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Board Member Orientation and Training

Mar 23

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 181, 193, and 230]

0144 BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

The preparation of each Board member for the performance of Board of Education duties is essential to the proper functioning of the Board. The Board encourages each new Board member to acquire information about school district governance, the separate functions of the Board and the Superintendent, the operations of the district, and Board procedures.

The Board directs that each new member receive access to and/or a copy of

the Board of Education Bylaw and Policy Manual, the manual of administrative regulations, each negotiated agreement, the current budget statement and audit report, the most recent long range facilities plan, and other materials as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

Each new Board member will be invited and is encouraged to meet and discuss the responsibilities and authority of a Board member, Board functions, and Board policies and procedures with the Board President (if available), the Superintendent, and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Within the first ninety days of a new Board member's first term, the Board member shall complete a training program to be prepared and offered by the New Jersey School Boards Association. The training shall include instruction relative to the Board member's responsibilities pursuant to the School Ethics Act and N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33

The training program shall include information regarding the school district monitoring system established pursuant to P.L. 2005, c. 235, the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum, and the five key components of school district effectiveness on which school districts are evaluated under the monitoring system: instruction and program; personnel; fiscal management; operations; and governance.



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

Within one year after each re-election or re-appointment to the Board of Education, the Board member shall complete an advanced training program to be prepared and offered by the New Jersey School Boards Association. This advanced training program shall include information on relevant changes to New Jersey school law and other information deemed appropriate to enable the Board member to serve more effectively.

The New Jersey School Boards Association shall examine options for providing training programs to Board members through alternative methods such as on-line or other distance learning media or through regional-based training.

Within one year after being newly elected or appointed or being re-elected or re-appointed to the Board of Education, a Board member shall complete a training program on harassment, intimidation, and bullying in schools, including a school district's responsibilities under N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13 et seq. A Board member shall be required to complete the program only once. Training on harassment, intimidation, and bullying in schools shall be provided by the New Jersey School Boards Association, in consultation with recognized experts in school bullying from a cross section of academia, child advocacy organizations, nonprofit organizations, professional associations, and government agencies.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33; 18A:37-13 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:28-4.1

Adopted:



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Board Officers

Dec 22

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 181, 205, 219, and 229]

0152 BOARD OFFICERS

The Board of Education shall organize at its first regular meeting by electing one of its members as President and another as Vice President.

Any Board member may place a Board member's name in nomination for Board President and Vice President; a second on the nomination is not required. Elections for each office will be conducted by a vote when the nominations for that office are closed.

Verbal Roll Call Vote

Voting shall take place by verbal roll call vote after nominations are closed. When more than one person has been nominated for a single position, the Board will vote on candidates in the order in which they were nominated.

Elect Officers With a Majority of all the Members of the Board

The person with the majority vote of all of the members of the Board shall be elected. In the event no candidate receives a majority vote of all of the members of the Board, the procedure shall be repeated until someone receives a majority vote of all of the members of the Board.



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Officers shall serve for one year and until their respective successors are elected and shall qualify, but if the Board shall fail to hold the organization meeting or to elect Board officers as prescribed by N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1, the Executive County Superintendent shall appoint from among the members of the Board a President and/or Vice President.

A President or Vice President who refuses to perform a duty imposed upon them by law may be removed by a majority vote of all of the members of the Board. In the event the office of President or Vice President shall become vacant the Board shall, within thirty days thereafter, fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. If the Board fails to fill the vacancy within such time, the Executive County Superintendent shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1; 18A:15-2

Adopted:



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Call, Adjournment, and Cancellation

Dec 22

[See POLICY ALERT No. 229]

0161 CALL, ADJOURNMENT, AND CANCELLATION

All Board of Education meetings shall be in public and each Board shall hold a meeting at least once every two months during the period in which the schools in the district are in session.

The Secretary of the Board shall call a special meeting of the Board whenever: requested by the President of the Board; requested by the Superintendent when the Board fails to meet within two months during the period in which the schools in the district are in session; or when presented with a petition signed by a majority of the full membership of the Board requesting the special meeting.

The Board may at any time recess or adjourn to an adjourned meeting at a time, date, and place announced at the time of the recess or the adjournment. The adjourned meeting shall take up business at the point in the agenda where the motion to adjourn was passed.

When circumstances are such as to prevent the attendance of a majority or all of Board members or to frustrate the purpose of the meeting, a meeting may be canceled by the Board Secretary at the request of the President. Notice of the cancellation shall be given, by expedient means, to all Board members, to the Superintendent, and, whenever possible, to the newspapers in which notice of Board meetings is regularly given. If possible, written notice of the cancellation shall also be posted at the place where the canceled meeting was scheduled to occur. Notice of the cancellation shall include the date, time, and place of the next scheduled meeting. Notice of the cancellation shall be read at the next following Board meeting and shall be duly recorded in the official minute book.

N.J.S.A. 18A:10-6

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.1

Adopted:



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Notice of Board Meetings

Dec 22

[See POLICY ALERT No. 229]

0162 NOTICE OF BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education will give notice of all meetings in accordance with law.

Adequate Notice

The Board Secretary shall provide written advance notice of at least forty-eight hours, giving the time, date, location and, to the extent known, the agenda of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting, which notice shall accurately state whether formal action may or may not be taken and which shall be prominently posted in at least one public place reserved for such or similar announcements; mailed, telephoned, telegraphed, or hand delivered to at least two newspapers which newspapers shall be designated by the public body to receive such notices because they have the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the area of jurisdiction of the public body of such meetings, one of which shall be the official newspaper, where any such has been designated by the public body or if the public body has failed to so designate, where any has been designated by the governing body of the political subdivision whose geographic boundaries are coextensive with that of the public body; and filed with the clerk of the municipality when the public body's geographic boundaries are coextensive with that of a single municipality, with the clerk of the county when the public body's geographic boundaries are coextensive with that of a single county, and with the Secretary of State if the public body has Statewide jurisdiction. Where annual notice or revisions thereof in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the Open Public Meetings Act, set forth the location of any meeting, no further notice shall be required for such meeting.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-9, upon the affirmative vote of three-quarters of the members present, the Board may hold a meeting notwithstanding the failure to provide adequate notice if:

1. Such meeting is required in order to deal with matters of such urgency and importance that a delay for the purpose of providing adequate notice would be likely to result in substantial harm to the public interest; and
2. The meeting is limited to discussion of and acting with respect to such matters of urgency and importance; and

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3. Notice of such meeting is provided as soon as possible following the calling of such meeting by posting written notice of the same in the public place described in N.J.S.A. 10:4.8.d., and also by notifying the two newspapers described in N.J.S.A. 10:4.8.d. by telephone, telegram, or by delivering a written notice of same to such newspapers; and

4. Either the public body could not reasonably have foreseen the need for such meeting at a time when adequate notice could have been provided or although the public body could reasonably have foreseen the need for such meeting at a time when adequate notice could have been provided, it nevertheless failed to do so.

Personal Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b.(8), the Board may exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the Board discusses any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion, or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the Board, unless all the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that the matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.

The Board will provide notice to the affected person that will include the date and time of the closed session meeting, the subject or subjects scheduled for discussion at the closed session meeting, and the right of the affected person to request that the discussions be conducted at a public meeting. Such notice will be given no less than forty-eight hours in advance of the closed session meeting.

A written request for public discussion must be submitted to the Board Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting. Any such properly submitted request will be granted. In the event that one or more, but fewer than all, of a group of persons whose employment will be discussed request a public meeting, the discussion regarding the person or persons who have submitted the request will be severed from the rest and will be conducted publicly.

A discussion held in public by reason of the written request of an individual will be conducted at a regularly scheduled meeting for which annual notice has been given or at a meeting for which adequate public notice has been given in accordance with law.

Nothing in this Bylaw will permit an employee to request or the Board to grant the public discussion of tenure charges or permit the public disclosure of information regarding a student.



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N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.; 10:4-8~~d~~; 10:4-9

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-11; 18A:10-6

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.1

Adopted:



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School Threat Assessment Teams

Jun 23

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[See POLICY ALERT No. 231]

2419 SCHOOL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS

The Board of Education shall establish a threat assessment team at each school in the district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.4. The purpose of a threat assessment team shall be to provide school teachers, administrators, and other staff with assistance in identifying students of concern, assessing those students' risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities, and delivering intervention strategies to manage the risk of harm for students who pose a potential safety risk, to prevent targeted violence in the school, and ensure a safe and secure school environment that enhances the learning experience for all members of the school community.

Threat assessment teams established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.4.a. and this Policy shall be multidisciplinary in membership and, to the extent possible, shall include the following individuals:

1. A school psychologist, school counselor, school social worker, or other school employee with expertise in student counseling;
2. A teaching staff member;
3. A school Principal or other senior school administrator;
4. A safe schools resource officer or school employee who serves as a school liaison to law enforcement; and
5. The school safety specialist designated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3. and Policy 7440, in the event the school safety specialist is not already a school administrator or school employee required to be a part of the threat assessment team pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.4.b(5).

Additional school employees may serve as regular members of the threat assessment team or may be consulted during the threat assessment process, as determined to be appropriate by the team.



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School Threat Assessment Teams

Nothing contained in N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.4 shall be construed as affecting the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement or individual contract of employment in effect on the effective date of N.J.S.A. 18A:14-43.4 (August 1, 2022).

This Policy, required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.4, shall be aligned with guidelines developed by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.6 and shall include, but need not be limited to:

1. Guidance for students, teaching staff members, and all school staff members regarding the recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior in a student that may represent a threat to the school community;
2. The designation of members of the school community to whom threatening behavior shall be reported;
3. The development and implementation of policies concerning the assessment and intervention of students whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the school community, and appropriate actions to be taken, including available social, developmental, and law enforcement resources, for students whose behavior is identified as posing a threat to the safety of the school community;
4. Coordination and consultation with the school safety specialist designated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3. and Policy 7440; and
5. The threat assessment team shall not disclose or disseminate any information obtained during their assessment beyond the purpose for which the information was provided to the threat assessment team, except that the threat assessment team is authorized to disclose the information to applicable agencies to pursue appropriate action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.5.a.(3) for any student whose behavior is identified as posing a threat to the safety of the school community.



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School Threat Assessment Teams

When assessing a student whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of the school community, in the case of a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan, the threat assessment team shall consult with the IEP team or 504 team to determine whether the aberrant behavior is a threat to school safety and is being properly addressed in a manner that is required by N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and all Federal and State special education laws.

Each member of the threat assessment team shall participate in training provided by the school safety specialist designated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3. and Policy 7440 that is consistent with the guidelines developed by the NJDOE pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.6. The training shall ensure the threat assessment team is able to accurately assess student behavior and to ensure that threat assessment teams do not have a disparate impact on students based on their race, ethnicity, homelessness status, religious belief, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. The training shall, at a minimum, include training on adverse childhood experiences, childhood trauma, cultural competency, and implicit bias.

The NJDOE, in consultation with State law enforcement agencies and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, shall develop guidelines for school districts regarding the establishment and training of threat assessment teams pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.4 et seq. The NJDOE shall provide training through the New Jersey School Safety Specialist Academy established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.2. The school safety specialist designated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3. and Policy 7440 shall provide training to school staff consistent with the training and guidelines provided by the NJDOE.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3; 18A:17-43.4; 18A:17-43.5; 18A:17-43.6

Adopted:



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Bilingual and ESL Education

Dec 22

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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 187, 191, 209, and 229]

2423 BILINGUAL AND ESL EDUCATION

The Board of Education will provide programs of bilingual education, English as a second language (ESL), and English language services program for English language learners (ELLs) as required by law and rules of the New Jersey State Board of Education. ELLs are those students whose native language is other than English and who have varying degrees of English language proficiency in any one of the domains of speaking, reading, writing, or listening and is synonymous with limited English speaking ability pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18:35-15 through to 26.1.

Identification of Eligible ELLs

The district shall use a multi-step process at the time of enrollment to determine the native language of each ELL. The district shall:

1. Maintain a census indicating all identified students whose native language is other than English; and
2. Administer the Statewide home-language survey to determine which students in Kindergarten to grade twelve whose native language is other than English must be screened further to determine English language proficiency. The Statewide home-language survey shall be administered by a bilingual/ESL or other certified teacher and shall be designed to distinguish students who are proficient English speakers and need no further testing.



