to submit annually with the budget, the
5 following items as supporting documentation in regard to the
6 superintendent of schools, the assistant superintendent of schools,
7 the school business administrator, and any employee with an annual
8 salary that exceeds \$75,000 who is not a member of a collective
9 bargaining unit:

10 (1) a detailed statement of the employment contract terms for
11 these school employees, including, but not be limited to, the
12 duration of the contract and all forms of compensation provided for
13 under the contract;

14 (2) the annualized cost of all benefits provided to these school
15 employees, including, but not limited to, all allowances, bonuses
16 and stipends, and all contributions made by the school district
17 towards the costs of health, dental, life and other types of insurance,
18 medical and reimbursement plans, and retirement plans 'which
19 exceed the contributions for the costs of these items made on behalf
20 of a teaching staff member under a collective bargaining agreement
21 with the board¹;

22 (3) a detailed statement of any benefits provided for in the
23 employment contract with these school employees which are to be
24 conferred after or upon the separation from the school district; and,

25 (4) a detailed statement of any form of in-kind or other form of
26 remuneration provided to these school employees which is not
27 otherwise included in the employee's salary or benefits.

28 b. The items required to be submitted pursuant to subsection a.
29 of this section shall be provided for public inspection on the school
30 district's Internet site, if one exists, in a "user-friendly" format
31 using plain language, and on the Department of Education's Internet
32 site in an easily accessible location. The Commissioner of
33 Education shall promulgate a "user-friendly," plain language format
34 for the use of local districts for this purpose.
35

36 5. (New section) A board of education shall not renegotiate,
37 extend, amend, or otherwise alter the terms of a contract with a
38 superintendent of schools, assistant superintendent of schools, or
39 school business administrator, unless notice is provided to the
40 public at least 30 days prior to the scheduled action by the board.
41 The board shall also hold a public hearing and shall not take any
42 action on the matter until the hearing has been held. The board
43 shall provide the public with at least 10 days notice of the public
44 hearing.
45

46 6. (New section) a. Prior to a board of education entering an
47 agreement for an early termination of an employment contract
48 entered into with its superintendent of schools pursuant to the

1 provisions of N.J.S.18A:17-15, that includes the payment of
2 compensation to the superintendent as a condition of separation
3 from service with the district, the board shall submit the agreement
4 to the Commissioner of Education for approval. The agreement
5 shall be submitted by certified mail, return receipt requested. The
6 commissioner shall evaluate the agreement and have the authority
7 to disapprove the agreement if the payment of compensation as a
8 condition of separation from services is found to be excessive. The
9 determination of the commissioner shall be made within 30 days of
10 receipt of the agreement.

11 As used in this subsection, "compensation" includes, but is not
12 limited to, salary, allowances, bonuses and stipends, payments for
13 accumulated sick or vacation leave, contributions toward the costs
14 of health, dental, life and other types of insurance, medical
15 reimbursement plans, retirement plans, and any in-kind or other
16 form of remuneration.

17 b. The Commissioner of Education shall adopt regulations in
18 accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
19 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to establish the allowable parameters of
20 early termination agreements.

21
22 7. (New section) An employment contract entered into between
23 a board of education and a superintendent of schools shall include a
24 provision that explicitly states that in the event that the certificate of
25 the superintendent is revoked the contract is null and void as of the
26 date of the revocation.

27
28 8. (New section) A school business administrator, or any other
29 person designated by the board of education, shall certify to the
30 Department of the Treasury that all documentation prepared for
31 income tax related purposes, in regard to superintendents of
32 schools, assistant superintendents of schools, and school business
33 administrators, complies fully with the requirements of federal and
34 State laws and regulations regarding the types of compensation
35 which are required to be reported.

36
37 9. (New section) The annual audit conducted pursuant to
38 N.J.S.18A:23-1 shall include test measures to assure that
39 documentation prepared for income tax related purposes complies
40 fully with the requirements of federal and State laws and
41 regulations regarding the compensation which is required to be
42 reported.

43
44 10. (New section) a. If the Commissioner of Education
45 believes, based on information provided by the school district in
46 which the certificate holder was employed, that the conduct of a
47 superintendent, assistant superintendent or school business
48 administrator warrants the revocation of the certificate held, the

1 commissioner shall recommend such revocation to the Board of
2 Examiners.

