7432 EYE PROTECTION

The Board of Education directs the rigorous implementation and enforcement of eye safety practices for pupils, staff members, and visitors exposed to conditions potentially hazardous to the eyes in the instructional program of this district.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the continual monitoring of the school program, including, but not limited to, all vocational education, industrial arts education, science education, technology education and arts education, for conditions under which pupils, staff members, or visitors are exposed to a process or activity that might have a tendency to cause damage to the eyes.

Each pupil, staff member, and visitor exposed to a condition identified as hazardous to the eyes must wear an eye protective device appropriate to the activity and certified to meet the standards established by the State Board of Education, the American National Standard Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection, ANSI Z87.1-1979, and American National Standard Practice for the Safe Use of Lasers, ANSI Z136.1-1986 and the New Jersey Administrative Code. The eye protective device shall be supplied by the Board, except that the pupil, staff member, or visitor may wear personal eye wear that is appropriate to the activity and certified, in writing, by a licensed optician or other qualified licensed eye professional to meet or exceed those standards. District owned eye protective devices shall be inspected regularly by the appropriate staff member, and defective or poorly fitting devices shall be returned to the Principal for repair or discard. Any shared eye protective devices shall be disinfected between uses by the method prescribed by the school medical inspector.

Each classroom, shop, laboratory, and other area of the school in which pupils or staff members are exposed to caustic materials that can cause damage to the eyes shall be equipped with an emergency eye wash fountain in accordance with standards established by the Department of Education.

The building principal shall insure that each area in the school identified as housing an activity hazardous to the eyes shall be posted with conspicuous signs that warn participants that an appropriate eye protective device must be worn during the activity. Staff members of such activities are responsible for instructing pupils in appropriate eye safety practices and for serving as exemplary models in the implementation of such practices.

The Board authorizes each staff member responsible for an activity or process hazardous to the eyes to compile and maintain, for the duration of the course of study, a list of pupils in the course who wear contact lenses.

A pupil who refuses or persistently neglects to wear an eye protective device when required to do so or fails to observe established eye safety practices shall be dismissed from the day's class by his or her teacher. Any such dismissal from class will be considered to be an absence, in accordance with Board policy on pupil attendance, and an accumulation of such absences may result in loss of course credit.

A staff member who refuses or persistently neglects to wear an eye protective device when required to do so or fails to observe established eye safety practices may be disciplined for insubordination for failing to obey the rules established by this Board. The proper implementation of eye protection practices shall be a criterion in the evaluation of every staff member required to observe such practices.

A visitor to the schools who refuses or persistently neglects to wear an eye protective device when required to do so or fails to observe established eye safety practices may be requested to leave the school premises.

The Superintendent shall promulgate regulations to implement this policy that conform to rules of the State Board of Education and shall provide in-service training to staff members whose instructional duties include activities hazardous to the eyes.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.1; 18A:40-12.2
N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.5

Adopted: 3 May 2004