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The district shall determine the English language proficiency of all Kindergarten to grade twelve students who are not screened out and whose native language is other than English by administering an English language proficiency test, assessing the level of reading in English, reviewing the previous academic performance of students, including their performance on standardized tests in English, and reviewing the input of teaching staff members responsible for the educational program for ELLs. Students who do not meet the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) standard on a language proficiency test and who have at least one other indicator shall be considered ELLs. The district shall also use age-appropriate methodologies to identify preschool ELLs to determine their individual language development needs.

Bilingual Programs for ELLs

The district shall provide the following programs:

1. An English language services program in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.2
2. An ESL program in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.2
3. A bilingual education program in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.2

All teachers in these programs shall be appropriately certified in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.9. Every student participating in a bilingual, ESL, or English language services program shall be entitled to continue such participation for a period of three years pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-19.

Bilingual, English as a Second Language, and English Language Services Program Enrollment, Assessment, Exit, and Re-entry

Students enrolled in the bilingual, ESL, or English language services program shall be assessed annually using English Language Placement (ELP) assessments to determine their progress in achieving English language proficiency goals and readiness for exiting the program. Students who meet the criteria for Statewide alternate assessments, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10(a)2., shall be assessed annually using an alternate ELP assessment.



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ELLs enrolled in the bilingual, ESL, or English language services program shall be placed in a monolingual English program when they have demonstrated readiness to exit a bilingual, ESL, or English language services program through a Department-established criteria on an ELP assessment and a Department-established English language observation form. A student shall first achieve the Department-established English proficiency standard as measured by an ELP assessment. The student's readiness shall be further assessed by the use of a Department-established English language observation form that considers, at a minimum: classroom performance; the student's reading level in English; the judgment of the teaching staff member or members responsible for the educational program of the student; and performance on achievement tests in English.

In accordance with provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-22.1, a parent may remove a student who is enrolled in a bilingual education program at any time; except that during the first three years of a student's participation in a bilingual education program, the parent may only remove the student at the end of each school year.

If a parent wishes to remove the student prior to the end of each school year, the removal shall be approved by the Executive County Superintendent. If the Executive County Superintendent determines the student should remain in the bilingual education program until the end of the school year, the parent may appeal the Executive County Superintendent's decision to the Commissioner of Education or designee pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-19.2.

Newly excited students who are not progressing in the mainstream English program may be considered for re-entry to bilingual and ESL programs in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.10(e)1. through (e)5.

When the review process for exiting a student from a bilingual, ESL, or English language services program has been completed, the student's parent shall be informed by mail of the placement determination. A parent or teaching staff member who disagrees with the proposed placement may appeal the decision in writing to the Superintendent of Schools or designee, who will provide a written explanation for the decision within seven working days. The complainant may appeal this decision in writing to the Board within seven calendar days of receiving the Superintendent's or designee's written explanation of the decision. The Board will review the appeal and respond in writing to the parent within forty-five calendar days of the Board's receipt of the parent's written appeal to the Board. Upon exhausting an appeal to the Board, the complainant may appeal to the Commissioner of Education.

Parental Involvement

The parents of ELLs will be notified in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.13 that their child has been identified as eligible for enrollment in a bilingual, ESL, or English language services education program. Notice shall be in writing and in the language in which the parent(s) possesses a primary speaking ability, and in English. The notice must also include a statement that the parents have the option of declining their child's enrollment in a bilingual program, and shall be given an opportunity to do so if they choose.



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The district will notify the parents of ELLs by mail within thirty days of the child's identification.

Parents shall receive progress reports of students enrolled in bilingual, ESL, or English language services programs in the same manner and frequency as progress reports are sent to parents of other students enrolled in the district.

The Superintendent or designee will provide for the maximum practical involvement of parent(s) of ELLs in the development and review of program objectives and dissemination of information to and from the district Boards of Education and communities served by the bilingual, ESL, or English language services education programs. A district that implements a bilingual education program shall establish a parent advisory committee on bilingual education of which the majority membership shall be parents of ELLs.

Graduation

ELLs will qualify for graduation from high school in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a) and Policy 5460.

Program Plan

The Superintendent shall prepare and submit a plan for a bilingual, ESL, or English language services program every three years to the Board and the New Jersey Department of Education for approval in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.6.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-15 through 18A:35-26.125

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10; 6A:15-1.1 et seq.

Adopted:



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Emergency Virtual or Remote

Instruction Program

Dec 22

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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 225 and 229]

2425 EMERGENCY VIRTUAL OR REMOTE

INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The Board of Education is committed to providing a high quality educational program, virtually or remotely, in the event the State or local health department determines that it is advisable to close, or mandates closure of, the schools of a school district due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure for more than three consecutive school days, the Superintendent shall have the authority to implement the school district's program of virtual or remote instruction, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. In addition, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.b. the Commissioner of Education shall allow the district to apply to the 180-day requirement established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.a., one or more days of virtual or remote instruction provided to students on the day or days the schools of the district were closed if the program of virtual or remote instruction meets such criteria as may be established by the Commissioner.

The school district's program of virtual or remote instruction shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9; N.J.A.C. 6A:32-13.1.; this Policy; and Regulation 2425.

"Remote instruction" means the provision of instruction occurring when the student and the instructor are in different locations due to the closure of the facility(ies) of the Board of Education, charter school, renaissance school project, or approved private school for students with disabilities. The closure of the facility(ies) shall be pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9 or 18A:46-21.1 and for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, a declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure.



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“Virtual instruction” means the provision of active instruction when the student and the instructor are in different locations and instruction is facilitated through the internet and computer technologies due to the closure of the facility(ies) of the Board of Education, charter school, renaissance school project, or approved private school for students with disabilities. The closure of the facility(ies) shall be pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9 or 18A:46-21.1 and for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, a declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure.

The Superintendent of Schools shall submit, with Board approval, the school district’s program of virtual or remote instruction to the Commissioner of Education annually. If the Board is unable to complete and submit a proposed program of virtual or remote instruction to the Commissioner in accordance with the timeline established by the Commissioner and the school district is required to close its schools for a declared state of emergency, declared public-health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure, the Commissioner of Education may retroactively approve the program.

If provided under the district’s program of virtual or remote instruction that has been approved by the Commissioner, student attendance for a day of virtual or remote instruction shall be accounted for in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.4 for the purposes of meeting State and local graduation requirements, the awarding of course credit, and other matters as determined by the Commissioner of Education in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-13.1(d).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-13.1(b), if implemented by the Superintendent, the school district’s program of virtual or remote instruction shall be provided to an enrolled students, whether a general education student in preschool through grade twelve or a student with a disability aged three to twenty-one. The school district shall provide students with a disability with the same educational opportunities provided to general education students to the extent appropriate and practicable. Related services may be delivered to general education students and students with a disability through the use of electronic communication or a virtual or online platform, as appropriate.

In the event the State or local health department determines it is advisable to close or mandates closure of the schools of the district due to a declared state of emergency, declared public-health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure, the Superintendent shall have the authority to implement the school district’s program of virtual or remote instruction. The Superintendent shall consult with the Board prior to such decision, if practicable. The Superintendent shall ensure that students, parents, staff, and the Board are informed promptly of the Superintendent’s decision.

Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.b., c., or d.; this Policy; and Regulation 2425 shall be construed to limit, supersede or preempt rights, privileges, compensation, remedies, and procedures afforded to public employees or a collective bargaining unit under Federal or State law or any provision of a collective bargaining agreement entered into by the school district.



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In the event of the closure of a school or the schools of the district due to a declared state of emergency, declared public-health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure for a period longer than three consecutive school days:

1. District employees shall be entitled to compensation, benefits, and emoluments pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(1) and (2).

2. The district shall continue to make payments of benefits, compensation, and emoluments pursuant to the terms of a contract with a contracted service provider in effect on the date of the closure as if the services for such benefits, compensation, and emoluments had been provided, and as if the school facilities had remained open pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(3).

3. The district shall be obligated to make payments for benefits, compensation, and emoluments and all payments required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-51 et seq., to an educational services commission, county special services school district, and a jointure commission, and under any shared services agreement and cooperative contract entered into with any other public entity pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(4).

4. An educational services commission, county special services school district, and a jointure commission shall continue to make payments of benefits, compensation, and emoluments pursuant to the terms of a contract with a contracted service provider or a shared services agreement in effect on the date of the closure as if the services for such benefits, compensation, and emoluments had been provided, and as if the school facilities had remained open pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(4).

The provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(1) through (4) and 1 through 4 above shall not apply to any employee whose weekly hours of work are reduced, and to whom unemployment benefits are provided, pursuant to a shared work program approved pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:21-20.3 et seq. A contracted service provider, educational services commission, county special services school district, or jointure commission shall notify the district with which it has entered into a contract to provide services of its intent to reduce the hours of work of its employees pursuant to a shared work program approved pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:21-20.3 et seq.

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(3) and 3. above, if a contracted service provider reduces the amount that it pays to its employees providing services to a school district, and that reduction is the result of a reduction of work hours of those employees made pursuant to a shared work program approved pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:21-20.3 et seq., then the amount paid by the district to the contracted service provider shall be reduced by the same amount.



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2. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(4) and 4. above, if an educational services commission, county special services school district, or jointure commission reduces the amount that it pays to its employees providing services to a school district, and that reduction is the result of a reduction of work hours of those employees made pursuant to a shared work program approved pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:21-20.3 et seq., then the amount paid by the district to the educational services commission, county special services school district, or jointure commission shall be reduced by the same amount.

This Policy may be revised as necessary by the Superintendent in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. The school district's emergency virtual or remote instruction program shall be posted prominently on the school district's website.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-2.1; 6A:32-8.4; 6A:32-13.1

Adopted:



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Instructional Supplies

Mar 23

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[See **POLICY ALERT No. 230**]

2520 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES

The Board of Education shall provide staff members with the supplies, and materials necessary for the successful implementation of the instructional program and provide students with the supplies and materials required for the successful completion of courses of study.

The Board expressly exempts from this Policy such clothing or personal equipment as may be required for reasons related to the safety and health of students or the protection of school property and are individualized or non-reusable, and any materials used in the manufacture or preparation of useful or decorative items that students are permitted to retain, except that no student will be denied participation in any course of study or school sponsored activity because of their financial inability to bear the cost of such clothing, equipment, or materials.

Supplies and materials will be distributed throughout the school district in a manner that ensures equal distribution to students; school facilities; courses; programs; and activities and services, regardless of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7(a).

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for the selection and utilization of instructional supplies that include effective consultation with teaching staff members at all appropriate levels.

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7

N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1

N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 [vocational districts]

Adopted:



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TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3217/page 1 of 2

Use of Corporal Punishment

Mar 23

[See POLICY ALERT No. 230]

3217 USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

No teaching staff member employed by the Board or a person engaged in any school in the school district shall inflict or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment upon a student attending any school in the school district; but any such teaching staff member may, within the scope of their employment, use and apply such amounts of force as is reasonable and necessary:

1. To quell a disturbance, threatening physical injury to others;
2. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person or within the control of a student;
3. For the purpose of self-defense; and
4. For the protection of persons or property;

and such acts, or any of them, shall not be construed to constitute corporal punishment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1. Every resolution, bylaw, rule, ordinance, or other act or authority permitting or authorizing corporal punishment to be inflicted upon a student attending any school in the district shall be void.

Any teaching staff member employed by the Board found to have violated this Policy may be subject to discipline by the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1; 18A:37-1

Adopted:



POLICY GUIDE

SUPPORT STAFF

4217/page 1 of 1

Use of Corporal Punishment

Mar 23

[See POLICY ALERT No. 230]

4217 USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

No support staff member employed by the Board or a person engaged in any school in the school district shall inflict or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment upon a student attending any school in the school district; but any such support staff member may, within the scope of their employment, use and apply such amounts of force as is reasonable and necessary:

1. To quell a disturbance, threatening physical injury to others;
2. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person or within the control of a student;
3. For the purpose of self-defense; and
4. For the protection of persons or property;

and such acts, or any of them, shall not be construed to constitute corporal punishment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1. Every resolution, bylaw, rule, ordinance, or other act or authority permitting or authorizing corporal punishment to be inflicted upon a student attending any school in the district shall be void.

Any support staff member employed by the Board found to have violated this Policy may be subject to discipline by the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1; 18A:37-1

Adopted:



4433 VACATIONS

The Board of Education believes that it is beneficial to the school district that persons employed to work twelve months a year be given periodic relief from the responsibilities of their position without loss of compensation.

The Board reserves the right to determine the conditions under which vacation time may be taken when not otherwise covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement.

An application for vacation must be presented to the Superintendent or designee (though AESOP) not less than 2 weeks before the intended starting date of the vacation. A waiver to that rule may be given in emergency situations. The Superintendent or designee (though AESOP) must approve all vacations before they are taken.