3 b. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules pursuant
4 to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
5 1 et seq.), under which the Board of Examiners may revoke a
6 certificate pursuant to this section.

7
8 11. (New section) If any condition exists within a school
9 district that would authorize the appointment of a State monitor
10 pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of P.L.2006, c.15
11 (C.18A:7A-55), the State Board of Examiners shall review the
12 certification of the superintendent and school business administrator
13 of the district.

14
15 12. (New section) In the event that any school district is not in
16 compliance with the GAAP system of double entry bookkeeping as
17 required pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1989, c.266 (C.18A:4-14
18 et seq.) within one year of the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.)
19 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Commissioner of
20 Education shall recommend to the Board of Examiners that the
21 board review the certification of the district’s school business
22 administrator.

23
24 13. (New section) a. As used in this section, “school leader”
25 means a school district staff member who holds a position that
26 requires the possession of a chief school administrator, principal, or
27 supervisor endorsement.

28 b. A school leader shall complete training on issues of school
29 ethics, school law, and school governance as part of the
30 professional development for school leaders required pursuant to
31 State Board of Education regulations. The training shall be offered
32 through a collaborative training model as identified by the
33 Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the State Advisory
34 Committee on Professional Development for School Leaders.

35
36 14. (New section) a. In addition to the powers provided
37 pursuant to P.L.2005, c.235 and P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-1 et
38 seq.) or any other law, the Commissioner of Education may appoint
39 an external entity, in accordance with State procurement laws, to
40 perform a compliance audit of the spending of the district’s general
41 fund budget upon identification that the district may be spending
42 State education funds for purposes that are not in compliance with
43 State education law and regulation. The scope of the compliance
44 audit shall be determined by the commissioner based upon the
45 specific circumstances of the district.

46 b. The final report of a compliance audit conducted pursuant to
47 subsection a. of this section shall include specific findings and
48 recommendations, as applicable, and shall be submitted to the

1 commissioner. The commissioner may use the audit report as
2 evidence for the appointment of a State monitor pursuant to the
3 provisions of subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2006, c.15
4 (C.18A:7A-55).

5 c. The school district shall reimburse the Department of
6 Education for the total cost of the compliance audit conducted
7 pursuant to subsection a. of this section if the final audit report
8 includes findings that the district has spent State education funds
9 for purposes that are not in compliance with State education law
10 and regulation.

11
12 15. (New section) a. As used in this section:

13 (1) "Travel expenditures" means those costs paid by the school
14 district using local, State, or federal funds, whether directly by the
15 school district or by employee reimbursement, for travel by school
16 district employees and district board of education members, to the
17 following four types of travel events:

18 (a) "training and seminars" which means all regularly scheduled,
19 formal residential or non-residential training functions, conducted at
20 a hotel, motel, convention center, residential facility, or at any
21 educational institution or facility;

22 (b) "conventions and conferences" which means general
23 programs, sponsored by professional associations on a regular basis,
24 which address subjects of particular interest to a school district or
25 are convened to conduct association business. The primary purpose
26 of employee attendance at conferences and conventions is the
27 development of new skills and knowledge or the reinforcement of
28 those skills and knowledge in a particular field related to school
29 district operations. These are distinct from formal staff training and
30 seminars, although some training may take place at such events;

31 (c) "regular school district business" which means all regular
32 official business travel, including attendance at meetings,
33 conferences and any other gatherings which are not covered by the
34 definitions included in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this paragraph;

35 (d) "retreats" which mean meetings with school district
36 employees and school board members, held away from the normal
37 work environment at which organizational goals and objectives are
38 discussed. If available, school district facilities shall be utilized for
39 this type of event.

40 (2) School district travel expenditures include, but are not limited
41 to, all costs for transportation, meals, lodging, and registration or
42 conference fees to and for the travel event.

43 (3) School district travel expenditures include costs for all
44 required training and all travel authorized in existing school district
45 employee contracts and school board policies. This includes, but is
46 not limited to, required professional development and other staff
47 training, required training for new school board members, and

1 attendance at specific conferences authorized in existing employee
2 contracts.

