



New Hampshire

# Department of Education Technical Advisory

*Serving New Hampshire's Education Community*

Subject: Minimum Standards for School Approval

School Approval Standards:

Ed 306

## I. Ed 306

## II. Introduction:

This technical advisory for the Minimum Standards for School Approval, to take effect on August 1, 2014, is issued in order to provide support to school boards, districts, schools, educators, and communities as they work to build learning communities that engage learners and support depth of knowledge.

The department comments below address the changes in the 2014 Minimum Standards for School Approval. Definitions, Board Policies, and changes that are connected to Competency Education are addressed in separate Advisories released on this date. Later Advisories on Distance Education and Career and Technical Education are projected for the coming year.

## III. Department Comments:

**Ed 306.01, Applicability; Ed 306.03, Statutory and Policy Requirements; Ed 306.06, Culture and Climate; Ed 306.07, School Facilities; Ed 306.08, Instructional Resources; Ed 306.10, Administrative Support Services; Ed 306.11, Food and Nutrition Services; Ed 306.12, School Health Services; Ed 306.16, Professional Development; Ed 306.18, School Year; and Ed 306.19, School Calendar.**

### Department Comment

*The text of the sections listed above have not changed except if the sections contain the following terms: In the text of Ed 306 the term “grade” was replaced with the term “learning” wherever the term made sense, for example “for [grade]learning”*

*In the text the term “teacher” was replaced by the word “educator,” which is defined in Ed 306.02(h) as “any professional employee of any school district whose position requires certification by the state board pursuant to RSA 189:39. The term includes administrators, specialists, and teachers.”*

### Ed 306.15 Provision of Staff and Staff Qualifications

(b) The local school board shall require that in carrying out the school counseling program established by Ed 306.39:

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*Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.*

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- (1) The counseling load in each elementary school shall not exceed the equivalent of one full-time certified school counselor per 500 students enrolled;
- (2) The counseling load in each middle school and each high school shall not exceed the equivalent of one full time certified school counselor per 300 students enrolled;
- (3) High schools with more than 4 school counselors shall provide a high school level certified director of school counseling to coordinate the implementation of the school counseling program plan and policy, unless (4) below applies; and
- (4) District level certified directors of school counseling to coordinate k-12 implementation of the school counseling program plan and policy shall be provided in districts where the number of school counselors across all schools exceeds 10.
- (g) An educator with sufficient content knowledge as determined by the school principal may be given a minor assignment to teach in a program area in which he or she is not certified. A minor assignment shall be less than fifty percent of the individual's weekly work time and be reviewed on an annual basis to insure that the individual has the appropriate level of content knowledge.

### Department Comment

*The two changes to this section were the addition of the qualifications for school counseling which were previously identified in Ed 306.39 and moved to this section for clarity. The second change was to the language at the end of (g) "and be reviewed on an annual basis to insure that the individual has the appropriate level of content knowledge."*

### Ed 306.20 Career and Technical Education Programs

#### Department Comment

*A separate TA on Career and Technical Education Programs will be issued in School Year 2014-2015.*

### Ed 306.25 Comprehensive School Psychological Services

#### Department Comment

*This section was previously located in Ed 306.44 in the section of student program requirements. It was moved because it is not a program taught to students but rather an optional service provided to students. The text has been updated to reflect the most current practices for school psychological services based the National Association of School Psychologist as noted in the text and in the incorporation by reference statement in Appendix II at the end of the rule.*

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## Ed 306.28 Approval Process

### Department Comment

*This section has been redesigned to update and reduce the amount of duplication of submissions by the school district that is required throughout the year. Also, it reflects changes in process in keeping with the statutory role of the State Board of Education to hear appeals on matters addressed by the school approval rules.*

## Ed 306.29 Alternative Approval

### Department Comment

*The major change to this section was the title by replacing the word "compliance" with the word "approval." As stated in the rule the purpose of this section is to encourage innovation to achieve high standards for students through an alternative method of compliance with the relevant rules.*

## Ed 306.30 Delay in Full Compliance

(e) If the state board denies the request, the chairperson of the local school board or designee may request a reconsideration of the state board's decision. The reconsideration shall be filed in writing with the office of legislation and hearings within 20 days of receipt of the decision. The office of legislation and hearings shall schedule reconsideration in accordance with timelines and procedures established in Ed 213.

### Department Comment

*Although this section was removed in the initial proposal it was included in the final proposal as required by law. Section (e) was reworded to be consistent with current law.*

## Ed 306.31-48 Program Requirements

### Department Comment

*This language, which is consistent with the previous rule in Ed 306.31-48 as identified in the table of content, shall apply until July 1, 2015. Before July 1, 2015 districts are encouraged to develop written policies and procedures for these sections ending with .\_\_1. On July 1, 2015, the .\_\_1 section will take effect. At that time, the current program text will be eliminated. The name with July 1, 2015 in the title and #.\_\_1 rule will then be renumbered. For example Ed*

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*306.31 Arts Education Program shall apply until July 1, 2015. Ed 306.311, Arts Education Program July 1, 2015, will be renumbered as Ed 306.31, Arts Education Program.*

**IV. For more information on this Technical Advisory, please contact:**

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