Vacation time must be taken by the end of the school year calendar, in the year that it was earned, except that 5 days of earned vacation time may be carried over to the next school year on the approval of the superintendent to be used by August 15th.

Vacations will be granted only at times of the year when they will not interfere with the regular operations of the school.

Payment of salary in lieu of vacation is prohibited.

N.J.S.A. 18A:30-7

Adopted:

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STUDENTS

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Attendance

Dec 22

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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 176, 203, 205, 220, and 229]

5200 ATTENDANCE

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25, every parent or other person having control and custody of a child between the ages of six and sixteen shall cause the child to regularly attend school. The Board of Education requires students enrolled in the school district attend school regularly in accordance with the laws of the State.

For the purpose of this Policy and Regulation 5200, “parent” means the natural parent(s), adoptive parent(s), legal guardian(s), resource family parent(s), or surrogate parent(s) of a student. When parents are separated or divorced, “parent” means the person or agency who has legal custody of the student, as well as the natural or adoptive parent(s) of the student, provided parental rights have not been terminated by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

Notwithstanding the requirement of reporting student absences in the school register for State and Federal reporting purposes, “excused” and “unexcused” student absences, for the purpose of expectations and consequences regarding truancy, student conduct, promotion, retention, and the award of course credit is a Board decision outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 and Policy and Regulation 5200. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 and for the purposes of Policy and Regulation 5200, a student’s absence from school will either be excused or unexcused. Unexcused absences will count toward truancy.

A parent or adult student shall provide advance notice to the school prior to the student being absent from school. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-25.6, if a student is determined to be absent from school without valid excuse, and if the reason for the student’s absence is unknown to school personnel, the Principal or designee shall immediately attempt to contact the student’s parent to notify the parent of the absence and determine the reason for the absence.

Students that are absent from school for any reason are responsible for the completion of assignments missed because of their absence. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14, a student who is absent from school for observing a

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religious holiday shall not be deprived of any award, eligibility, or opportunity to compete

for any award, or deprived of the right to take an alternate test or examination that was missed because of the absence provided there is a written excuse of such absence signed by the parent.

Prolonged or repeated absences, excused or unexcused, from school or from class, deprive students of the educational and classroom experiences deemed essential to learning and may result in retention at grade level or loss of credit or removal from a course that would count toward the high school diploma in accordance with policies of this Board.

Students shall be subjected to the school district's response for unexcused absences that count toward truancy during the school year as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)4. and Regulation 5200.

Unexcused absences from school or from classes within the school day may subject a student to consequences that may include the denial of a student's participation in co-curricular activities and/or athletic competition. Repeated absences from school interfere with efforts of the Board and its staff in the maintenance of good order and the continuity of classroom instruction and such absences may result in the removal of the student from a class or course of study.

The Superintendent shall calculate and monitor the average daily attendance rate for the district and for each school in the district. Whenever the average daily attendance rate does not meet the New Jersey Department of Education requirements the Superintendent or designee shall develop a district improvement plan to improve student attendance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.2.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14; 18A:36-25.6; 18A:38-25; **18A:38-25.1;**

18A:38-25.2; 18A:38-26

N.J.S.A. 34:2-21.1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6; 6A:30-5.2; **6A:32-8; 6A:32-13**

Adopted:



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STUDENTS

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Health Services Personnel

Mar 23

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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 178, 204, 209, and 230]

5305 HEALTH SERVICES PERSONNEL

The Board of Education shall appoint at least one school physician pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1. The Board may appoint a lead school physician to serve as health services director if more than one school physician is contracted by the Board. The school physician(s) shall be currently licensed by the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners in medicine or osteopathy and shall have a training and scope of practice that includes child and adolescent health and development. The contract between the Board and the school physician(s) appointed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1 shall include a statement of assurance that the school physician(s) has completed the Student-Athlete Cardiac Screening professional development module developed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41d and has read the sudden cardiac arrest pamphlet developed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41. The school district shall conduct a criminal history background check on any physician before entering into an agreement for delivery of services pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3.

The school physician(s) shall provide, at a minimum, the following services:

1. Consultation in the development and implementation of school district policies, procedures, and mechanisms related to health, safety, and medical emergencies, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1(a) and Policy and Regulation 5310;
2. Consultation to school district medical staff regarding the delivery of school health services, which includes special health care needs of technology-supported and medically fragile children, including students covered by 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;



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3. Physical examinations conducted in the school physician's office or other comparably equipped facility for students who do not have a medical home
4. Provision of written notification to the parent stating approval or disapproval of the student's participation in athletics based upon the medical report;
5. Direction for professional duties of other medical staff;
6. Written standing orders that shall be reviewed and re-issued before the beginning of each school year;
7. Establishment of standards of care for emergency situations and medically-related care involving students and school staff;
8. Assistance to the certified school nurse or non-certified nurse in conducting health screenings of students and staff and assistance with the delivery of school health services;
9. Review, as needed, of reports and orders from a student's medical home regarding student health concerns;
10. Authorization of tuberculin testing for conditions outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(c) and Policy and Regulation 5310;
11. Review, approval, or denial with reasons of a medical home determination of a student's anticipated confinement and resulting need for home instruction; and
12. Consultation with the school district certified school nurse(s) to obtain input for the development of the school nursing services plan, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1(b) and Policy and Regulation 5310.



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The Board shall employ a certified school nurse to provide nursing services while school is in session pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1 and 3.3. The certified school nurse shall work under the direction of the school physician and Superintendent of Schools.

The certified school nurse shall possess a standard educational services certificate with a school nurse endorsement or school nurse/non-instructional endorsement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.3 or 14.4. The certified school nurse shall possess a current New Jersey registered professional nurse license issued by the New Jersey State Board of Nursing; a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university; a current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillators (AED) certification as issued by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, the National Safety Council, or other entities determined by the Department of Health to comply with the American Heart Association's CPR guidelines; and complete training in airway management and in the use of nebulizers and inhalers consistent with nationally recognized standards including, but not limited to, those of the National Institutes of Health and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology.

The role of the certified school nurse shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Carrying out written orders of the medical home and standing orders of the school physician;
2. Conducting health screenings which include height, weight, blood pressure, hearing, vision, and scoliosis pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2 and Policy and Regulation 5310 and monitoring vital signs and general health status for emergent issues for students suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and controlled dangerous substances, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4 and 18A:40A-12 and Policy and Regulation 5530;
3. Maintaining student health records, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4, and Policy and Regulation 5308;
4. Recommending to the Principal students who shall not be admitted to or retained in the school building based on a parent's failure to provide evidence of the child's immunization according to the schedules specified in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4;
5. Annually reviewing student immunization records to confirm with the medical home that the medical condition for the exemption from immunization continues to be applicable, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3;



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6. Recommending to the Principal exclusion of students who show evidence of communicable disease, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-7, 8, and 10;
7. Directing and supervising the emergency administration of epinephrine and glucagon, and training school staff designated to serve as delegates, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.6 and 12.14 and Policy and Regulation 5330;
8. Administering asthma medication through use of a nebulizer;
9. Directing and supervising the health services activities of any school staff to whom the certified school nurse has delegated a nursing task;
10. Classroom instruction in areas related to health education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.3;
11. Reviewing and summarizing available health and medical information regarding the student and transmitting a summary of relevant health and medical information to the Child Study Team, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4(h);
12. Writing and updating, at least annually, the individualized health care plans and the individualized emergency healthcare plans for students' medical needs, and instructing staff as appropriate;
13. Writing and updating, at least annually, any written healthcare provisions required under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §794(a), for any student who requires them;
14. Assisting in the development of and implementing healthcare procedures for students in the event of an emergency;
15. Instructing teachers on communicable disease and other health concerns, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3;



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16. Reviewing completed health history update questionnaires and sharing with the school athletic trainer for review, if applicable, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.7; and

17. Providing other nursing services consistent with the nurse's educational services certification endorsement as a school nurse issued by the State Board of Examiners and current license approved by the State Board of Nursing.

A certified school nurse who possesses the school nurse/non-instructional certificate is not authorized to teach in areas related to health, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.4.

The Board may appoint a non-certified nurse under the supervision of a certified school nurse to supplement the services of a certified school nurse provided a non-certified nurse shall be assigned to the same school building or complex as the certified school nurse pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3.3(a.) and a non-certified nurse is limited to providing services only as permitted under a non-certified nurse's license issued by the State Board of Nursing in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(c).

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1; 18A:40-3.3; 18A:40-4; 18A:40-7;

18A:40-8; 18A:40-10; 18A:40-12; 18A:40-12.6;

18A:40-12.14; 18A:40-41.7

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.3; 6A:9B-14.4; 6A:14-3.4; 6A:16-2.1;

6A:16-2.2; 6A:16-2.3

Adopted:



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Student Health Records

Mar 23

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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 178, 204, and 230]

5308 STUDENT HEALTH RECORDS

The school district shall maintain mandated student health records for each student pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7. The district will document student health records using a form approved by the Commissioner of Education.

The maintenance and security of student health records shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.4 and 6A:16-2.4. Student health records, whether stored on paper or electronically, shall be maintained in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7. Student health records shall be maintained separately from other student records. Student health records also shall be maintained according to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7 until such time as graduation or termination from the school district, whereupon the health history and immunization record shall be removed from the student's health record and placed in the student's mandated record. The school district of last enrollment, graduation, or permanent departure of the student shall keep, for 100 years, a mandated record of a student's health history and immunization in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(f). No additions shall be made to the record after graduation or permanent departure without prior written consent of the parent or adult student pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(e).

The transfer of student health records when a student transfers to or from a school district shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5.

Any Board of Education employee with knowledge of, or access to, the following health information shall comply with restrictions for sharing information as required by Federal and State statutes and regulations: information that identifies a student as having HIV infection or AIDS shall



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be shared only with prior written informed consent of the student age twelve or greater, or of the student's parent as required by N.J.S.A. 26:5C-1 et seq. and only for the purpose of determining an appropriate educational program for the student; information obtained by the school's alcohol and other drug program that would identify the student as an alcohol or other drug user may be disclosed only for those purposes and under conditions permitted by 42 CFR Part 2; information provided by a secondary school student while participating in a school-based alcohol or other drug counseling program that indicates that a parent or other person residing in the student's household is dependent upon or illegally using a substance shall be shared only for those purposes and conditions permitted by N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-7.1.

Access to and disclosure of information in a student's health record shall meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. §1232g, and 34 CFR Part 99, incorporated herein by reference, as amended and supplemented, and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7-; Student Records.

The school district shall provide access to the student's health record to licensed medical personnel not holding educational certification who are working under contract with, or as employees of, the school district only to the extent necessary to enable the licensed medical personnel to perform their duties. Secretarial or clerical personnel under the supervision of the certified school nurse shall be permitted access to those portions of the student health record necessary for entry and recording of data and for conducting routine clerical tasks as outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3.4 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5.

Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4 or in this Policy and Regulation 5308 shall be construed to prohibit school personnel from disclosing to students or adults in connection with an emergency the information contained in the student health record if the release is necessary to protect the immediate health or safety of the student or other persons pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3.4

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4 ; 6A:32-7.1; 6A:32-7.4 ;

6A:32-7.5; 6A:32-7.8

Adopted:



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Health Services

Mar 23

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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 178, 204, 208, and 230]

5310 HEALTH SERVICES

The Board of Education shall develop and adopt the following written policies, procedures, and mechanisms in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1(a) for the provision of health, safety, and medical emergency services, and shall ensure staff are informed as appropriate:

1. The review of immunization records for completeness, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 through 4.20 (Policy and Regulation 5320);
2. The administration of medication to students in the school setting by the following authorized individuals (Policy and Regulation 5330):
 - a. The school physician ;
 - b. A certified school nurse or non-certified nurse;
 - c. A substitute school nurse employed by the school district;
 - d. The student's parent;



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e. A student approved to self-administer medication, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1(a)5.iii. and 6A:16-2.1(a)9. and N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 and 12.4;

f. Other school employees who volunteer to be trained and designated by the certified school nurse to administer epinephrine in an emergency, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.5 and 12.6; and

g. Other employees who volunteer to be designated as a delegate and trained to administer glucagon, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.14.