3 (4) A school district shall not bare costs for car rentals,
4 limousine services, and chauffeuring costs to or during the event, as
5 well as costs for employee attendance for coordinating other
6 attendees accommodations at the travel event.

7 b. A board of education shall implement a policy and procedures
8 pertaining to travel expenditures for its employees and school board
9 members that are in accordance with the provisions of this section.

10 c. A board of education shall ensure through its policy and
11 procedures that all travel by its employees and board members is
12 educationally necessary and fiscally prudent, and shall include the
13 requirement that all school district travel expenditures are:

14 (1) directly related to and within the scope of the employee's or
15 board member's current responsibilities and, for school district
16 employees, the school district's professional development plan;

17 (2) for travel that is critical to the instructional needs of the
18 school district or furthers the efficient operation of the school
19 district; and

20 (3) in compliance with State travel payment guidelines as
21 established by the Department of the Treasury and with guidelines
22 established by the federal Office of Management and Budget;
23 except that those guidelines that conflict with the provisions of Title
24 18A of the New Jersey Statutes shall not be applicable, including,
25 but not limited to, the authority to issue travel charge cards. The
26 board of education shall specify in its travel policy the applicable
27 restrictions and requirements set forth in the State and federal
28 guidelines including, but not limited to, types of travel, methods of
29 transportation, mileage allowance, subsistence allowance, and
30 submission of supporting documentation including receipts, checks
31 or vouchers.

32 d. A board of education shall include in its travel policy a
33 requirement for the employee or board member to submit to an
34 appropriate party as designated, and within a timeframe specified
35 by the board's policy, a brief report that includes the primary
36 purpose for the travel and the key issues that were addressed at the
37 event and their relevance to improving instruction or the operation
38 of the school district.

39 e. A board of education shall require in its travel policy that
40 detailed documentation be maintained on file in the school district
41 which demonstrates compliance with the school board's travel
42 policy including travel approvals, reports, and receipts for all school
43 district funded expenditures, as appropriate.

44 f. For employees, a board of education shall require in its policy
45 that travel occur only upon prior written approval of the chief
46 school administrator and prior approval by a majority of the full
47 voting membership of the board.

1 For regular business travel only, a school board may authorize in
2 its travel policy an annual maximum amount per employee for
3 regular business travel for which school board approval is not
4 required.

5 g. For board members, a board of education shall require in its
6 policy that travel occur only upon prior approval by a majority of
7 the full voting membership of the board and that the travel be in
8 compliance with section 4 of P.L.1991, c.393 (C.18A:12-24) and
9 section 5 of P.L.2001, c.178 (C.18A:12-24.1).

10 h. A school board may also approve, at any time prior to the
11 event, travel for multiple months as long as the school board
12 approval, as detailed in school board minutes, itemizes the approval
13 by event, total cost, and number of employees and school board
14 members attending the event. General or blanket pre-approval for
15 travel is not authorized. Approval shall be itemized by event, event
16 total cost, and number of employees and school board members
17 attending the event.

18 i. A board of education shall state in its policy that travel
19 payments will be paid only upon compliance with the this section
20 and the school board's policy provisions and approval requirements.
21 The policy shall state that the school board will not ratify or
22 approve payments or reimbursements for travel after completion of
23 the travel event.

24 j. An employee of the school board, a school board member, or
25 organization, shall not receive an amount for travel and travel-
26 related expenses in advance of the travel pursuant to N.J.S.18A:19-
27 1 et seq.

28 k. A board of education shall require in its policy that a board
29 member recuse himself from voting on travel if the board member,
30 a member of his immediate family, or a business organization in
31 which he has an interest, has a direct or indirect financial
32 involvement that may reasonably be expected to impair his
33 objectivity or independence of judgment.

34 l. A board of education shall require in its policy that a board
35 member shall not: act in his official capacity in any matter in which
36 he or a member of his immediate family has a personal involvement
37 that is or creates some benefit to the school official or member of
38 his immediate family; or undertake any employment or service,
39 whether compensated or not, which may reasonably be expected to
40 prejudice his independence of judgment in the execution of his
41 official duties.

42 m. A board of education may, in its policy, exclude from the
43 requirements of prior school board approval pursuant to subsection
44 f. of this section any travel caused by or subject to contractual
45 provisions, other statutory requirements, or federal regulatory
46 requirements. The school board may not exclude such travel from
47 the subsistence requirements pursuant to subsection n. and o. of this

1 section and the annual maximum travel expenditure amount
2 pursuant to subsection p. of this section.

