Chapter 9 – NJ DOE Code:

Professional Licensure and Standards

6A:9-13.2 Substance awareness coordinator

(a) The substance awareness coordinator endorsement authorizes the holder to perform the functions of a substance awareness coordinator (SAC) in grades preschool through 12. The position of SAC shall be separate and distinct from any other employment position in the school. The functions of the SAC may include:

1. Assisting with the in-service training of school staff concerning substance abuse and related issues and with the district program to combat substance abuse;

2. Serving as an information resource for substance abuse prevention, curriculum development and instruction;

3. Assisting the district in revising and implementing substance abuse and related policies and procedures;

4. Developing and administering substance abuse and related intervention services in the district;

5. Providing counseling and referral services to students regarding substance abuse and related problems; and

6. Cooperating with community service providers or other officials in the rendering of substance abuse and related treatment services

(b) To be eligible for the SAC CE, the candidate shall present one of the following:

1. A bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university, a valid New Jersey or out-of-State standard certificate as school psychologist, school social worker, school counselor, director of school counseling services or school nurse and evidence of graduate study in area (c)2i through iv below. These candidates are exempt from (c)2ix below;

2. A bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university and a valid Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor credential issued by the New Jersey Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee of the Marriage and Family Board and evidence of graduate study in areas (c)2iii and vi through viii below. These candidates are exempt from (c)2ix below; or

3. A bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university and a valid Certified Prevention Specialist credential issued by the Addiction Professionals

Certification Board of New Jersey and evidence of graduate study in areas (c)2iv, v, vii and viii below. These candidates are exempt from (c)2ix below.

(c) To be eligible for the SAC CEAS, the candidate shall:

1. Hold a standard instructional certificate, or a school psychologist, school social worker, school counselor, director of school counseling services or school nurse endorsement, or a valid Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor credential issued by the New Jersey Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee of the Marriage and Family Board, or a valid Certified Prevention Specialist credential issued by the Addiction Professionals Certification Board of New Jersey or hold a master's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university; and

2. Complete a Department-approved graduate curriculum with a range of 21 to 27 semester-hour credits to include study in the following required areas:

i. Fundamentals of drug and alcohol abuse and dependency and related problems;
ii. Child and adolescent development, including research-based risk, protective and resiliency factors for students at risk for school failure;
iii. Curriculum planning, implementation and staff development in chemical health education.
iv. Coordination and delivery of intervention and referral services in a school setting, including multidisciplinary intervention teams;
v. Assessment and counseling of drug and alcohol affected students and their families;
vi. Coordination of research-based prevention program services in school and community settings;
vii. School culture and the dynamics of policy and program development;
viii. School law as it relates to substance abuse and related problems; and
ix. A college-supervised SAC practicum.

(d) To be eligible for a provisional educational services certificate with a SAC endorsement, the candidate shall:

1. Possess a SAC CE or CEAS; and

2. Obtain an offer of employment in a position that requires the SAC certificate.

(e) To be eligible for a standard educational services certificate with a SAC endorsement, the candidate shall:

1. Possess a provisional educational services certificate with a SAC endorsement pursuant to (d) above;

2. Complete a Department-approved graduate curriculum pursuant to (c) above; and

3. Complete a six-month State-approved school residency while employed full-time under a provisional educational services certificate with a SAC endorsement. If employed half-time, the residency period shall be 12 months. The residency program shall be conducted under the

direction of a State-approved residency supervisor who shall hold standard New Jersey supervisor, principal or school administrator certification. The residency program shall:

i. Operate in accordance with a residency agreement issued by the Department and entered into by the Department, the employing school, the candidate and the State-approved residency supervisor; and

ii. Consist of a supervised residency that includes professional experiences in chemical health curriculum planning, implementation and staff development, development and coordination of substance abuse intervention and referral services, development and coordination of prevention program services, and the development of school drug and alcohol policies and procedures.

(f) The State-approved residency supervisor shall have primary responsibility to assure that the candidate receives appropriate training, support, practicum experiences and professional opportunities in the critical job responsibilities specified in the agreement and consistent with (a) above. The residency supervisor shall also evaluate and verify the completion of all required experiences according to the terms and conditions of the residency agreement.

(g) Upon completion of the residency period, the supervisor shall complete a comprehensive evaluation report on the candidate's performance based on the candidate's ability to complete the job duties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-18(c) and to implement the theoretical concepts pursuant to (c)2 above. The supervisor shall discuss the evaluation report with the candidate, and the supervisor and candidate shall sign the report as evidence of such discussion. Upon completion of the evaluation, the evaluation shall be submitted to the Office. The evaluation on each candidate shall include one of the following recommendations:

1. Approved: Recommends issuance of a standard educational services certificate with a SAC endorsement;

2. Insufficient: Recommends that a standard educational services certificate with a SAC endorsement not be issued but that the candidate be allowed to continue the residency or seek admission to an additional residency. Except for those candidates who receive approval pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.17(d), a candidate who receives a second insufficient is precluded from continuing or re-entering a residency; or

3. Disapproved: Recommends that a standard educational services certificate with a SAC endorsement not be issued and that the candidate is precluded from continuing or re-entering a residency.

(h) If the candidate disagrees with the residency supervisor's recommendation, the candidate may appeal the recommendation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.17.

(i) An emergency certificate is not available for SAC.