3. The review of Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders received from the student's parent or medical home (Policy 5332);

4. The provision of health services in emergency situations, including:

a. The emergency administration of epinephrine via an epinephrine auto-injector, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.5 (Policy and Regulation 5330);

b. The emergency administration of glucagon, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.14 (Policy and Regulation 5338);

c. The care of any student who becomes injured or ill while at school or participating in school-sponsored functions (Policy and Regulation 8441);

d. The transportation and supervision of any student determined to be in need of immediate care (Policy and Regulation 8441);

e. The notification to parents of any student determined to be in need of immediate medical care (Policy and Regulation 8441); and



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f. The establishment and implementation of an emergency action plan for responding to a sudden cardiac event, including the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41b. (Policy and Regulation 5300).

5. The treatment of asthma in the school setting in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1(a)5. (Policy 5335);

6. Administration of student medical examinations, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4, N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.8, and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2 (Policy and Regulation 5310);

7. Utilization of sanitation and hygiene when handling blood and bodily fluids pursuant to N.J.A.C. 12:100-4.2, Safety and Health Standards for Public Employees, and in compliance with 29 CFR §1910.1030, Occupational Safety and Health-Bloodborne Pathogens Standards (Policy and Regulation 7420);

8. Provision of nursing services to nonpublic schools located in the school district as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:40-23 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5 (Policy and Regulation 5306);

9. Self-administration of medication by a student for asthma or other potentially life-threatening illness or life-threatening allergic reaction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3, 12.5, and 12.6, and the self-management and care of a student's diabetes as needed, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.15 (Policy and Regulation 5330);

10. Development of an individualized healthcare plan and individualized emergency healthcare plan for students with chronic medical conditions, including, diabetes, asthma, and life-threatening allergies requiring special health services in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.11.c, 12.12, 12.13, and 12.15; and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(b)3.xii. (Policies and Regulations 5331 and 5338 and Policy 5335); and

11. Management of food allergies in the school setting and the emergency administration of epinephrine to students for anaphylaxis, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.6a through 12.6d (Policy and Regulation 5331).

The Board of Education shall annually adopt the school district's nursing services plan at a regular meeting, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1(b) and Policy 5307.



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N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.8; 18A:40-4 18A:40-12;

18A:40-12.3; 18A:40-12.5; 18A:40-12.6;

18A:40-12.6a; 18A:40-12.6b; 18A:40-12.6c;

18A:40-12.6d; 18A:40-12.7; 18A:40-12.11;

18A:40-12.15; 18A:40-16; 18A:40-23 et seq.;

18A:40-41a.; 18A:40-41b.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3; 6A:16-2.1; 6A:16-2.2

Adopted:



POLICY

Nutley Public Schools

Student Suicide Prevention 5350

STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that depression and self-destruction are problems of increasing severity among students. Students under severe stress cannot benefit fully from the educational program and may pose a threat to themselves or others.

The Board directs all school district staff members to be alert to a student who exhibits warning signs of self-destruction or who threatens or attempts suicide. Any such warning signs or the report of such warning signs from another student or staff member shall be taken with the utmost seriousness and reported immediately to the Principal or designee.

The Principal or designee shall immediately attempt to contact the parent(s) of the student exhibiting warning signs of suicide to inform the parent(s) the student will be referred to the School Crisis Team, appointed by the Superintendent or designee, to conduct a preliminary assessment. Upon completion of the preliminary assessment, the Principal or designee shall contact the parent(s) to review the results of the preliminary assessment. Based on the preliminary assessment, the parent(s) may be required to obtain medical or psychiatric services for the student. If it is determined that a student may pose a danger to themselves or others, the Principal or designee shall immediately notify the Superintendent or designee who will notify local law enforcement. In the event the parent objects to the recommendation or indicates an unwillingness to cooperate in the best interests of the student, the Principal or designee will contact the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency to request intervention on the student's behalf and notify local law enforcement.

In the event that a potential risk is reported outside of school hours and/or if the student is not present for a preliminary assessment, the Principal or designee shall immediately notify the Superintendent or designee who will notify local law enforcement.

In the event the student is required to obtain medical or psychiatric services, the parent(s) will be required to submit to the Superintendent or designee a written medical clearance from a licensed mental health professional, which includes a Licensed Psychiatrist, Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor, or Psychiatric - Mental Health Advanced Practice Nurse approved by the Superintendent or designee, indicating the student has received medical services, does not present a risk to themselves or others, and is cleared to return to school/school activities. The written medical clearance may be reviewed by a Board of Education healthcare professional before the student is permitted to return to school. The parent(s) shall be required to authorize their healthcare professional(s) to release relevant medical information to the school district's healthcare professional, if requested. The

district reserves the right to determine the level of mental health professional provided care needed for clearance to return to school. The district reserves the right to have your child evaluated by a designated board-approved mental health provider for psychiatric evaluation and/or school clearance should more information be necessary in order for the student to return to school/school activities.

Clearance from a mental health professional must be provided to the Principal or designee for review. Upon review of documentation, the Principal or designee will contact the parent(s) to schedule a re-entry meeting. During the re-entry meeting, the Principal or designee and at least one member of the School Crisis Team will establish a written re-entry plan with the student and parent(s).

Any school district staff member, volunteer, or intern with reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a student has attempted or completed suicide, shall immediately report the information to the Principal or designee or their immediate supervisor who will immediately report it to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall promptly report it online to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, or as otherwise required by the Department POLICY Nutley Public Schools Student Suicide Prevention 5350 Page 2 of 2 Student Suicide Prevention of Children and Families in accordance with N.J.S.A. 30:9A-24. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 30:9A-24i, any person who reports an attempted or completed suicide shall have immunity from any civil or criminal liability on account of the report, unless the person has acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111 and 18A:6-112, as part of the required professional development for teachers as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C3 et seq., every teaching staff member and anyone who comes in close or daily contact must complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide prevention, to be provided by a licensed health care professional with training and experience in mental health issues, in each professional development period. The instruction in suicide prevention shall include information on the relationship between the risk of suicide and incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying and information on reducing the risk of suicide in students who are members of communities identified as having members at high risk of suicide.

The Superintendent shall prepare and disseminate guidelines to assist school district staff members in recognizing the warning signs of a student who may be contemplating suicide, to respond to a threat or attempted suicide, and to prevent contagion when a student commits suicide.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111; 18A:6-112 N.J.S.A. 30:9A-23; 30:9A-24 N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-3 et seq.

Adopted: 10 June 2013

Revised:

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STUDENTS

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Harassment, Intimidation, **or** ~~and~~ Bullying

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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 188, 193, 194, 200,
216, 227, and 229]

5512 HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, **OR** BULLYING

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A. Prohibiting Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying

The Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student. The Board has determined that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards; harassment, intimidation, or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe and disciplined environment. Since students learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers should be commended for demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

For the purposes of this Policy, the term "parent," pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3, means the natural parent(s); adoptive parent(s); legal guardian(s); resource family parent(s); or parent surrogate(s) of a student. When parents are separated or divorced, "parent" means the person or agency which has legal custody of the student, as well as the natural or adoptive parent(s) of the student, provided parental rights have not been terminated by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

B. Definition of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying

"Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents that:

1. Is reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic;
2. Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds, as provided for in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15.3;
3. Substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students;



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- a. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act(s) will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to their person or damage to their property; or
- b. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students; or
- c. Creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

The Board recognizes that bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that may involve a real or perceived power imbalance. Recognizing "a real or perceived power imbalance" may assist school officials in identifying harassment, intimidation, or bullying within the context and relative positions of the alleged aggressor and target.

"Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone, computer, or remotely activating paging device (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3).

In accordance with the Board of Education's Code of Student Conduct and this Policy, all acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying that occur off school grounds, such as "cyber-bullying" (e.g., the use of electronic means to harass, intimidate, or bully) is addressed in this Policy.

C. Student Behavior

The Board of Education expects students to conduct themselves in keeping with their levels of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities, with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and school staff, the educational purpose underlying all school activities and the care of school facilities and equipment, consistent with the Code of Student Conduct.



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The Board believes that standards for student behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the parents and other community representatives, school administrators, school employees, school volunteers, and students of the school district, producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for school district and community property on the part of students, staff, and community members.

Students are expected to behave in a way that creates a supportive learning environment. The Board believes the best discipline is self-imposed, and that it is the responsibility of staff to use instances of violations of the Code of Student Conduct as opportunities for helping students learn to assume and accept responsibility for their behavior and the consequences of their behavior. Staff members who interact with students shall apply best practices designed to prevent student conduct problems and foster students' abilities to grow in self-discipline.

The Board expects students will act in accordance with the student behavioral expectations and standards regarding harassment, intimidation, or bullying, including:

1. Student responsibilities (e.g., requirements for students to conform to reasonable standards of socially accepted behavior; respect the person, property, and rights of others; obey constituted authority; and respond to those who hold that authority);
2. Appropriate recognition for positive reinforcement for good conduct, self-discipline, and good citizenship;
3. Student rights; and
4. Sanctions and due process for violations of the Code of Student Conduct.



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Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(a) and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(a)1, the district has involved a broad-base of school and community members, including parents, school employees, volunteers, students, and community representatives, in the development of this Policy.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1, the Board developed guidelines for student conduct, taking into consideration the nature of the behavior; the nature of the student's disability, if any and to the extent relevant; the developmental ages of students; severity of the offenses and students' histories of inappropriate behaviors; and the mission and physical facilities of the individual school(s) in the district. This Policy requires all students in the district to adhere to the rules established by the school district and to submit to the remedial and consequential measures that are appropriately assigned for infractions of these rules.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1, the Superintendent shall annually provide to students and their parents the rules of the district regarding student conduct. Provisions shall be made for informing parents whose primary language is other than English.

The district prohibits active or passive support for acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The school district will support students who:

1. Walk away from acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying when they see them;
2. Constructively attempt to stop acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying;
3. Provide support to students who have been subjected to harassment, intimidation, or bullying; and
4. Report acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying to the designated school staff member.



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D. Consequences and Remedial Actions

The Board of Education requires its school administrators to implement procedures that ensure both the appropriate consequences and remedial responses for students who commit one or more acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, and the consequences and remedial responses for staff members who commit one or more acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

In every incident found to be harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate school staff, may apply disciplinary consequences and/or remedial actions, such as the provision of counseling, behavioral interventions, or other measures.

Appropriate consequences and remedial actions are those that are graded according to the severity of the offenses; consider the developmental ages of the student offenders; the nature of the student's disability, if any and to the extent relevant; and the students' histories of inappropriate behaviors, per the Code of Student Conduct and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.

The following factors, at a minimum, shall be given full consideration by the school administrators in the implementation of appropriate consequences and remedial measures for each act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying by students.

Factors for Determining Consequences

- Age, disability (if any and to the extent relevant), developmental and maturity levels of the parties involved and their relationship to the school district;
- Degrees of harm;
- Surrounding circumstances;
- Nature and severity of the behaviors;
- Incidences of past or continuing patterns of behavior;
- Relationships between the parties involved; and
- Context in which the alleged incidents occurred.



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Factors for Determining Remedial Measures

Personal:

- Life skill deficiencies;
- Social relationships;
- Strengths;
- Talents;
- Traits;
- Interests;
- Hobbies;
- Extra-curricular activities;
- Classroom participation;
- Academic performance;
- Relationship to peers; and
- Relationship between student/family and the school district.



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Environmental:

- School culture;
- School climate;
- Student-staff relationships and staff behavior toward the student;
- General staff management of classrooms or other educational environments;
- Staff ability to prevent and manage difficult or inflammatory situations;
- Availability of programs to address student behavior;
- Social-emotional and behavioral supports;
- Social relationships;
- Community activities;
- Neighborhood situation; and
- Family situation.

Examples of Consequences and Remedial Measures

The consequences and remedial measures may include, but are not limited to, the examples listed below:



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Examples of Consequences:

- Admonishment;
- Temporary removal from the classroom (any removal of .5 days or more must be reported in the Student Safety Data System);
- Deprivation of privileges;
- Classroom or administrative detention;
- Referral to disciplinarian;
- In-school suspension during the school week or the weekend;
- Out-of-school suspension (short-term or long-term);
- Reports to law enforcement or other legal action;
- Expulsion; and
- Bans from receiving certain services, participating in school-district-sponsored programs or being in school buildings or on school grounds.

Examples of Remedial Measures

Personal:

- Restitution and restoration;
- Peer support group;
- Recommendations of a student behavior or ethics council;
- Corrective instruction or other relevant learning or service experience;
- Supportive student interventions, including participation of the Intervention and Referral Services Team, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8;
- Behavioral assessment or evaluation, including, but not limited to, a referral to the Child Study Team, as appropriate;



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- Behavioral management plan, with benchmarks that are closely monitored;
- Assignment of leadership responsibilities (e.g., hallway or bus monitor);
- Involvement of school "disciplinarian;"
- Student counseling;
- Parent conferences;
- Alternative placements (e.g., alternative education programs);
- Student treatment; and
- Student therapy.