3 n. A board of education shall provide in its policy that one-day
4 trips that do not involve overnight lodging are not eligible for a
5 subsistence payment or reimbursement except in limited
6 circumstances authorized in Department of the Treasury guidelines.

7 o. A board of education shall provide in its policy that overnight
8 travel is eligible for a subsistence payment or reimbursement as
9 authorized in Department of the Treasury guidelines, except as
10 otherwise superseded by the following:

11 (1) per diem payment or reimbursement for lodging and meals
12 will be actual reasonable costs, not to exceed the federal per diem
13 rates as established in the federal register for the current year;

14 (2) lodging expenses may exceed the federal per diem rates if
15 the hotel is the site of the convention, conference, seminar or
16 meeting and the going rate of the hotel is in excess of the federal
17 per diem rates. If the hotel at the site of the convention, conference,
18 seminar, or meeting is no longer available, lodging may be paid for
19 similar accommodations at a rate not to exceed the hotel rate for the
20 event;

21 (3) receipts are required for hotel expenses. Meal expenses
22 under the federal per diem allowance limits do not require receipts;

23 (4) in any case in which the total per diem reimbursement is
24 greater than the federal per diem rate, except as stated in paragraph
25 (1) of this subsection, the costs will be considered to be excessive
26 and shall not be paid by school district funds;

27 (5) school districts shall patronize hotels and motels that offer
28 special rates to government employees unless alternative lodging
29 offers greater cost benefits; and

30 (6) payment or reimbursement is approved for the full cost of an
31 official convention meal that the employee or school board member
32 attends, when the meal is scheduled as an integral part of the
33 convention or conference proceedings. If a meal is included in the
34 registration fee, the allowance for the meal is not eligible for
35 reimbursement.

36 p. Annually in the prebudget year, each district board of
37 education shall establish by school board resolution, a maximum
38 travel expenditure amount for the budget year, which the school
39 district shall not exceed in that budget year. The school board
40 resolution shall also include the maximum amount established for
41 the prebudget year and the amount spent to date.

42 (1) The maximum school district travel expenditure amount
43 shall include all travel in accordance with this section supported by
44 local and State funds.

45 (2) A district board of education may elect to exclude travel
46 expenditures to be supported by federal funds in the maximum
47 travel expenditure amount. If federal funds are excluded from the
48 established maximum school district travel expenditure amount, the

1 board of education shall include in the board resolution, the total
2 amount of travel supported by federal funds from the prior year,
3 prebudget year, and projected for the budget year.

4 q. Each district board of education shall maintain separate
5 accounting for school district travel expenditures as necessary, to
6 ensure compliance with the school district's maximum travel
7 expenditure amount. This may include, but need not be limited to, a
8 separate or offline accounting of such expenditures or expanding
9 the school district's accounting system. The tracking system shall
10 be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the board's policy and
11 this section, and shall provide auditable information.

12 r. Any district board of reduction that violates its established
13 maximum travel expenditure as set forth in subsection p. of this
14 section, or that otherwise is not in compliance with the travel
15 limitations set forth in this section may be subject to sanctions by
16 the commissioner as authorized pursuant to N.J.S.18A:4-23 and
17 N.J.S.18A:4-24, including reduction of State aid in an amount equal
18 to any excess expenditure.

19 s. A person who approves any travel in violation of the school
20 district's policy or this section shall be required to reimburse the
21 school district in an amount equal to three times the cost associated
22 with attending the event.

23 An employee or member of the board of education who travels in
24 violation of the school district's policy or this section shall be
25 required to reimburse the school district in an amount equal to three
26 times the cost associated with attending the event.

27 t. The provisions of this section shall apply to the boards of
28 trustees and employees of charter schools.

