



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE  
Commissioner

September 1, 2016

TO: District Superintendents  
District School Business Administrators  
District Curriculum Directors/Supervisors  
District Board of Education Presidents

FROM: Pamela J. Leggio *PJL*  
QSAC Director

SUBJECT: QSAC Statement of Assurance (SOA)  
Instruction and Program #3 – Curriculum Alignment and Adoption Requirements

The purpose of this memo is to clarify the requirements for board-adopted, aligned curricula, so that you can provide an accurate response in the QSAC Statement of Assurance (SOA), Instruction and Program indicator #3. As required by N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1, all curricula must include:

- interdisciplinary connections throughout the K-12 curriculum;
- integration of 21<sup>st</sup> century themes and skills; and
- supportive curricula and instructional tools for helping students acquire required knowledge and skills. These tools include at a minimum:
  - pacing guide
  - list of core instructional materials, including various levels of texts at each grade level
  - benchmark assessments
  - modifications for special education students, English language learners, students at risk of school failure and gifted students

Further, all curricula must be aligned to current academic standards. As you know, the New Jersey State Board of Education has adopted academic standards in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Life and Careers, Comprehensive Health and Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, Technology, Visual and Performing Arts, World Languages, Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy on July 9, 2014. All curricula in all content areas must be aligned to these new standards.

Finally, indicator #3 requires that an adoption date be entered for each of the nine content areas. Enter the month and year that the curriculum was initially adopted. Think of this as the “born on.” date for each content area. DO NOT enter the annual readoption date; enter the original adoption date that curricula were first aligned to the new content standards. As a way to track curricula adoption, consider inserting the “born on” date into all curriculum documents as a header or footer. For SOA Instruction and Program indicator #3, full compliance is achieved by meeting all of the above-listed requirements and by having board adopted curricula that are fully aligned to the current content standards.

PJL:qsac2016/i&p#3

C: Executive County Superintendents  
Executive County Business Officials  
County Education Specialists  
County Child Study Supervisors  
County QSAC Support Staff