Environmental (Classroom, School Building, or School District):

- School and community surveys or other strategies for determining the conditions contributing to HIB;
- School culture change and school climate improvement;
- Adoption of research-based, systemic bullying prevention programs;
- School policy and procedures revisions;
- Modifications of schedules;
- Adjustments in hallway traffic;
- Modifications in student routes or patterns traveling to and from school;
- Supervision of student before and after school, including school transportation;
- Targeted use of monitors (e.g., hallway, cafeteria, locker room, playground, school perimeter, bus);
- Teacher aides;
- Small or large group presentations for fully addressing the behaviors and the responses to the behaviors;
- General professional development programs for certificated and non-certificated staff;



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- Professional development plans for involved staff;
- Disciplinary action for school staff who contributed to the problem;
- Supportive institutional interventions, including participation of the Intervention and Referral Services Team, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8;
- Parent conferences;
- Family counseling;
- Involvement of parent-teacher organizations;
- Involvement of community-based organizations;
- Development of a general bullying response plan;
- Recommendations of a student behavior or ethics council;
- Peer support groups;
- Alternative placements (e.g., alternative education programs);
- School transfers; and
- Law enforcement (e.g., safe schools resource officer, juvenile officer) involvement or other legal action.

Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for a student or staff member who commits one or more acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion of students, as set forth in the Board's approved Code of Student Conduct, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1.

The Principal, in consultation with appropriate school staff, shall develop an individual student intervention plan when a student is found to be an offender in three harassment, intimidation, or bullying incidents and each subsequent incident occurring within one school year. The student intervention plan may include disciplinary consequences and/or remedial actions and may require the student, accompanied by a parent, to satisfactorily complete a class or training program to reduce harassment, intimidation, or bullying behavior. Each student intervention plan must be approved by the Superintendent.

While the majority of incidents may be addressed solely by school officials, the Superintendent or designee and the Principal shall report a harassment, intimidation, or bullying incident to law enforcement officials if the conduct rises to the level of a mandatory report as outlined in the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.



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Consequences and Appropriate Remedial Actions – Adults

The district will also impose appropriate consequences and remedial actions to an adult who commits an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student. The consequences may include, but not be limited to: verbal or written reprimand; increment withholding; legal action; disciplinary action; termination; and/or bans from providing services, participating in school district-sponsored programs, or being in school buildings or on school grounds. Remedial measures may include, but not be limited to: in or out-of-school counseling, professional development programs, and work environment modifications.

E. Reporting Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying

The Board of Education requires the Principal at each school to be responsible for receiving all complaints alleging harassment, intimidation, or bullying committed by an adult or youth against a student. All Board members, school employees, and volunteers and contracted service providers who have contact with students, are required to verbally report alleged acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying to the Principal or designee on the same day when the individual witnessed or received reliable information regarding any such incident. All Board members, school employees, and contracted service providers who have contact with students, also shall submit a New Jersey Department of Education-approved HIB 338 Form to the Principal within two school days of the verbal report. Failure to make the required report(s) may result in disciplinary action.

The HIB 338 Form shall be kept on file at the school, but shall not be included in any student record unless the incident results in disciplinary action or is otherwise required to be contained in a student's record under State or Federal Law.

The district may not fail to initiate an investigation of harassment, intimidation, or bullying solely because written documentation was not provided. Failing to conduct a harassment, intimidation, or bullying investigation solely because a parent or student did not submit written documentation violates the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and this Policy. If a parent makes a verbal allegation of harassment, intimidation, or bullying to a district staff member, but does not complete and submit the HIB 338 Form, the staff member or a designee must complete and submit the HIB 338 Form.



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The Principal or designee is required to inform the parents of all students involved in alleged incidents, and, as appropriate, may discuss the availability of counseling and other intervention services. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7(a)2.viii.(2), when providing notification to the parents of all students involved, the Principal or designee shall take into account the circumstances of the incident when conveying the nature of the incident, including the actual or perceived category motivating the alleged offense. The Principal or designee shall keep a written record of the date, time, and manner of notification to the parents.

The Principal, upon receiving a verbal or written report, may take interim measures to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of all parties pending the findings of the investigation.

Students, parents, and visitors are encouraged to report alleged acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying to the Principal or designee on the same day when the individual witnessed or received reliable information regarding any such incident. The school district shall provide a person an online means to complete the HIB

338 Form to anonymously report an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Formal action for violations of the Code of Student Conduct may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

A Board member or school employee who promptly reports an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying and who makes this report in compliance with the procedures set forth in this Policy, is immune from a cause of action for damages arising from any failure to remedy the reported incident.

The Principal shall promptly submit a copy of each completed HIB 338 Form to the Superintendent.

The district may consider every mechanism available to simplify reporting, including standard reporting forms and/or web-based reporting mechanisms. For anonymous reporting, in addition to making the HIB 338 Form available online, the district may consider locked boxes located in areas of a school where reports can be submitted without fear of being observed.

A school administrator who receives a report of harassment, intimidation, or ~~and~~ bullying or who determines a reported incident or complaint, assuming all facts presented are true, is a report within the scope of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14 and fails to initiate or conduct an investigation, or who should have known of an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying and fails to take sufficient action to minimize or eliminate the harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may be subject to disciplinary action. The district also should consider procedures and disciplinary action when it is found that someone had information regarding a harassment, intimidation, or bullying incident, but did not make the required report(s).



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F. Anti-Bullying Coordinator, Anti-Bullying Specialist, and School Safety/School Climate Team(s)

1. The Superintendent shall appoint a district Anti-Bullying Coordinator. The Superintendent shall make every effort to appoint an employee of the school district to this position.

The district Anti-Bullying Coordinator shall:

a. Be responsible for coordinating and strengthening the school district's policies to prevent, identify, and address harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students;

b. Collaborate with school Anti-Bullying Specialists in the district, the Board of Education, and the Superintendent to prevent, identify, and respond to harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students in the district;

c. Provide data, in collaboration with the Superintendent, to the Department of Education regarding harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students;

d. Execute such other duties related to school harassment, intimidation, or bullying as requested by the Superintendent; and

e. Meet at least twice a school year with the school Anti-Bullying Specialist(s) to discuss and strengthen procedures and policies to prevent, identify, and address harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the district.



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2. The Principal in each school shall appoint a school Anti-Bullying Specialist. The Anti-Bullying Specialist shall be a guidance counselor, school psychologist, or other certified staff member trained to be the Anti-Bullying Specialist from among the currently employed staff in the school.

The school Anti-Bullying Specialist shall:

- a. Chair the School Safety/School Climate Team as provided in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-21;
- b. Lead the investigation of incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the school; and
- c. Act as the primary school official responsible for preventing, identifying, and addressing incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the school.

3. A School Safety/School Climate Team shall be formed in each school in the district to develop, foster, and maintain a positive school climate by focusing on the on-going systemic operational procedures and educational practices in the school, and to address issues such as harassment, intimidation, or bullying that affect school climate and culture. Each School Safety/School Climate Team shall meet, at a minimum, two times per school year. The School Safety/School Climate Team shall consist of the Principal or the Principal's designee who, if possible, shall be a senior administrator in the school and the following appointees of the Principal: a teacher in the school; a school Anti-Bullying Specialist; a parent of a student in the school; and other members to be determined by the Principal. The school Anti-Bullying Specialist shall serve as the chair of the School Safety/School Climate Team.

The School Safety/School Climate Team shall:

- a. Receive records of all complaints of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students that have been reported to the Principal;
- b. Receive copies of all reports prepared after an investigation of an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying;
- c. Identify and address patterns of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students in the school;



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d. Review and strengthen school climate and the policies of the school in order to prevent and address harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students;

e. Educate the community, including students, teachers, administrative staff, and parents, to prevent and address harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students;

f. Participate in the training required pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13 et seq. and other training which the Principal or the district Anti-Bullying Coordinator may request. The School Safety/School Climate Team shall be provided professional development opportunities that may address effective practices of successful school climate programs or approaches; and

g. Execute such other duties related to harassment, intimidation, or bullying as requested by the Principal or district Anti-Bullying Coordinator.

Notwithstanding any provision of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-21 to the contrary, a parent who is a member of the School Safety/School Climate Team shall not participate in the activities of the team set forth in 3. a., b., or c. above or any other activities of the team which may compromise the confidentiality of a student, consistent with, at a minimum, the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. Section 1232 and 34 CFR Part 99), N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7, Student Records and N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.9, Student Records.

G. Investigating Allegations of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying

Investigate All Reports

The Board of Education requires a thorough and complete investigation to be conducted for each report of an alleged incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. All details of an alleged incident must be populated into the HIB 338 Form. However, completing the form shall not delay beginning the investigation in accordance with the law.



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The HIB 338 Form shall be kept on file at the school and will only be added to a student record if the alleged incident is founded, disciplinary action is imposed or is otherwise required to be contained in a student's record under State or Federal law.

The investigation shall be initiated by the Principal or designee within one school day of the verbal report of the incident. The investigation shall be conducted by the school anti-bullying specialist appointed by the Principal. The Principal may appoint additional personnel who are not school anti-bullying specialists to assist the school anti-bullying specialist in the investigation. Investigations of complaints concerning adult conduct shall not be investigated by a member of the same bargaining unit as the individual who is the subject of the investigation. The anti-bullying specialist may not participate in an investigation regarding their supervisor or staff at a higher administrative level.

The investigation shall be completed, and the written findings submitted to the Principal as soon as possible, but not later than ten school days from the date of the written report of the alleged incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying or from the date of the written notification from the Superintendent to the Principal to initiate an investigation. Should information regarding the reported incident and the investigation be received after the end of the ten-day period, the school anti-bullying specialist or the Principal shall amend the original report of the results of the investigation to ensure there is an accurate and current record of the facts and activities concerning the reported incident.

The Principal shall proceed in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct, as appropriate, based on the investigation findings. The Principal shall submit the report to the Superintendent within two school days of the completion of the investigation and in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act (N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq.). As appropriate to the findings from the investigation, the Superintendent shall ensure the Code of Student Conduct has been implemented and provide intervention services; order counseling; establish training programs to reduce harassment, intimidation, or bullying and enhance school climate; or take or recommend other appropriate action, including seeking further information as necessary.

The Superintendent shall report the results of each investigation to the Board no later than the date of the regularly scheduled Board meeting following the completion of the investigation. The Superintendent's report also shall include information on any consequences imposed under the Code of Student Conduct; intervention services provided; counseling ordered; training established; or other action taken or recommended by the Superintendent.

Parents of students who are parties to the investigation shall be provided with information about the investigation, in accordance with Federal and State law and regulation. The information to be provided to parents includes the nature of the investigation, whether the district found evidence of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, or whether consequences were imposed or services provided to address the incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. This information shall be provided in writing within five school days after the results of the investigation are reported to the Board. The district may not divulge personally identifying information or any information that could result in the identification of any student other than the child of the parents being notified.

A parent may request a hearing before the Board after receiving the information. Any request by the parents for a hearing before the Board concerning the written information about a harassment, intimidation, or bullying investigation, pursuant to N.J.S.A.

18A:37-15b(6)(d), must be filed with the Board Secretary no later than sixty calendar days after the written information is received by the parents. The hearing shall be held within ten business days of the request. Prior to the hearing, the Superintendent shall confidentially share a redacted copy of the HIB 338 Form that removes all student identification information with the Board. The Board shall conduct the hearing in executive session, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4.1 et seq.), to protect the confidentiality of the students. At the hearing, the Board may hear testimony from and consider information provided by the school anti-bullying specialist and others, as appropriate, regarding the alleged incident; the findings from the investigation of the alleged incident; recommendations for consequences or services; and any programs instituted to reduce such incidents, prior to rendering a determination.



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At the regularly scheduled Board meeting following its receipt of the report or following a hearing in executive session, the Board shall issue a decision, in writing, to affirm, reject, or modify the Superintendent's decision. The Board's decision may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:3, no later than ninety days after the issuance of the Board's decision.

A school administrator who receives a report of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, or who determines a reported incident or complaint, assuming all facts presented are true, is a report within the scope of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14 and fails to initiate or conduct an investigation, or who should have known of an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying and fails to take sufficient action to minimize or eliminate harassment, intimidation, or bullying, may be subject to disciplinary action.