29
30 16. Section 2 of P.L.2006, c.15 (C.18A:7A-55) is amended to
31 read as follows:

32 2. a. In addition to the powers provided pursuant to P.L.2005,
33 c.235 and P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-1 et seq.) or any other law,
34 the Commissioner of Education shall have the authority to appoint a
35 State monitor and additional staff, as necessary, to provide direct
36 oversight of a board of education's business operations and
37 personnel matters if: the school district receives an adverse or a
38 disclaimer of opinion by its independent auditor in the annual audit
39 required pursuant to N.J.S.18A:23-1; or **[if]** any two or more of the
40 following circumstances apply to the school district:

41 (1) the school district ends the fiscal year with a deficit balance
42 as calculated for budgetary purposes in the general fund, special
43 revenue fund, or capital projects fund, with the exception of a
44 capital projects fund deficit caused by the issuance of bond
45 anticipation notes;

46 (2) the school district receives a qualified opinion by its
47 independent auditor in the annual audit required pursuant to
48 N.J.S.18A:23-1;

1 (3) the school district receives an adverse, disclaimer, or
2 qualified opinion by its independent auditor under the single audit
3 section for State or federal awards in the annual audit required
4 pursuant to N.J.S.18A:23-1;

5 (4) the school district receives any audit findings by its
6 independent auditor identified as material weaknesses in internal
7 controls;

8 **[(4)] (5)** the school district fails to develop and implement a
9 plan acceptable to the commissioner or his designee to address a
10 potential or actual deficit balance in the general fund, special
11 revenue fund, or capital projects fund, with the exception of a
12 capital projects fund deficit caused by the issuance of bond
13 anticipation notes; **[or]**

14 **[(5)] (6)** the school district fails to implement a plan from the
15 prior year which causes any findings from the independent auditor
16 to be repeated ;

17 (7) the school district is required to return federal funds once it
18 is determined that the school district's expenditures are not in
19 compliance with the grant requirements; or

20 (8) the school district submits the annual audit after the
21 submission date required pursuant to N.J.S.18A:23-1.

22 b. The State monitor shall:

23 (1) oversee the fiscal management and expenditures of school
24 district funds, including, but not limited to, budget reallocations and
25 reductions, approvals of purchase orders, budget transfers, and
26 payment of bills and claims;

27 (2) oversee the operation and fiscal management of school
28 district facilities, including the development and implementation of
29 recommendations for redistricting and restructuring of schools;

30 (3) ensure development and implementation of an acceptable
31 plan to address the circumstances set forth in subsection a. of this
32 section which resulted in the appointment of the State monitor. The
33 plan shall include measurable benchmarks and specific activities to
34 address the deficiencies of the school district;

35 (4) oversee all district staffing, including the ability to hire,
36 promote, and terminate employees;

37 (5) have authority to override a chief school administrator's
38 action and a vote by the board of education on any of the matters set
39 forth in this subsection, except that all actions of the State monitor
40 shall be subject to the education, labor, and employment laws and
41 regulations, including the "New Jersey Employer-Employee
42 Relations Act," P.L.1941, c.100 (C.34:13A-1 et seq.), and collective
43 bargaining agreements entered into by the school district;

44 (6) attend all meetings of the board of education, including
45 closed sessions; and

46 (7) meet with the board of education on at least a quarterly basis
47 to discuss with the members of the board the past actions of the
48 board which led to the appointment of the State monitor and to

1 provide board members with education and training that address the
2 deficiencies identified in board actions.

3 c. The Commissioner of Education shall notify the State Board
4 of Education following the appointment of a State monitor pursuant
5 to subsection a. of this section. The State monitor shall report
6 directly to the commissioner or his designee on a weekly basis. The
7 State monitor shall also report monthly to the board of education
8 and members of the public at the regularly scheduled board of
9 education meeting.

10 d. For purposes of the "New Jersey Tort Claims Act,"
11 N.J.S.59:1-1 et seq., the State monitor shall be considered a State
12 officer.

13 e. The State monitor shall provide oversight in the school
14 district until the commissioner determines that all remedial actions
15 required under the plan have been implemented and the necessary
16 local capacity and fiscal controls have been restored to school
17 district operations.

18 f. The salary of the State monitor shall be fixed by the
19 commissioner and adjusted from time to time as the commissioner
20 deems appropriate. The school district shall assume the total cost of
21 the State monitor and necessary additional staff appointed pursuant
22 to subsection a. of this section.

23 (cf: P.L.2006, c.15, s.2)

24

25 17. Section 13 of P.L.1991, c.393 (C.18A:12-33) is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 13. a. Each newly elected or appointed board member shall
28 complete during the first year of the member's first term a training
29 program to be prepared and offered by the New Jersey School
30 Boards Association, in consultation with the New Jersey
31 Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey Principals
32 and Supervisors Association, and the Department of Education,
33 regarding the skills and knowledge necessary to serve as a local
34 school board member. The training program shall include
35 information regarding the school district monitoring system
36 established pursuant to P.L.2005, c.235, the New Jersey Quality
37 Single Accountability Continuum, and the five key components of
38 school district effectiveness on which school districts are evaluated
39 under the monitoring system: instruction and program; personnel;
40 fiscal management; operations; and governance.

41 The board member shall complete a training program on school
42 district governance in each of the subsequent two years of the board
43 member's first term.

44 b. Within one year after each re-election or re-appointment to
45 the board of education, the board member shall complete an
46 advanced training program to be prepared and offered by the New
47 Jersey School Boards Association. This advanced training program
48 shall include information on relevant changes to New Jersey school

1 law and other information deemed appropriate to enable the board
2 member to serve more effectively.

3 c. The New Jersey School Boards Association shall examine
4 options for providing training programs to school board members
5 through alternative methods such as on-line or other distance
6 learning media or through regional-based training.
7 (cf: P.L.1991, c.393, s.13)

8

9 18. N.J.S.18A:22-8 is amended to read as follows:

10 18A:22-8. The budget shall be prepared in such detail and upon
11 such forms as shall be prescribed by the commissioner and to it
12 shall be annexed a statement so itemized as to make the same
13 readily understandable, in which shall be shown:

14 a. In tabular form there shall be set forth the following:

15 (1) The total expenditure for each item for the preceding school
16 year, the amount appropriated for the current school year adjusted
17 for transfers as of February 1 of the current school year, and the
18 amount estimated to be necessary to be appropriated for the ensuing
19 school year, indicated separately for each item as determined by the
20 commissioner;

21 (2) The amount of the surplus account available at the beginning
22 of the preceding school year, at the beginning of the current school
23 year and the amount anticipated to be available for the ensuing
24 school year;

25 (3) The amount of revenue available for budget purposes for the
26 preceding school year, the amount available for the current school
27 year as of February 1 of the current school year and the amount
28 anticipated to be available for the ensuing school year in the
29 following categories:

30 (a) Total to be raised by local property taxes

31 (b) Total State aid

32 (i) Core curriculum standards aid

33 (ii) Special education aid

34 (iii) Transportation aid

35 (iv) Early childhood program aid

36 (v) Demonstrably effective program aid

37 (vi) Instructional supplement aid

38 (vii) Supplemental core curriculum standards aid

39 (viii) Distance learning network aid

40 (ix) Bilingual aid

41 (x) Other (detailed at the discretion of the commissioner)

42 (c) Total federal aid

43 (i) Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
44 U.S.C. s.2701 et seq.)

45 (ii) Handicapped

46 (iii) Impact Aid

47 (iv) Vocational

48 (v) Other (detailed at the discretion of the commissioner)

1 (d) Other sources (detailed at the discretion of the
2 commissioner).

3 b. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1993, c.117).

4 c. In the event that the total expenditure for any item of
5 appropriation is equal to \$0.00 for: (1) the preceding school year,
6 (2) the current school year, and (3) the amount estimated to be
7 necessary to be appropriated for the ensuing school year, that item
8 shall not be required to be published pursuant to N.J.S.18A:22-11.

9 d. The instruction function of the budget shall be divided at a
10 minimum into elementary (K-5), middle school (6-8), and high
11 school (9-12) cost centers, each of which shall be further divided by
12 the core curriculum content areas. The commissioner shall phase in
13 these requirements as soon as practicable.

14 e. The budget as adopted for the school year pursuant to section
15 5 of P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-5) shall be provided for public
16 inspection on the school district's Internet site, if one exists, and
17 made available in print in a "user-friendly" format using plain
18 language. The Commissioner of Education shall promulgate a
19 "user-friendly," plain language budget summary format for the use
20 of school districts for this purpose.

21 (cf: P.L.1996, c.138, s.53)

22
23 19. This act shall take effect immediately.

24
25
26 _____
27
28 Provides for various school district accountability measures.