The Board also requires the thorough investigation of complaints or reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, occurring on district school buses, at district school-sponsored functions, and off school grounds involving a student who attends an approved private school for students with disabilities. The investigation will be conducted by the Board's anti-bullying specialist in consultation with the approved private school for students with disabilities.]

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

As per FERPA 34 CFR § 99.12. If the education records of a student contain personally identifiable information on other students, the parent or eligible student may inspect or review or be informed of only the specific information about the student in question.

The New Jersey Anti-bullying Bill of Rights Act investigative and interview process is one in which the personally identifiable information of students other than the individual student in attendance will be discussed. The Nutley Board of Education values and respects the privacy rights of its students and therefore shall not permit parents or their representative(s) to participate in or observe the harassment, intimidation, or bullying investigative and interview process.

Parents may not deny school staff the ability to interview their child as part of the investigative process. Any attempt by a parent to deny school staff access to their child shall be deemed an attempt to impede or hinder the school's requirement to investigate all reports of harassment, intimidation or bullying. The investigation will continue without statements from their child.

H. Responding to Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying The Board of Education authorizes the Principal of each school to define the range of ways in which school staff will respond once an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying is confirmed, and the Superintendent shall respond to confirmed harassment, intimidation, or bullying, according to the parameters described below and in this Policy. The Board recognizes that some acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying may be isolated incidents requiring that the school officials respond appropriately to the individual(s) committing the acts. Other acts may be so serious or parts of a larger pattern of harassment, intimidation, or bullying that they require a response either at the classroom, school building, or school district levels or by law enforcement officials. Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for a student who commits an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion, as permitted under N.J.S.A. 18A:37, Discipline of Pupils and as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2, Short-term suspensions, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3, Long-term suspensions, and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4, Expulsions.



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In considering whether a response beyond the individual is appropriate, school officials shall consider the nature and circumstances of the act; the degree of harm; the nature and severity of the behavior; past incidences or past or continuing patterns of behavior; and the context in which the alleged incident(s) occurred. Institutional (i.e., classroom, school building, school district) responses can range from school and community surveys, to mailings, to focus groups, to adoption of research-based harassment, intimidation, or bullying prevention program models, to training for certificated and non-certificated staff, to participation of parents and other community members and organizations, to small or large group presentations for fully addressing the actions and the school's response to the actions, in the context of the acceptable student and staff member behavior and the consequences of such actions, and to the involvement of law enforcement officers, including safe schools resource officers.

This Policy and the Code of Student Conduct shall apply to instances when a school employee is made aware of alleged harassment, intimidation, or bullying occurring off school grounds.

For every incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the school officials must respond appropriately to the individual who committed the act. The range of responses to confirmed harassment, intimidation, or bullying acts should include individual, classroom, school, or district responses, as appropriate to the findings from each incident. Examples of responses that apply to each of these categories are provided below:

1. Individual responses can include positive behavioral interventions (e.g., peer mentoring, short-term counseling, life skills groups) and punitive actions (e.g., detention, in-school or out-of-school suspension, expulsion, law enforcement report or other legal action).

2. Classroom responses can include class discussions about an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, role plays, research

projects, observing and discussing audio-visual materials on these subjects, and skill-building lessons in courtesy, tolerance, assertiveness, and conflict management.

3. School responses can include theme days, learning station programs, parent programs and information disseminated to students and parents, such as fact sheets or newsletters explaining acceptable uses of electronic and wireless communication devices or strategies for fostering expected student behavior

4. District-wide responses can include community involvement in policy review and development; professional development programs; adoption of curricular and school-wide programs, coordination with community-based organizations—(e.g., mental health, health services, health facilities, law enforcement officials, faith-based organizations); and disseminating information on the core ethical values adopted by the Board's Code of Student Conduct, per N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(a)2



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In providing support for victims of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the district should identify a range of strategies and resources, which may include, but is not limited to, the following actions for individual victims:

- Counseling;
- Teacher Aides;
- Hallway and playground monitors;
- Schedule changes;
- Before and after school supervision;
- School transportation supervision;
- School transfers; and
- Therapy.

I. Reprisal or Retaliation

The Board of Education prohibits a Board member, school employee, contracted service provider who has contact with students, school volunteer, or student from engaging in reprisal, retaliation, or false accusation against a victim, witness, or any other person who has reliable information about an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying or who reports an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The consequence and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the administrator after consideration of the nature, severity, and circumstances of the act, in accordance with case law, Federal and State statutes and regulations, and district policies and procedures.

J. False Accusations of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying

The Board of Education prohibits any person from falsely accusing another as a means of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

1. Students - Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a student could range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion, as permitted under N.J.S.A. 18A:37, Discipline of Pupils and as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2, Short-term suspensions, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3, Long-term suspensions, and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4, Expulsions;



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2. School Employees - Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a school employee or contracted service provider who has contact with students could entail discipline in accordance with district policies, procedures, and agreements; and

3. Visitors or Volunteers - Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a visitor or volunteer could be determined by the school administrator after consideration of the nature, severity, and circumstances of the act, including law enforcement reports or other legal actions, removal of buildings or grounds privileges, or prohibiting contact with students or the provision of student services.

K. Additional Policy Requirements

The Board of Education requires the Superintendent to annually disseminate this Policy to all school employees, contracted service providers who have contact with students, school volunteers, students and parents who have children enrolled in a school in the school district, along with a statement explaining that this Policy applies to all acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, that occur on school property, at school-sponsored functions, or on a school bus and, as appropriate, acts that occur off school grounds.

The Superintendent or designee shall post a link to this Policy that is prominently displayed on the home page of the school district's website. The Superintendent shall ensure that notice of this Policy appears in the student handbook and all other publications of the school district that set forth the comprehensive rules, procedures, and standards for schools within the school district.

The Superintendent or designee shall post the name, school phone number, school address, and school email address of the district anti-bullying coordinator on the home page of the school district's website. Additionally, the Superintendent shall post the contact information for the School Climate State Coordinator on the school district home page alongside this Policy.

Each Principal or designee shall post the name, school phone number, school address, and school email address of both the school anti-bullying specialist and the district anti-bullying coordinator on the home page of each school's website.

The Superintendent shall post the New Jersey Department of Education's Guidance for Parents on the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act on the district homepage and on the homepage for each school in the district with a website.

The Superintendent and the Principal(s) shall provide training on the school district's harassment, intimidation, or bullying policies to school employees contracted service providers and volunteers who have significant contact with students. The training shall include instruction on preventing bullying on the basis of the protected categories enumerated in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14 and other distinguishing characteristics that may incite incidents of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The school district's employee training program shall include information regarding the school district policy against harassment, intimidation, or bullying, which shall be provided to full-time and part-time staff, contracted service providers and school volunteers who have significant contact with students.



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The Superintendent shall develop and implement a process for annually discussing this Policy on harassment, intimidation, or bullying with students. The Superintendent and the Principal(s) shall annually conduct a re-evaluation, reassessment, and review of this Policy and any report(s) and/or finding(s) of the school safety/school climate team, with input from the school anti-bullying specialists, and recommend revisions and additions to this Policy as well as to harassment, intimidation, or bullying prevention programs and approaches based on the findings from the evaluation, reassessment, and review.

L. Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Training and Prevention Programs

Each public school teacher and educational services professional shall be required to complete at least two hours of instruction in harassment, intimidation, or bullying prevention *f*

Each newly elected or appointed Board member must complete, during the first year of the member's first term, a training program on harassment, intimidation, or bullying in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33.

A school leader shall complete school leader training that shall include information on the prevention of harassment, intimidation, or bullying as required in N.J.S.A. 18A:26-8.2.

The school district shall annually observe a "Week of Respect" beginning with the first Monday in October. In order to recognize the importance of character education, the school district will observe the week by providing age-appropriate instruction focusing on the prevention of harassment, intimidation, or bullying as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14. Throughout the school year the district will provide ongoing age-appropriate instruction on preventing harassment, intimidation, or bullying, in accordance with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-29.

The school district and each school in the district will annually establish, implement, document, and assess harassment, intimidation, or bullying prevention programs or approaches, and other initiatives in consultation with school staff, students, administrators, volunteers, parents, law enforcement, and community members. The programs or approaches and other initiatives shall be designed to create school-wide conditions to prevent and address harassment, intimidation, or bullying in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-17.

M. Reports to Board of Education and New Jersey Department of Education

The Superintendent shall report two times each school year, between September 1 and January 1 and between January 1 and June 30 at a public hearing all acts of violence, vandalism, and harassment, intimidation, or ~~and~~ bullying which occurred during the previous reporting period in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. The information shall also be reported to the New Jersey Department of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46.

N. School and District Grading Requirements

Each school and each district shall receive a grade for the purpose of assessing their efforts to implement policies and programs consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18:37-13 et seq. The grade received by a school

and the district shall be posted on the homepage of the school's website and the district's website in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. A link to the report that was submitted by the Superintendent to the Department of Education shall also be available on the school district's website. This information shall be posted on the websites within ten days of receipt of the grade for each school and the district.



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O. Reports to Law Enforcement

The Superintendent or designee and the Principal shall consult law enforcement, as appropriate, pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials, if the student's behavior may constitute a possible violation of the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice.

Some acts of harassment, intimidation, or ~~and~~ bullying may be bias-related-acts and school officials must report to law enforcement officials any bias related acts, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3.(e), and pursuant to the provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.

P. Collective Bargaining Agreements and Individual Contracts

Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13.1 et seq. may be construed as affecting the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement or individual contract of employment in effect on the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act's effective date (January 5, 2011). N.J.S.A. 18A:37-30.

The Board of Education prohibits the employment of or contracting for school staff positions with individuals whose criminal history record check reveals a record of conviction for a crime of bias intimidation or conspiracy to commit or attempt to commit a crime of bias intimidation.

Q. Students with Disabilities

Nothing contained in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13.1 et seq. may alter or reduce the rights of a student with a disability with regard to disciplinary actions or to general or special education services and supports. N.J.S.A. 18A:37-32.

The school district shall submit all subsequent amended Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying Policies to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools within thirty days of Board adoption.

N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13 through 18A:37-37

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1 through 6A:16-7.9

Model Policy and Guidance for Prohibiting Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying on School Property, at School-Sponsored Functions and on School Buses – August 2022 – New Jersey Department of Education

Adopted:



5600 STUDENT DISCIPLINE/CODE OF CONDUCT (M)

[See **POLICY ALERT** Nos. **140, 142, 147, 164, 176, 193, 196, 204 and 217**]

M

The Board of Education adopts this Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy to establish standards, policies, and procedures for positive student development and student behavioral expectations on school grounds and, as appropriate, for conduct away from school grounds. Every student enrolled in this district shall observe promulgated rules and regulations and the discipline imposed for infraction of those rules.

The Superintendent of Schools will establish a process for the annual review and update of the district's Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation that may involve a committee of parents, students, and community members that represent, where possible, the composition of the district's schools and community. The Superintendent will report to the Board the process used for the annual review of this Policy and Regulation and will recommend to the Board updates, if any, to the Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation.

The Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation shall be disseminated annually to all school staff, students, and parents. The Board of Education shall provide to all employees annual training on the Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation, which shall include training on the prevention, intervention, and remediation of student conduct that violates the district's Policy and Regulation. Information on the Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation shall be incorporated into the orientation for new employees.

The Board provides for the district's Student Discipline/Code of Conduct's equitable application. Student discipline and the Code of Student Conduct will be applied without regard to race; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; nationality; sex; gender; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; marital, domestic-partnership, or civil union; mental, physical or sensory disability; or by any other distinguishing characteristic, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.

For students with disabilities, subject to Individualized Education Programs in accordance with 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act and accommodation plans under 29 U.S.C. §§ 794 and 705(20), the Code of Student Conduct shall be implemented in accordance with the components of the applicable plans.

The Student Discipline/Code of Conduct is established for the purposes outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(b).

Policy and Regulation 5600 include a description of student responsibilities that include expectations for academic achievement, behavior, and attendance, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8 and 12.1; a description of

behaviors that will result in suspension or expulsion, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2; and a description of student rights pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(c)3.i through vii.

The Board of Education approves the use of comprehensive behavioral supports that promote positive student development and the students' abilities to fulfill the behavioral expectations established by the Board. These behavioral supports include, but are not limited to, positive reinforcement for good conduct and academic success including the programs that honor and reward student conduct and academic achievement; supportive intervention and referral services including those services outlined in Policy 2417; remediation of problem behaviors that take into account the behavior's nature, the students' developmental ages and the students' histories of problem behaviors and performance; and for students with disabilities, the behavior interventions and supports shall be determined and provided pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

Policy and Regulation 5600 include a description of school responses to violations of behavioral expectations established by the Board that, at a minimum, are graded according to the severity of the offenses, and consider the developmental ages of the student offenders and their histories of inappropriate behaviors pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(c)5.

Students are required to be in compliance with Policy and Regulation 5200 – Attendance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 and Policy 5512 – Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7.

The Building Principal shall maintain a current list of community-based health and social service provider agencies available to support a student and the student's family, as appropriate, and a list of legal resources available to serve the community.

The Building Principal or designee shall have the authority to assign discipline to students. School authorities also have the right to impose a consequence on a student for conduct away from school grounds that is consistent with the district's Code of Student Conduct pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.5. This authority shall be exercised only when it is reasonably necessary for the student's physical or emotional safety, security, and well-being or for reasons relating to the safety, security, and well-being of other students, staff, or school grounds, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2 and 18A:37-2. This authority shall be exercised only when the conduct that is the subject of the proposed consequence materially and substantially interferes with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school. Consequences pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.5 shall be handled in accordance with Policy and Regulation 5600, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1, and as appropriate, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2, 6A:16-7.3, or 6A:16-7.4. School authorities shall respond to harassment, intimidation, or bullying that occurs off school grounds, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14 and 15.3 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3, 7.1, and 7.7.

Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a student who commits one or more acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion. The factors for determining consequences and remedial measures and examples of consequences and remedial measures are listed in Policy 5512 – Harassment, Intimidation, and

Bullying. Consequences for a student who commits an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be varied and graded according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the student and the student's history of problem behaviors and performance, and shall be consistent with this Policy and the school district's Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1. Remedial measures for one or more acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be designed to correct the problem behavior; prevent another occurrence of the problem; protect and provide support for the victim of the act; and take corrective action for documented systemic problems related to harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

Consequences and remedial measures to address acts or incidents of dating violence at school shall be consistent with the school district's Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy. The factors for determining consequences and remedial measures and examples of consequences and remedial measures are included in Policy and Regulation 5519 – Dating Violence at School and shall be used to address the act or incident as well as serve as remediation, intervention, education, and prevention for all individuals involved. The responses shall be tiered with consideration given to the seriousness and the number of previous occurrences of acts or incidents in which both the victim and aggressor have been involved. Consequences for acts or incidents of dating violence at school may range from admonishment to suspension or expulsion. Retaliation towards the victim of any act or incident of dating violence shall be considered when administering consequences to the aggressor based on the severity of the act or incident. Remedial measures/interventions for acts or incidents of dating violence at school may include, but are not limited to: parent conferences, student counseling (all students involved in the act or incident), peer support groups, corrective instruction or other relevant learning or service experiences, supportive student interventions (Intervention and Referral Services - I&RS), behavioral management plans, and/or alternative placements.

The Board of Education may deny participation in extracurricular activities, school functions, sports, graduation exercises, or other privileges as disciplinary sanctions when designed to maintain the order and integrity of the school environment, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(d).

Any student to be disciplined shall be provided the due process procedures for students and their families as set forth in Policy and Regulation 5600 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2 through 7.4.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.9, when a student transfers to a public school district from another public school district, all information in the student's record related to disciplinary actions taken against the student by the school district and any information the school district has obtained pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-60, Disclosure of Juvenile Information, Penalties for Disclosure, shall be provided to the receiving public school district, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19(a) and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5.

The Superintendent may be required to submit a report annually to the New Jersey Department of Education on student conduct, including all student suspensions and expulsions, and the implementation of the Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy in accordance with the format prescribed by the Commissioner of

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

STUDENTS

5600 STUDENT DISCIPLINE/CODE OF CONDUCT (M)

Education. The Superintendent shall report to the Commissioner of Education each incident of violence, including harassment, intimidation, and bullying, vandalism, and alcohol and other drug offenses, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3, in the school district utilizing the Student Safety Data System (SSDS), pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1; 18A:36-25.1; 18A:25-2; 18A:36-19a;

18A:37-1 et seq.; 18A:37-13.1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1 et seq.; 6A:14-1.1 et seq.

Adopted:

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FINANCES

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Reimbursement of Federal and Other

Grant Expenditures

Mar 23

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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 190, 218, and 230]

6112 REIMBURSEMENT OF FEDERAL AND OTHER

GRANT EXPENDITURES

The Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) and related Federal regulations require a State to minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds from the United States Treasury and the expenditure of funds for program purposes. This requirement applies to grantees such as the State of New Jersey and their subgrantees, such as a school district. The State of New Jersey and school districts must assure funds have been, or will be, spent within a minimal amount of time after having been drawn from the Federal government.

In accordance with this requirement, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has implemented a reimbursement request system of payment. The procedures as outlined in the New Jersey Department of Education Policies and Procedures for Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures shall be followed by school districts in submitting reimbursement requests. Reimbursement requests for entitlement grant awards under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, and any other program designated by the NJDOE shall be made using the NJDOE's Electronic Web-Enabled Grant (EWEG) System.

Reimbursement requests by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall be made for individual titles and awards using the payment functionality of the EWEG system. Only one reimbursement request per month may be submitted for an individual title, award, or subgrant. Reimbursement requests may only be for expenditures that have already occurred or will occur within three business days of receipt of funds.

The submission of a reimbursement request constitutes a certification by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary that the school district has previously made the appropriate expenditures and/or will make the expenditures within three business days of receipt of funds and that the expenditures are allowable and appropriate to the cost objective(s) of the subgrant.

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The Superintendent or designee is responsible for submitting an amendment application to the NJDOE for approval if a new budget category for which no funds were previously budgeted or approved has been created. The Superintendent or designee is responsible for submitting an amendment application to the NJDOE for approval if cumulative transfers among expenditure categories exceed ten percent of the total award. The Superintendent or designee is responsible for monitoring the cumulative ten percent level of fiscal change.

Reimbursement requests must be in accordance with approved grant applications. A reimbursement request may be submitted at any time after the subgrant has received final NJDOE approval. Reimbursement requests submitted at least ten business days before the end of the month but no later than the fifteenth day of the month will be reviewed and, if approved, processed for payment the first business day of the following month. School districts will normally receive payment by the fifth business day of the month and will be able to track the grant's payment history in EWEG through the payments link of the grant application.

Reimbursement requests must contain a brief description of the expenditures for which reimbursement is being requested. Individual line items need not be detailed. Expenditures must be supported by documentation at the school district level but should not be submitted to the NJDOE with a reimbursement request. The Superintendent or designee is responsible to maintain supporting documentation for seven years and for making it available to the NJDOE, the United States Department of Education, and/or their authorized representatives upon request. Documentation for salary expenditures is subject to the requirements of the Federal Uniform Grant Guidance. Documentation for all other expenditures must include evidence that the expenditures are allowable costs and of the relationship of the expenditure to the subgrant's cost objectives.

The NJDOE staff will review reimbursement requests to determine that they meet the subgrant's criteria. When a reimbursement request is approved or denied, the school district will receive an email notification through the EWEG system. Approval of a reimbursement request by NJDOE does not imply approval of the expenditures as allowable or appropriate to the subgrant's cost objectives as the approval of expenditures will continue to be processed through the final report.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee assumes responsibility for assuring that all funds requested through the EWEG system either have already been expended, or will be expended within three business days of receipt of funds.

New Jersey Department of Education Policies and Procedures for Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures – March 2014

Adopted:



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6115.04/page 1 of 2

Federal Funds – Duplication of Benefits

Mar 23

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[See **POLICY ALERT No. 230**]

6115.04 FEDERAL FUNDS – DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS

A requirement for a Board of Education/local education agency (LEA) who accepts funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF II); American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER); and all Federal programs and grants is for the LEA to have a Duplication of Benefits (DOB) Policy. DOB occurs when a person, household, business, government, or other entity receives financial assistance from multiple sources for the same purpose, and the total assistance received for that purpose is more than the total need for assistance.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring no DOB occurs and will be responsible for ensuring compliance by subcontractors, subrecipients, and other partners.

To comply with DOB requirements, an LEA that accepts Federal funds is required by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to establish and follow procedures to ensure that DOB does not occur. Establishing a process to effectively identify and prevent DOB is critical for the LEA to effectively manage multiple active funding streams related to coronavirus response and efficiently target resources to meet unmet needs within the school district. The Board of Education is solely responsible for ensuring that an actual DOB does not occur.

To prevent DOB, the LEA will have:

1. A requirement that the LEA must agree to repay assistance that is determined to be duplicative. This may be documented through a subrogation agreement or similar clause included in the agreement with the LEA. The LEA will establish a protocol to monitor compliance based on risk of DOB for each activity; and



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2. A method of assessing whether the use of these funds will duplicate financial assistance that is already received or is likely to be received (such as insurance proceeds) by acting reasonably to evaluate the need and the resources available to meet that need. The LEA will evaluate current programs available at the local, county, State, and Federal level as well as current and anticipated non-governmental assistance from nonprofits or faith-based groups and establish lines of communication for preventing DOB.

To analyze DOB, the LEA will complete the following steps:

1. Assess Need: Determine the amount of need (total cost);
2. Determine Assistance: Determine the amount of assistance that has or will be provided from all sources to pay for the cost;
3. Calculate Unmet Need: Determine the amount of assistance already provided compared to the need to determine the maximum award (unmet need); and
4. Document Analysis: Document calculation and maintain adequate documentation justifying determination of maximum award.

In DOB calculations, private loans are not considered a form of assistance and will not be considered when calculating DOB. However, subsidized loans from the Small Business Administration or Federal Emergency Management Agency will be included in the DOB analysis unless one of the three exceptions below is met:

1. Short-term subsidized loans (e.g. bridge loans) for costs later reimbursed with Federal funds;
2. Declined or canceled subsidized loans; or
3. Loan assistance used toward a loss suffered as a result of a major disaster or emergency.

Adopted:



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FINANCES

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Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by

Federal Grants

Mar 23

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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 192, 224, and 230]

6311 CONTRACTS FOR GOODS OR SERVICES FUNDED BY

FEDERAL GRANTS

Any vendor providing goods or services to the school district to be funded by a Federal grant must be cleared for contract in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (UGG), 2 CFR §200.213 – Suspension and Debarment.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be responsible to check the web-based System for Award Management (SAM), accessible at www.sam.gov maintained by the United States government – the General Services Administration (GSA). The purpose of the SAM is to provide a single comprehensive list of individuals and firms excluded by Federal government agencies from receiving Federal contracts or Federally approved contracts or Federally approved subcontracts and from certain types of Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, upon opening of bids or upon receipt of proposals for goods or services to be funded by a Federal grant shall access the SAM to determine if the vendor has been disbarred, suspended, or proposed for disbarment. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall also access the SAM list immediately prior to the award of a bid or contract to ensure that no award is made to a vendor on the list.

In the event a vendor under consideration to be awarded a bid or contract for goods or services to be funded by a Federal grant is on the SAM list or proposed for disbarment, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall comply with the contracting restrictions as outlined in 2 CFR §200.



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Continuation of current contracts and restrictions on subcontracting with vendors who are on the SAM list or proposed for debarment shall be in accordance with the limitations as outlined in 2 CFR §200.

Any rejection of a bid or disqualification of a vendor who has been disbarred, suspended, or proposed for disbarment shall be consistent with the requirements as outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A – Public School Contracts Law and all applicable State laws.

The applicability of the provisions of this Policy apply to covered transactions as defined in 2 CFR §3485.220. A covered transaction is any contract that is awarded by the Board of Education that is covered under 2 CFR §180.210 and the amount of the contract is expected to equal or exceed \$25,000, unless the Board chooses a lower threshold.

Compliance with the provisions of 2 CFR §200 and this Policy must be demonstrated by written evidence to be maintained by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. Examples of evidence include printouts of searches from the SAM, imprints from an ink stamp, or Avery or similar labels affixed to purchase orders memorializing performance of this verification.

2 CFR §200

2 CFR §3485.220

2 CFR §180.210

Adopted:



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PROPERTY

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School District Security

Mar 23

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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 214, 217, 218, 221, and 230]

7440 SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY

The Board of Education believes the buildings and facilities of the school district represent a substantial community investment. The Board directs the development and implementation of a plan for school district security to protect the school community's investment in the school buildings and facilities. The Board will comply with the security measures required in N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5.2 for new school construction and for existing school buildings.

The school district security program will include: maintenance of facilities that are secure against unwelcome intrusion; protection against fire hazards and faulty equipment; and compliance with safe practices in the use of electrical, plumbing, heating, and other school building equipment.

As used in this Policy and N.J.S.A. 18A:41-7.1, "critical incident mapping data" means information provided in electronic or digital form to assist first responders in an emergency including, but not limited to: aerial images of schools; floor plans, including room and suite numbers; building access points; locations of hazardous materials and utility shut-offs; and any other relevant location information.

The Board shall provide to local law enforcement authorities critical incident mapping data for all schools and school grounds. In the case of a school building located in a municipality in which there is no municipal police department, critical incident mapping data shall be provided to an entity designated by the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. The Board shall provide revised mapping data to the applicable law enforcement authorities or designated entities any time that there is a change to the critical incident mapping data

Critical incident mapping data provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:41-7.1.a. shall be: compatible with all platforms and applications used by local, State, and Federal law enforcement authorities; provided in a printable format; and verified for accuracy through an annual walkthrough of school buildings and school grounds.

Nothing in this Policy or N.J.S.A. 18A:41-7.1 shall be construed to require local law enforcement authorities or designated entities to access critical incident mapping data using third party viewing software.

The Board directs close cooperation of district officials with law enforcement, fire officials, and other emergency agencies.

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Each public elementary and secondary school building shall be equipped with at least one panic alarm for use in a school security emergency pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:41-10 through 13 and this Policy and Regulation 7440.

The Superintendent of Schools shall designate a school administrator, or a school employee with expertise in school safety and security, as a School Safety Specialist for the district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3 and this Policy and Regulation 7440. The School Safety Specialist shall be required to acquire a New Jersey Department of Education School Safety Specialist certification in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.2 and this Policy and Regulation 7440. The School Safety Specialist shall also serve as the school district's liaison with local law enforcement and national, State, and community agencies and organizations in matters of school safety and security.

Access to school buildings and grounds outside the hours school is in session shall be limited to personnel whose employment requires their presence in the facility. An adequate key control system will be established to limit building access to authorized personnel and guard against the potential of intrusion by unauthorized persons who have obtained access improperly.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5.2.b.(15), propping open doors to buildings on school grounds is strictly prohibited and students and staff shall not open a door for any individual. All persons seeking entry into the building shall be directed to the main entrance.

Building records and funds shall be kept in a safe place and secured as appropriate and necessary.

Protective devices designed to be used as safeguards against illegal entry and vandalism may be installed when appropriate. The Board may approve the employment of school resource officers, school security officers, and/or law enforcement officers in situations in which special risks are involved.

The school district shall annually conduct a school safety audit for each school building in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-14.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5.2; 18A:17-43.1; 18A:17-43.2; 18A:17-43.3;

18A:41-7.1; 18A:41-10; 18A:41-11; 18A:41-12;

18A:41-13; 18A:41-14

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3; 6A:26-1.2

Adopted:



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Student Enrollments

Dec 22

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[See POLICY ALERT No. 229]

8140 STUDENT ENROLLMENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that efficient district operations require an accurate and up to date accounting of the number of students resident in this district and enrolled in district classes and programs.

Student attendance shall be recorded in the school register during school hours on each day in session pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3. A staff member designated by the Superintendent shall keep in the school register, attendance of all students, and shall maintain the attendance records in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.1(c)

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.1(e), a student who has been placed on home instruction shall have their attendance status recorded on the regular register for the program in which the student is enrolled. The student shall be marked absent for the period beginning the first day the student is unable to attend school and ending the day before the first instructional day at the student's place of confinement. Absences shall not be recorded for the student while on home instruction, provided the hours of instruction are no less than required by N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.8 and 4.9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1 and 10.2. The number of possible days of membership for a student on home instruction shall be the same as for other students in the program in which the student is enrolled.

Such records shall be made and maintained as will enable the Board to plan program and facilities development, to make appropriate allocation of district resources, and receive the district's maximum amount of State and Federal aid.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually and in accordance with the timelines established by the Commissioner, file a report with the Commissioner stating the school district's enrollment.

N.J.S.A. 18A:25-4

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.8; 6A:14-4.9; 6A:16-10.1; 6A:16-10.2; 6A:32-8.1;

6A:32-8.2; 6A:32-8.3

Adopted:



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OPERATIONS

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Student Records

Dec 22

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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 210, 222, and 229]

8330 STUDENT RECORDS

The Board of Education believes that information about individual students must be compiled and maintained in the interest of the student's educational welfare and advancement. The Board will strive to balance the student's right to privacy against the district's need to collect, retain, and use information about individual students and groups of students. The Board authorizes the establishment and maintenance of student files that include only those records mandated by law, rules of the State Board of Education, authorized administrative directive, and those records permitted by this Board.

The Superintendent shall prepare, present to the Board for approval, and distribute regulations that implement this Policy and conform to applicable State and Federal law and rules of the State Board of Education.

General Considerations

The Board shall compile and maintain student records and regulate access in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. §1232g, and 34 CFR Part 99, disclosure, or communication of information contained in student records in a manner that assures the security of the records in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7~~4~~ et seq. Student records shall contain only information that is relevant to the education of the student and is objectively based on the personal observations or knowledge of the certified school personnel who originate(s) the record. The district shall provide annual, written notification to parents, adult students, and emancipated minors of their rights in regard to student records and student participation in educational, occupational, and military recruitment programs. Copies of the applicable State and Federal laws and Board policies shall be made available upon request. The district shall make every effort to notify parents and adult students in their dominant language.

Nonadult students may assert rights of access only through their parent(s). However, nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7 shall be construed to prohibit certified school personnel from disclosing at their discretion student records to non-adult students or to appropriate persons in connection with an emergency, if the information contained in the record is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons.



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No liability shall be attached to any member, officer, or employee of the Board permitting access or furnishing student records in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7-et seq.

Student Information Directory

A student information directory is a publication of the Board that includes information relating to a student as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-2.1. This information includes: name; grade level; date and place of birth; dates of school attendance; major field of study; participation in officially recognized activities; weight and height relating to athletic team membership; degrees; awards; the most recent educational agency attended by the student; and other similar information. The student information directory shall be used only by authorized ~~school~~ district personnel and for designated official use by judicial, law enforcement, and medical personnel and not for general public consumption.

In the event the district publishes a student information directory, the Superintendent or designee will provide a parent or adult student a ten-day period to submit to the Superintendent a written statement prohibiting the inclusion of any or all types of information about the student in any student information directory before allowing access to the directory and school facilities to educational, occupational, and military recruiters pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.1, P.L. 114-95 §8528, and 20 U.S.C. §8528 - Armed Forces Recruiter Access to Students and Student Recruiting Information of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.1, military recruiters will be provided the same access to a student information directory that is provided to educational and occupational recruiters.

School Contact Directory for Official Use

A school contact directory for official use is a compilation by the district that includes the following information for each student: name; address; telephone number; date of birth; and school enrollment. The district shall compile and maintain a school contact directory for official use in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.2, that is separate and distinct from the student information directory. The student contact directory may be provided for official use only to judicial and law enforcement personnel, and to medical personnel currently providing services to the student in question. To exclude any information from the school contact directory for official use the parent, adult student, or emancipated minor shall notify the Superintendent or designee in writing.

Mandated and Permitted Student Records

Mandated student records are those records districts have been directed to compile by State statute, regulations, or authorized administrative directive in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.3.

Permitted student records are those student records not mandated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.3, but authorized by the Board to promote the student's educational welfare. The Board shall authorize the permitted records to be collected by adopting this Policy and Regulation 8330, which will list such permitted records.



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Maintenance and Security of Student Records

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for the security of student records maintained in the district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.4. This Policy and Regulation 8330 assure that access to student records is limited to authorized persons.

Records for each individual student may be stored electronically or in paper format. When student records are stored electronically, proper security and back-up procedures shall be administered.

Student health records, whether stored on paper or electronically, shall be maintained in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.1(l) Records shall be accessible during the hours in which the school program is in operation.

Any district website shall not disclose any personally identifiable information about a student N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-2.1

Access to Student Records

Only authorized organizations, agencies, or persons as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5 shall have access to student records, including student health records. Access to student records shall be provided to persons authorized such access under N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.1 et seq. within ten days of a request, but prior to any review or hearing conducted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A.

The district may charge a reasonable fee for reproduction of student records, not to exceed the schedule of costs set forth at N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5, provided that the cost does not effectively prevent parents or adult students from exercising their rights under N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7 or other Federal and State rules and regulations regarding students with disabilities, including N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

The district shall control access to, disclosure of, and communication regarding information contained in student health records to assure access only to people permitted by Federal and State statute and regulations in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5(c).

Access to and disclosure of a student's health record shall meet the requirements of FERPA

Only authorized organizations, agencies, or persons as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5 shall have access to student records, including student health records.

Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7~~4~~ et seq. or in this Policy and Regulation 8330 shall be construed to prohibit school personnel from disclosing information contained in the student health record to students or adults in connection with an emergency, if such knowledge is necessary to protect the immediate health or safety of the student or other persons.

In complying with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7 – Student Records, the district shall adhere to requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10, the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and FERPA



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Conditions for Access to Student Records

All authorized organizations, agencies, and persons defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.4 et seq. shall have access to a student record, subject to conditions outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.6

Rights of Appeal for Parents and Adult Students

Student records are subject to challenge by parents and adult students on the grounds of inaccuracy, irrelevancy, impermissible disclosure, inclusion of improper information, or denial of access to organizations, agencies, and persons in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.7(a).

To request a change in the student record or to request a stay of disclosure pending final determination of the challenged procedure, the parent or adult student shall follow the procedures pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.7(b).

Appeals relating to student records for students with disabilities shall be processed in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.7(c).

Regardless of the outcome of any appeal, a parent or adult student shall be permitted to place in the student record a statement commenting upon the information in the student record or setting forth any reasons for contesting a portion of the student record, including the decision made in the appeal. The parent's or adult student's statement shall be maintained as part of the student record, as long as the contested portion of the student record is maintained. If the contested portion of the record is disclosed to any party, the statement commenting upon the information shall also be disclosed to that party.

Retention and Disposal of Student Records

A student record is considered to be incomplete and not subject to the provisions of the Destruction of Public Records Law, N.J.S.A. 47:3-15 et seq., while the student is enrolled in the district. The Board shall retain the student health record and the health history and immunization record according to the School District Records Retention Schedule, as determined by the New Jersey State Records Committee.

Student records of currently enrolled students, other than the records described in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(f), may be disposed of after the information is no longer necessary to provide educational services to a student and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(c).

Upon graduation or permanent departure of a student from the district, the parent or adult student shall be notified in writing that a copy of the entire student record will be provided to them upon request. Information in student records, other than that described in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(f), may be disposed of, but only in accordance with the Destruction of Public Records Law, N.J.S.A. 47:3-15 et seq. Such disposition shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(c)2.

No additions shall be made to the record after graduation or permanent departure without the prior written consent of the parent or adult student.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(f), the district of last enrollment, graduation, or permanent departure of the student from the district shall keep for 100 years, a mandated record of a student's name, date of birth, name of parents, gender, health history and immunization, standardized assessment results, grades, attendance, classes attended, grade level completed, year completed, and years of attendance.



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N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19; 18A:36-19.1; 18A:40-4; 18A:40-19

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.1; 6A:32-7.2; 6A:32-7.3; 6A:32-7.4; 6A:32-7.5;

6A:32-7.6; 6A:32-7.7; 6A:32-7.8

20 U.S.C. §8528

Adopted:



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COMMUNITY

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Citizens Advisory Committees

Mar 23

[See POLICY ALERT No. 230]

9140 CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Board of Education encourages communication between the school district and the community at large. Citizens advisory committees may be useful in keeping the Board and the administration informed with regard to community opinion and in representing the community

The Board may establish a citizens advisory committee to provide input to the Board and the administration from the community for funded programs as the law requires; and as the Board sees fit

In creating a new citizens advisory committee, the Board may appoint: members of the community who are able and interested in the subject and concerned about the schools; members who represent a wide range of community interests and backgrounds; a chairperson; one or more Board members; and school staff members. The Board President or designee and the Superintendent or designee shall serve as members of the citizens advisory committee.

In charging a new citizens advisory committee, the Board shall define the citizens advisory committee assignment in writing, set a date for report(s) to the Board, and establish a budget, if needed. Expenditures of district funds by citizens advisory committees shall be made upon the approval of the Superintendent.

Recommendations of a citizens advisory committee shall not reduce the responsibility of the Board, which may accept, reject, or modify a citizens advisory committee's recommendation(s) in the exercise of its statutory discretion.

Meetings of a citizens advisory committee that are attended by fewer than a majority of the members of the Board are not subject to the Open Public Meetings Act and need not be open to the public, except as expressly permitted by the Board.

Adopted:

