

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

BYLAWS

0000/page 1 of 1

0000 BYLAWS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
0000.02	Introduction
0110	Identification
0120	Authority and Powers
0131	Bylaws and Policies
0132	Executive Authority
0133	Adjudication of Disputes
0134	Board Self Evaluation
0141	Board Member Number and Term
0142	Board Member Qualifications, Prohibited Acts and Code of Ethics
0142.1	Nepotism
0143	Board Member Election and Appointment
0144	Board Member Orientation
0145	Board Member Resignation and Removal
0146	Board Member Authority
0148	Board Member Indemnification
0151	Organization Meeting
0152	Board Officers
0153	Annual Appointments
0154	Annual Motions and Designations
0155	Board Committees
0157	Board of Education Website
0161	Call, Adjournment and Cancellation
0162	Notice of Board Meetings
0163	Quorum
0164	Conduct of Board Meetings
0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During A Declared Emergency
0165	Voting
0166	Executive Sessions
0167	Public Participation in Board Meetings
0168	Recording Board Meetings
0169	Board Member Use of Electronic Mail/Internet
0171	Duties of Board President and Vice President
0172	Duties of Treasurer of School Monies
0173	Duties of Public School Accountant
0174	Legal Services
0175	Contracts with Independent Consultants
0176	Collective Bargaining and Contract Approval/Ratification
0177	Professional Services



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1000 ADMINISTRATION

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
1100	District Organization
1110	Organizational Chart
1120	Management Team
1130	Staff Liaison Committees
1140	Affirmative Action Program
1210	Board-Superintendent Relations
1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator
1230	Superintendent's Duties
1240	Evaluation of Superintendent
1260	Incapacity of Superintendent
1310	Employment of School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
1320	Duties of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
1330	Evaluation of the School Business Administrator
1331	Evaluation of the Board Secretary
1350	Incapacity of School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
1400	Job Descriptions
1510	Rights of Persons with Handicaps or Disabilities/Policy on Non-Discrimination
1511	Board of Education Website Accessibility
1523	Comprehensive Equity Plan
1530	Equal Employment Opportunities
1540	Administrator's Code of Ethics
1550	Affirmative Action Program for Employment and Contract Practices
1570	Internal Controls
1581	Domestic Violence
1613	Disclosure and Review of Applicant's Employment History
1620	Administrative Employment Contracts
1631	Residency Requirement for Person Holding School District Office, Employment Or Position
1642	Earned Sick Leave Law
1643	Family Leave
1648.15	Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings-Covid-19



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2000 PROGRAM

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
2110	Philosophy of Education/District Mission Statement
2132	School District Goals and Objectives
2200	Curriculum Content
2210	Curriculum Development
2220	Adoption of Courses
2230	Course Guides
2240	Controversial Issues
2260	Affirmative Action Program for School and Classroom Practices
2270	Religion in the Schools
2310	Student Grouping
2312	Class Size
2330	Homework
2340	Field Trips
2360	Use of Technology
2361	Acceptable Use of Computer Networks/Computers and Resources
2363	Student Use of Privately-Owned Technology
2411	Guidance Counseling
2412	Home Instruction Due to Health Condition
2414	Programs for Students At Risk
2415	Every Student Succeeds Act
2415.02	Title I-Fiscal Responsibilities
2415.04	Title I – District-Wide Parental Involvement
2415.05	Student Surveys, Analysis and/or Evaluations
2415.20	No Child Left Behind Complaints
2415.30	Title I – Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care
2417	Student Intervention and Referral Services
2418	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - Students
2422	Health Education
2423	Bilingual and ESL Education
2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program
2428.1	Standards-Based Instructional Priorities
2431	Athletic Competition
2431.4	Prevention & Treatment of Sports Related Concussions and Head Injuries
2432	School Sponsored Publications
2460	Special Education
2461	Special Education/Receiving Schools



TABLE OF CONTENTS

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
2466	Needless Public Labeling of Students with Disabilities
2467	Surrogate Parents and Foster Parents
2468	Independent Educational Evaluations
2481	Home or Out-of-School Instruction for General Education Students
2510	Adoption of Textbooks
2520	Instructional Supplies
2530	Resource Materials
2531	Use of Copyrighted Materials
2551	Musical Instruments
2560	Live Animals in School
2610	Educational Program Evaluation
2622	Student Assessment
2624	Grading System
2631	New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum
2700	Services to Nonpublic School Students



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3000 TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
3111	Creating Positions
3112	Abolishing Positions
3124	Employment Contract
3125	Employment of Teaching Staff Members
3125.2	Employment of Substitute Teachers
3126	District Mentoring Program
3134	Assignment of Additional Duties
3141	Resignation
3142	Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member
3143	Dismissal
3144	Certification of Tenure Charges
3144.12	Certification of Tenure Charges – Inefficiency (M)
3144.3	Suspension Upon Certification of Tenure Charge
3146	Conduct of Reduction in Force
3150	Discipline
3152	Withholding an Increment
3159	Teaching Staff Member/School District Reporting Responsibilities
3160	Physical Examination
3161	Examination for Cause
3211	Code of Ethics
3211.3	Consulting Outside the District
3212	Attendance
3214	Conflict of Interest
3216	Dress and Grooming
3217	Use of Corporal Punishment
3218	Use, Possession, or Distribution of Substances Abuse
3221	Evaluation of Nontenured Teaching Staff Members
3222	Evaluation of Tenured Teaching Staff Members
3223	Evaluation of Administrators
3224	Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Principals
3230	Outside Activities
3231	Outside Employment as Athletic Coach
3232	Tutoring Services
3233	Political Activities
3240	Professional Development
3244	In-Service Training
3245	Research Projects by Staff Members
3270	Professional Responsibilities



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
3280	Liability for Student Welfare
3281	Inappropriate Staff Conduct
3282	Use of Social Networking Sites
3283	Electronic Communications between Teaching Staff Members and Students
3310	Academic Freedom
3321	Acceptable Use of Computer Network(s)/Computers and Resources by Teaching Staff Members
3322	Staff Member's Use of Cellular Telephones
3324	Right of Privacy
3340	Grievance
3362	Sexual Harassment
3370	Teaching Staff Member Tenure
3372	Teaching Staff Member Tenure Acquisition
3373	Tenure Upon Transfer or Promotion
3374	Tenure Upon Transfer to an Underperforming School
3381	Protection Against Retaliation
3410	Compensation
3420	Benefits
3425	Work Related Disability Pay
3425.1	Modified Duty Early Return to Work Program
3432	Sick Leave
3433	Vacations
3435	Anticipated Disability
3436	Personal Leave
3437	Military Leave
3439	Jury Duty



TABLE OF CONTENTS

4000 SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
4111	Creating Positions
4124	Employment Contract
4125	Employment of Support Staff Members
4140	Termination
4145	Layoffs
4146	Nonrenewal of Nontenured Support Staff Member
4150	Discipline
4152	Withholding an Increment
4159	Support Staff Member/School District Reporting Responsibilities
4160	Physical Examination
4161	Examination for Cause
4211	Attendance
4211.3	Consulting Outside the District
4212	Attendance
4214	Conflict of Interest
4215	Code of Ethics
4216	Dress and Grooming
4218	Use, Possession, or Distribution of Substances Abuse
4220	Employee Evaluation
4230	Outside Activities
4233	Political Activities
4240	Employee Training
4281	Inappropriate Staff Conduct
4282	Use of Social networking Sites
4283	Electronic Communications between Support Staff Members and Students
4321	Acceptable Use of Computer Network(s)/Computers and Resources by Support Staff Members
4322	Staff Member's Use of Cellular Telephones
4324	Right of Privacy
4340	Grievance
4352	Sexual Harassment
4360	Support Staff Member Tenure
4381	Protection Against Retaliation
4410	Compensation
4413	Overtime Compensation
4415	Substitute Wages
4420	Benefits
4425	Work Related Disability Pay



TABLE OF CONTENTS

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

~~4425.1 Modified Duty Early Return to Work Program~~

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
4000/page 2 of 2

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
4431.1	Family Leave
4432	Sick Leave
4433	Vacations
4434	Holidays
4435	Anticipated Disability
4436	Personal Leave
4437	Military Leave
4438	Jury Duty



TABLE OF CONTENTS

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS
5000/page 1 of 2

5000 STUDENTS

Number	<u>Title</u>
5111	Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students
5112	Entrance Age
5116	Education of Homeless Children
5519	Dating Violence at School
5120	Assignment of Students
5130	Withdrawal From School
5200	Attendance
5230	Late Arrival and Early Dismissal
5240	Tardiness
5250	Excusal from Class or Program
5300	Automated External Defibrillator(s) (AEDs)
5305	Health Services Personnel
5306	Health Services to Nonpublic Schools
5307	Nursing Services Plan
5308	Student Health Records
5310	Health Services
5320	Immunization
5330	Administration of Medication
5330.01	Administration of Medical Cannabis
5330.05	Seizure Action Plan
5331	Management of Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools
5332	Do Not Resuscitate Orders
5335	Treatment of Asthma
5337	Service Animals
5338	Diabetes Management
5339	Screening for Dyslexia
5350	Student Suicide Prevention
5410	Promotion and Retention
5411	Promotion From Sixth Grade
5420	Reporting Student Progress
5500	Expectations for Student Conduct
5511	Dress and Grooming
5512	Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
5513	Care of School Property
5514	Student Use of Vehicles
5516	Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
5520	Disorder and Demonstration
5530	Substance Abuse
5533	Smoking
5535	Passive Breath Alcohol Sensor Device
5550	Disaffected Students
5560	Disruptive Students
5561	Use of Physical Restraint
5570	Sportsmanship
5600	Student Discipline/Code of Conduct
5610	Suspension
5611	Removal of Students from the General Education Program for Weapons/Firearms Offenses
5612	Assault by Students on Board Members or Employees
5615	Suspected Gang Activity
5620	Expulsion
5700	Student Rights
5701	Plagiarism
5710	Student Grievance
5721	Independent Publications
5750	Equal Educational Opportunity
5751	Sexual Harassment of Students
5755	Equity in Educational Programs and Services
5756	Transgender Students
5770	Student Right of Privacy
5810	Student Participation in School Governance
5820	Student Government
5830	Student Fund Raising
5842	Equal Access of Student Organizations
5850	Social Events and Class Trips
5880	Public Performances by Students



TABLE OF CONTENTS

6000 FINANCES

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
6100	Finances
6111	Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program
6112	Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures
6115.01	Federal Awards/ Funds Internal Controls-Allowability of Costs
6115.02	Federal Awards/ Funds Internal Controls Mandatory Disclosures
6115.03	Federal Awards/ Funds Internal Controls-Conflict of Interest
6141	Tax Revenues
6150	Tuition Income
6160	Grants from Private Sources
6164	Advertising on School Buses
6210	Fiscal Planning
6220	Budget Preparation
6230	Budget Hearing
6311	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants
6320	Purchases Subject to Bid
6340	Multiple Year Contracts
6350	Competitive Contracting
6360	Political Contributions
6362	Contributions to Board Members and Contract Awards
6421	Purchases Budgeted
6422	Budget Transfers
6423	Expenditures for Non-Employee Activities, Meals, and Refreshments
6424	Emergency Contracts
6440	Cooperative Purchasing
6450	Choice of Vendor
6470	Payment of Claims
6470.01	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification
6471	School District Travel
6472	Tuition Assistance
6510	Payroll Authorization
6511	Direct Deposit
6520	Payroll Deductions
6620	Petty Cash
6660	Student Activity Fund
6660.1	Collection and Handing of Sixth Grade Activity Funds
6700	Investments
6810	Financial Objectives
6820	Financial Reports



TABLE OF CONTENTS

**NORTH CALDWELL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

6830	Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
6831	Withholding or Recovering State Aid
6832	Conditions of Receiving State Aid



TABLE OF CONTENTS

7000 PROPERTY

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
7100	Long-Range Facilities Planning
7101	Educational Adequacy of Capital Projects
7102	Site Selection and Acquisition
7130	School Closing
7230	Gifts, Grants, and Donations
7243	Supervision of Construction
7250	School and Facility Names
7300	Disposition of Property
7410	Maintenance and Repair
7420	Hygienic Management
7421	Indoor Air Quality Standards
7422	School Integrated Pest Management Plan
7424	Bed Bugs
7425	Lead Testing of Water in Schools
7432	Eye Protection
7433	Hazardous Substances
7434	Smoking in School Buildings and on School Grounds
7435	Alcoholic Beverages on School Premises
7436	Drug Free Workplace
7440	School District Security
7441	Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds
7450	Property Inventory
7460	Energy Conservation
7461	District Sustainability Policy
7480	Motor Vehicles on School Property
7490	Animals on School Property
7510	Use of School Facilities
7513	Recreational Use of Playgrounds
7520	Loan of School Equipment
7522	School District Provided Technology Devices to Staff Members
7523	School District Provided Technology Devices to Students
7610	Vandalism
7650	School Vehicle Assignment, Use, Tracking, Maintenance, and Accounting



TABLE OF CONTENTS

8000 OPERATIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
8130	School Organization
8140	Student Enrollments
8210	School Year
8220	School Day
8310	Public Records
8311	Managing Electronic Mail
8320	Personnel Records
8330	Student Records
8335	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
8350	Records Retention
8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations
8431	Preparedness for Toxic Hazard
8441	Care of Injured and Ill Persons
8442	Reporting Accidents
8451	Control of Communicable Disease
8451.1	Pediculosis
8453	HIV/AIDS
8461	Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Alcohol, and Other Drug Abuse
8462	Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children
8465	Hate Crimes and Bias-Related Acts
8467	Weapons
8468	Crisis Response
8470	Response to Concerted Job Action
8506	School Lunch Program Biosecurity Plan
8540	Free and Reduced Rate Meals
8600	Student Transportation
8601	Student Supervision After School Dismissal
8613	Waiver of Student Transportation
8630	Bus Driver/Bus Aide Responsibility
8660	Transportation by Private Vehicle
8670	Transportation of Special Needs Students



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
8710	Property Insurance
8740	Bonding
8750	Employee Indemnification
8760	Student Accident Insurance
8770	School Board Insurance Group
8820	Opening Exercises
8860	Memorials



TABLE OF CONTENTS

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

COMMUNITY
9000/page 1 of 1

9000 COMMUNITY

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
9120	Public Relations Program
9130	Public Complaints and Grievances
9140	Citizens Advisory Committees
9150	School Visitors
9160	Public Attendance at School Events
9180	School Volunteers
9190	Community Organizations
9200	Cooperation Between Parents and School
9210	Parent Organizations
9230	Parental Responsibilities
9240	Rights of Parents
9260	Parental Liability for Vandalism
9270	Home Schooling and Equivalent Education
9280	Parent Conferences
9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies
9323	Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition
9324	Sex Offender Registration and Notification
9400	News Media Relations
9500	Cooperation With Educational Agencies
9541	Student Teachers/Interns
9550	Educational Research Projects
9560	Administration of School Surveys
9700	Special Interest Groups
9713	Recruitment by Special Interest Groups
9720	Solicitations by Vendors



1100 DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The Board of Education directs the establishment and implementation of an organizational plan for the management and control of school district operations. The plan will require the identification and resolution of problems at appropriate organizational levels. All references to school district administrators in policies or regulations shall be construed to mean that administrator or his/her designee.

All members and employees of this Board are directed to observe faithfully the chain of communications established by the district organizational plan. In general, a problem should be identified and its resolution attempted at the level most immediate to the problem's origin. When a resolution cannot be found at that level, remedy may be sought through appropriate resolution and remediation procedures.

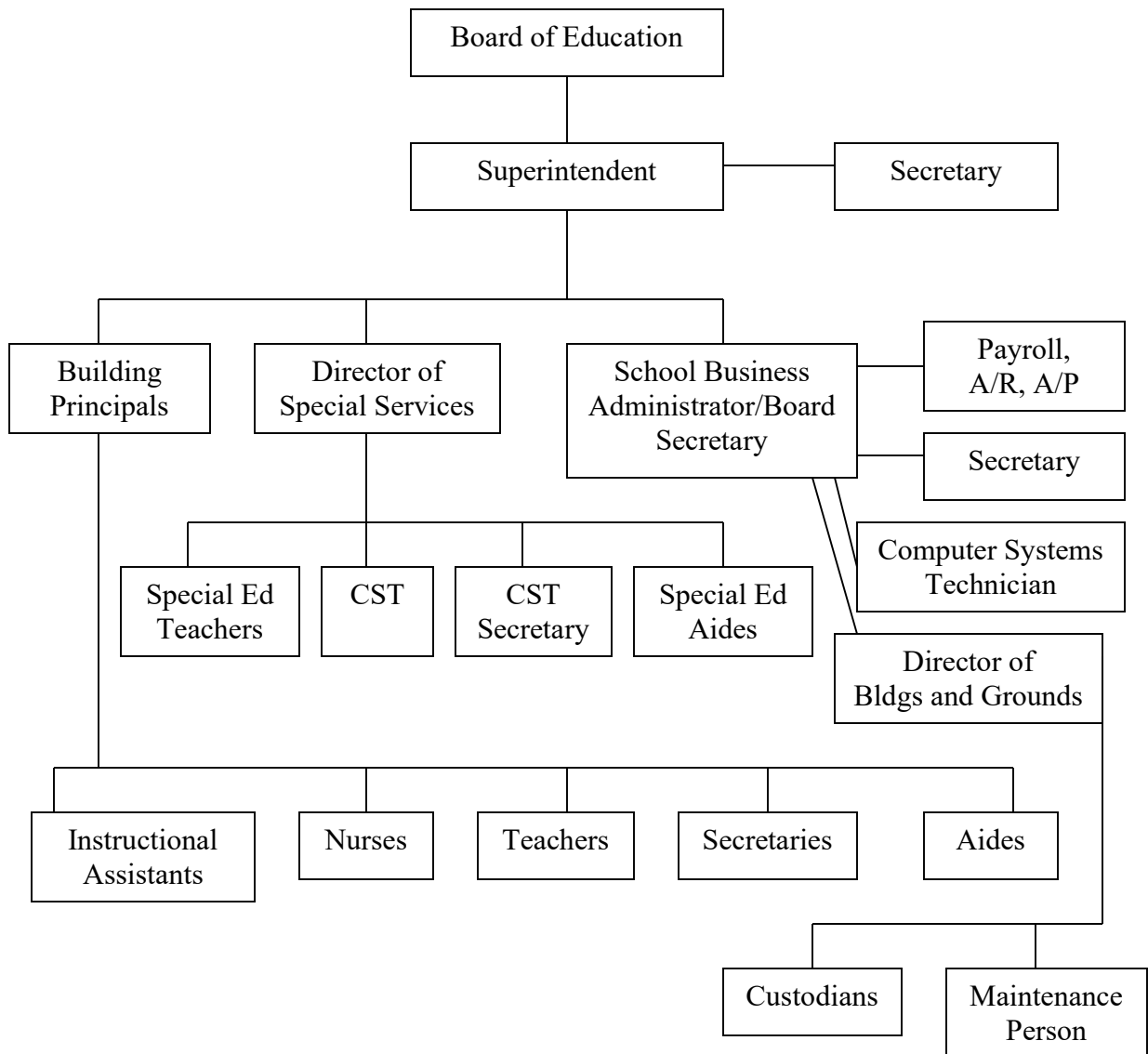
The Board expressly disapproves of any attempt to expedite the resolution of a problem by disregard of the organizational plan and the appropriate processes. A staff member's persistent disregard for the established management organization of this district in violation of this policy will be considered an act of insubordination subject to discipline.

N.J.S.A. 18:11-1; 18A:27-4

Adopted: 3 November 2009



1110 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Adopted: 3 November 2009



1120 MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Board of Education recognizes the value of a system of management organization that enhances communication among administrators and between the administration and the Board, encourages a shared responsibility for educational policy decisions, and provides for the equitable resolution of conflicts.

The Board directs the Superintendent to establish a management team that includes the Superintendent and those administrative, supervisory, and support staff members who are responsible for employee evaluation, the adjudication of grievances, supervision of employees, or recommendations regarding the employment of employees.

The Superintendent shall institute a management team system that will provide a means for:

1. Submitting recommendations to the Board on issues of educational policy;
2. Addressing the economic concerns and working conditions of management team members, including their job descriptions, evaluation, salaries, fringe benefits, promotions, assignments, and transfers;
3. The development of administrative procedures; and
4. The consideration of such additional and appropriate issues as may be identified by the Superintendent or the management team.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1; 18A:27-4

Adopted: 3 November 2009



1130 STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEES

The Board of Education encourages the Superintendent to maintain close liaison with staff members in order to coordinate district programs and operations, to consult with appropriate staff members in developing administrative regulations and formulating recommendations for Board consideration, and to detect and resolve problems as they may arise.

The Superintendent is authorized to establish such staff liaison committees as he/she may deem necessary.

No staff liaison committee can be delegated the authority to make decisions or take action that is reserved to the Board or the Superintendent. Committee reports and recommendations may be advisory only.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



ADMINISTRATION

1140/page 1 of 2

Affirmative Action Program

Dec 10

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1140 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM

The Board of Education shall adopt and implement written educational equality and equity policies in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:7 - Managing For Equality and Equity in Education.

The Board's affirmative action program shall recognize and value the diversity of persons and groups within society and promote the acceptance of persons of diverse backgrounds regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion disability, or socioeconomic status. The affirmative action program will also promote equal educational opportunity and foster a learning environment that is free from all forms of prejudice, discrimination and harassment based upon race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status in the policies, programs and practices of the Board of Education.

The Board shall inform the school community it serves of these policies in a manner including, but not limited to, the district's customary methods of information dissemination. The Board shall develop a Comprehensive Equity Plan once every three (3) years, which shall identify and correct all discriminatory and inequitable educational and hiring policies, patterns, programs and practices affecting its facilities, programs, students and staff.

The Board shall assess the district's needs for achieving equality and equity in educational programs based on an analysis of student performance data such as: National Assessment of Educational Progress and State assessment results, Pre-Kindergarten through grade twelve promotion/retention data, Pre-Kindergarten through grade twelve completion rates; re-examination and re-evaluation of classification and placement of students in special education programs if there is an over representation within certain groups; staffing practices; student demographic and behavioral data; quality of program data; and stakeholder satisfaction data prior to developing the Comprehensive Equity Plan. The purpose of the needs assessment is to identify and eliminate discriminatory practices and other barriers in achieving equality and equity in educational programs.

The Board shall annually designate a member of its staff as the Affirmative Action Officer and form an Affirmative Action Team, of whom the Affirmative Action Officer is a member, to coordinate and implement the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:7 – Managing For Equality and Equity in Education. The Board shall assure that all stakeholders know who the Affirmative Action Officer is and how to access him or her.



ADMINISTRATION

1140/page 2 of 2

Affirmative Action Program

Dec 10

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The Affirmative Action Officer shall have a New Jersey standard certification with an administrative, instructional, or educational services endorsement, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B et seq. The Affirmative Action Officer shall coordinate the required professional development training for certificated and non-certificated staff pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.6; notify all students and employees of district grievance procedures for handling discrimination complaints; and ensure the district grievance procedures, which include investigative responsibilities and reporting information, are followed.

The Affirmative Action Team shall: develop the Comprehensive Equity Plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.4(c); oversee the implementation of the district's Comprehensive Equity Plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.4(c); collaborate with the Affirmative Action Officer on coordination of the required professional development training for certificated and non-certificated staff pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.6; monitor the implementation of the Comprehensive Equity Plan; and conduct the annual district internal monitoring to ensure continuing compliance with State and Federal statutes governing educational equality and equity, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.4(d).

The Board shall provide professional development training to all certificated and non-certificated school staff members on a continuing basis to identify and resolve problems associated with the student achievement gap and other inequities arising from prejudice on the basis of race, creed color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability or socioeconomic status. All new certificated and non-certificated staff members shall be provided with professional development training on educational equality and equity issues within the first year of employment. Parents and other community members shall be invited to participate in the professional development training.

The commissioner or his/her designee shall provide technical assistance to local school districts for the development of policy guidelines, procedures, and in-service training for Affirmative Action Officers so as to aid in the elimination of prejudice on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability or socioeconomic status.

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.4; 6A:7-1.5; 6A:7-1.6

Adopted: 16 August 2011

Revised: 19 July 2016



1210 BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONS

The Board of Education believes that it is the primary duty of the Board to establish policies and the primary duty of the Superintendent to implement and administer those policies.

The Superintendent, as Chief Administrative Officer of the school district, is the primary professional advisor to the Board. Policy should not be adopted or revised without consultation with the Superintendent.

The Superintendent is responsible for the development, supervision, and operation of the school program and facilities and will be given latitude to implement and administer policies in accordance with such standards as may have been set forth in the policies. The Superintendent will discharge his/her responsibility in part through the establishment and promulgation of administrative regulations.

In evaluating the effectiveness of Board policy in meeting the goals of the district, the Board will request the Superintendent to make appropriate inquiries, investigations, and reports.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



1220 EMPLOYMENT OF CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

The Board of Education vests the primary responsibility for the administration of this school district in a Superintendent of Schools and recognizes the appointment of a person to that office is one of the most important functions this Board can perform. The Superintendent shall have a seat on the Board of Education and the right to speak on matters at meetings of the Board (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.a or N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.b), but shall have no vote.

Recruitment Procedures

The Board shall actively seek the best qualified and most capable candidate for the position of Superintendent. The Board may use a consultant service to assist in the recruitment process. Recruitment procedures may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

1. The preparation of a new or a review of an existing written job description;
2. Preparation of informative material describing the school district and its educational goals and objectives;
3. Where feasible, the opportunity for applicants to visit the district;
4. Establish an interview process that encourages the candidate and the Board members to have a meaningful discussion of the school district's needs and expectations. The Board members shall review and discuss the candidate's credentials, qualifications, educational philosophy, and other qualities and expertise he/she can offer to the district;
5. Solicitation of applications from a wide geographical area; and
6. Strict compliance with law and Policy No. 1530 on equal employment opportunity.

Qualifications

The candidate must possess or be eligible for a valid New Jersey administrative certificate endorsed for school administrator or a provisional school administrator's endorsement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-12.4 et seq. and must qualify for employment following a criminal history record check.



Employment Contract

A person appointed Superintendent must enter an employment contract with the Board. An employment contract for the Superintendent of Schools shall be reviewed and approved by the Executive County Superintendent in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1 and Policy 1620. Any actions by the Executive County Superintendent undertaken pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1 may be appealed to the Commissioner pursuant to the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:3.

The employment contract with the Superintendent must be approved with a recorded roll call majority vote of the full membership of the Board at a public Board meeting.

In the event there is a Superintendent vacancy at the expiration of the existing contract, only the Board seated at the time of the expiration of the current Superintendent's contract may appoint and approve an employment contract for the next Superintendent.

In the event there is a Superintendent vacancy prior to the expiration of the existing contract, the Board seated at the time the position becomes vacant may appoint and approve an employment contract for the next Superintendent.

The contract for the Superintendent who does not acquire tenure, but who holds tenure during the term of his/her employment contract will include: a term of not less than three nor more than five years and expiring July 1; a beginning and ending date; the salary to be paid and benefits to be received; a provision for termination of the contract by the Superintendent; an evaluation process pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.3; and other terms agreed to between the Board and the Superintendent.

During the term of the contract, the Superintendent shall not be dismissed or reduced in compensation except for inefficiency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming a Superintendent, or other just cause and only by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to the tenure hearing laws. The contract will automatically renew for the same term and with the same conditions unless the parties have entered a new contract, which may provide a different term of not less than three nor more than five years, or the Board has notified the Superintendent at least one year or more (if more than a one-year notice is provided in the contract) in advance of the expiration of the contract, that the contract will not be renewed.



Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:20.2a, the Board shall submit to the Commissioner for prior approval an early termination of employment agreement that includes the payment of compensation as a condition of separation. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.2a, compensation includes, but is not limited to, salary, allowances, bonuses and stipends, payments of accumulated sick or vacation leave, contributions toward the costs of health, dental, life, and other types of insurance, medical reimbursement plans, retirement plans, and any in-kind or other form of remuneration.

An early termination of an employment agreement shall be limited in its terms and conditions as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.2. The Commissioner shall evaluate such agreements in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.2a and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.2 and has the authority to disapprove the agreement. The agreement shall be submitted to the Commissioner by the district by certified mail, return receipt requested. The determination shall be made within thirty days of the Commissioner's receipt of the agreement from the school district.

Disqualification

Any candidate's misstatement of fact material to qualifications for employment or the determination of salary will be considered by this Board to constitute grounds for dismissal.

Certificate Revocation

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1(e)(12), in the event the Superintendent's certificate is revoked, the Superintendent's contract is null and void.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1; 18A:17-15; 18A:17-20; 18A:17-20.1;
18A:17-20.2; 18A:17-20.2a; 18A:17-20.3

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-12.3; 6A:9-12.4; 6A:23A-3.1, 6A:23A-3.2

Adopted: 3 November 2009



1230 SUPERINTENDENT'S DUTIES

Function

The Superintendent shall serve as Chief Executive and Administrative Officer of the district by implementing policies established by the Board of Education and by discharging the duties imposed on his/her office by law.

Authority

The Superintendent shall be the Chief School Administrator of the school district and principle advisor to the Board. He/She may delegate to an appropriate school official any duty not reserved to the Superintendent by law, but may not delegate the responsibility for duties mandated by law.

Work Relationships

The Superintendent shall report directly to the Board and shall directly or indirectly supervise all persons employed by the Board.

Duties and Responsibilities

- A. In the discharge of his/her responsibility as principal advisor to the Board, the Superintendent shall:
1. Ensure that all aspects of district operation comply with Board policy, state law and district contracts;
 2. Report to the Board on the needs of the district;
 3. Advise the Board of any changes or additions that should be made to its policies;
 4. Provide the Board with such information as may be needed to ensure the making of informed decisions; and
 5. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board.



- B. In the discharge of his/her responsibility for the implementation of the operational action plan of the district, the Superintendent shall:
1. Prepare, promulgate, and maintain a manual of administrative regulations;
 2. Evaluate the future needs of the district and recommend a district action plan including goals, objectives, and priorities to the Board;
 3. Maintain written objectives to implement the district action plan adopted by the Board;
 4. Evaluate progress toward the attainment of the district action plan and report thereon to the Board; and
 5. Report to the Commissioner and the County Superintendent on or before August 1 of each year matters relating to the schools in the manner and form prescribed by the Commissioner.
- C. In the discharge of his/her responsibility as the administrator of the instructional program, the Superintendent shall:
1. Establish and maintain a written instructional plan for the schools of the district consistent with the educational goals adopted by the Board;
 2. Coordinate the proper implementation of the instructional plan as it applies to each school in the district;
 3. Evaluate at least annually the effectiveness of the program of studies and recommend such changes and additions as may be required to improve its effectiveness;
 4. Evaluate the performance of students in relation to other public school districts, as well as in relation to state and national standards;
 5. Report periodically to the Board, as directed by the Board, on the condition of the educational program and facilities in the district; and
 6. Keep informed regarding current research in the field of education and inform the Board as appropriate.



- D. In the discharge of his/her responsibility for the direction and welfare of students, the Superintendent shall:
1. Strive to motivate students to achieve their individual best;
 2. Create a climate of respect for authority and discipline in each of the schools of the district;
 3. Report to the Board at its next meeting the suspension of a student; and
 4. Recommend any changes in the program of student management and support as necessary to respond to district needs.
- E. In the discharge of his/her responsibility for the supervision of district employees, the Superintendent shall:
1. Recommend to the Board all properly certified candidates for employment, assignment, or transfer;
 2. Assign staff so as to achieve maximum effectiveness in the attainment of educational goals;
 3. Train staff as necessary to implement approved changes in the curriculum or instructional methods of the district;
 4. Evaluate the effectiveness of staff members in the performance of their assigned tasks;
 5. Recommend changes in staffing patterns based on the evaluation of staff and program effectiveness; and
 6. Discipline staff as required and report to the Board forthwith any suspension of a teaching staff member.
- F. In the discharge of his/her responsibility for the maintenance of the physical plant, the Superintendent shall:
1. Strive to make efficient use of district resources in the daily operations of the schools;



2. Assign support staff so as to achieve maximum effectiveness from the facilities of the district;
 3. Train support staff as necessary to maintain the facilities and to avoid safety and environmental hazards; and
 4. Evaluate the effectiveness of the district facilities in housing the instructional program and recommend to the Board such changes and improvements as may be required.
- G. In the discharge of his/her responsibility for the management of the district business affairs, the Superintendent shall:
1. Supervise the preparation of the annual budget and recommend its adoption to the Board;
 2. Implement the budget adopted by the Board;
 3. Establish sufficient fiscal controls to ensure that district funds are expended wisely and efficiently; and
 4. Report to the Board at its next meeting any expenditure in excess of a budgeted line item.
- H. In the discharge of his/her responsibility as liaison officer to the public, the Superintendent shall:
1. Strive to interpret the needs of the school to the public and the concerns of the public to the Board;
 2. As appropriate, involve members of the public in the review of district needs, community needs, and the operation of the school programs;
 3. Keep the public informed about the accomplishments and challenges of the school district;
 4. Cooperate with the news media; and
 5. Work effectively with municipal government officials and public agencies concerned with the welfare of students.



Evaluation Criteria

The Superintendent will be evaluated in accordance with Policy No. 1240 and this job description.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-11; 18A:17-17; 18A:17-18; 18A:17-20; 18A:17-21; 18A:22-8.1; 18A:27-4.1;
18A:37-4

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1; 6A:32-4.1; 6A:32-12.2

Cross reference: Policy Guide Nos. 0132, 1220, 1240

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 16 August 2011



1240 EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT

The purpose of the annual evaluation is to promote professional excellence and improve the skills of the Superintendent, improve the quality of the education received by the students in the schools and provide a basis for the review of the Superintendent's performance.

This Policy and Regulation 1240 shall be developed by the Board of Education after consultation with the Superintendent and shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Determination of roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the annual evaluation policy and procedures;
2. Development of a job description and evaluation criteria based upon the Board of Education's local goals, program objectives, policies, instructional priorities, State goals, statutory requirements, and the functions, duties and responsibilities of the Superintendent.
3. Specification of data collection and reporting methods appropriate to the job description;
4. Provisions for the preparation of an individual professional growth and development plan based in part upon any need(s) identified in the evaluation. The plan shall be mutually developed by the Board of Education and the Superintendent; and
5. Preparation of an annual written performance report by a majority of the full membership of the Board of Education and an annual summary conference between a majority of the total membership of the Board of Education and the Superintendent.

There shall be an annual summary conference between the Board of Education with a majority of its total membership present, and the Superintendent which shall be held before the annual performance report is filed. The conference shall be held in executive session, unless the Superintendent requests that it be held in public. The conference shall include, but not be limited to, review of the following:

1. Performance of the Superintendent based upon the Board approved job description;



ADMINISTRATION
1240/page 2 of 3
Evaluation of Superintendent

2. Progress of the Superintendent in achieving and/or implementing the school district's goals, program objectives, policies, instructional priorities, State goals and statutory requirements; and
3. Indicators of student progress and growth toward program objectives.

The annual written performance report shall be prepared by July 1 by a majority of the Board of Education's total membership and shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Performance area(s) of strength;
2. Performance area(s) needing improvement based upon the job description and evaluation criteria set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-8.1(c)2;
3. Recommendations for professional growth and development;
4. A summary of indicators of student progress and growth, and a statement of how the indicators relate to the effectiveness of the overall program and the superintendent's performance; and
5. Provision for performance data not included in the report to be entered into the record by the Superintendent within ten (10) teaching staff member working days after the report's completion.

The evaluation procedure for a nontenured Superintendent shall be completed by July 1 each year.

Each newly appointed or elected Board of Education member shall complete a New Jersey School Boards Association training program on the evaluation of the Superintendent within six (6) months of the commencement of his or her term of office pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.3.b.

The rules in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall not override any conflicting provision(s) of a collective bargaining agreement or other employment contracts entered into by a school district in effect on July 1, 2013. No collective bargaining agreement entered into after July 1, 2013, shall conflict with the educator evaluation system established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. or any other specific statute or regulation, nor shall topics subject to collective bargaining involve matters of educational policy or managerial prerogatives.



ADMINISTRATION
1240/page 3 of 3
Evaluation of Superintendent

The Board of Education shall add to the Superintendent's personnel file all annual performance reports and supporting data, including, but not limited to, indicators of student progress and growth. All information contained in the annual performance reports and all information collected, compiled and/or maintained by employees of the Board of Education for the purposes of conducting the educator evaluation process pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall be confidential. Such information shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. Nothing contained in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. shall be construed to prohibit the New Jersey Department of Education from, at its discretion, collecting evaluation data pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123.e or distributing aggregate statistics regarding evaluation data.

The Board President, or the Board President's designee, shall oversee the annual evaluation of the Superintendent. The Board of Education may hire a qualified consultant to assist or advise in the evaluation process; however, the evaluation itself shall be the responsibility of the Board of Education.

Policy and Regulation 1240 shall be distributed to the Superintendent upon adoption by the Board. Amendments to this Policy and Regulation shall be distributed within ten (10) working days after adoption.

The provisions of this Policy, Regulation and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-8.1 et seq. are the minimum requirements for the evaluation of a Superintendent.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-20.3; 18A:6-117 through 18A:6-129
N.J. S.A. 6A:10-1.1 et seq.; 6A:10-8.1 et seq.

Adopted: April 29, 2014
Revised: March 15, 2016
Revised: January 2, 2018



1260 INCAPACITY OF SUPERINTENDENT

The Board of Education will appoint, by the affirmative votes of a majority of the members of the full Board, and fix the compensation of an Acting Superintendent to serve when the Superintendent is so incapacitated as to render him/her unable to perform the duties of the office of Superintendent.

The Superintendent will be deemed to be incapacitated when:

1. The Superintendent is absent on disability leave of a projected duration of one hundred eighty days or more; or
2. The Superintendent is certified incapacitated by a physician in accordance with Board Policy No. 3161; or
3. The Superintendent has been suspended with pay; or
4. The Superintendent has been suspended without pay pending the resolution of tenure charges.

The Acting Superintendent shall discharge the duties of the office until the Superintendent returns, resigns, or is removed from the position. The acts of the Acting Superintendent shall be legal and binding as if done by the Superintendent. The Acting Superintendent shall not acquire tenure in the position of Superintendent.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1; 18A:17-15

Adopted: 3 November 2009



1310 EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/ BOARD SECRETARY

The Board of Education shall appoint a qualified and capable person to fill a vacancy in the position of School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. An appointment shall be made within a reasonable time after the occurrence of the vacancy and by the recorded roll call vote of a majority of the full Board. No person shall act as School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or perform the duties of a School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, as prescribed by the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, unless he/she holds such a certificate.

All candidates for the position of School Business Administrator/Board Secretary must produce evidence of their training and/or experience in the fields of economic and legal environment, accounting, quantitative methods, management information systems, organizational theories, administrative processes, production and marketing of goods, financing of the business enterprise and other responsibilities as outlined in the Board job description.

Every serious candidate for the position of School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be interviewed by the Superintendent. The Board of Education will appoint a suitable person who holds the appropriate certificate as prescribed by the State Board of Education. Final selection shall be made by the Board, which shall also fix the compensation to be paid the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Any candidate's misstatement of fact material to qualifications for employment or the determination of salary will be considered by this Board to constitute grounds for dismissal.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1; 18A:17-5; 18A:17-14.1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-12.3; 6A:9-12.7

Adopted: 3 November 2009



1320 DUTIES OF SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/ BOARD SECRETARY

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall strive to achieve district goals for students by providing leadership and supervision in the district program of fiscal management and in other assigned programs, and by acting as a proper model for staff and students both in and outside the school district.

In order to achieve the functions of the position, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall work cooperatively with the district administrative staff to:

1. Establish and maintain long-range and other fiscal plans;
2. Prepare the annual budget based upon district resources and needs;
3. Ensure that all district fiscal, insurance, custodial-maintenance, and transportation services comply with the policies of the Board and the regulations of the district;
4. Ensure the proper functioning and evaluation of district personnel assigned to his/her areas of responsibility;
5. Manage efficiently the district systems of accounting, purchasing, investment, insurance, plant construction, plant operation and maintenance, and transportation;
6. Strive to increase the capability of the staff assigned to his/her area of responsibility through consultation and in-service training;
7. Analyze the effectiveness of district programs in his/her area of responsibility and recommend changes in program direction, staffing, or management strategies as necessary;
8. Strive to increase the efficient use of district resources in his/her area of responsibility;
9. Help to interpret the budget and the district affairs under his/her supervision to interested members of the school district community;



ADMINISTRATION

1320/page 2 of 3

Duties of School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

10. Strive to develop personal capabilities in financial strategies and supervisory methods;
11. Strive to conduct himself or herself in a proper manner at all times;
12. Be responsible for the conduct of all duties legally assigned to his/her position including:
 - a. Providing adequate notice of all public meetings of the Board to the members and to those requesting notice in accordance with law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-8d, 10:4-19; 18A:10-4, 18A:17-7;
 - b. Recording the minutes of all proceedings of the Board and the results of annual or special school elections, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-7;
 - c. Collecting moneys due the Board and transmitting them to the Treasurer of School Moneys, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-8;
 - d. Examining and auditing all accounts and demands against the Board, presenting them to the Board at its meetings, indicating the Board's approval and sending them to the Treasurer for payment, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-8, 18A:19-4;
 - e. Keeping accounts of the district's financial transactions including a correct detailed accounting of all expenditures, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-8;
 - f. Reporting to the Board at each regular meeting, but not more often than once per month, the amount of the total appropriations and cash receipts for each account, and the amounts of warrants drawn against each account, and the amounts of orders or contractual obligations incurred and chargeable against each account, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9;
 - g. Keeping all contracts, records, and documents belonging to the Board, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9;
 - h. Giving the Board a detailed report of its financial transactions at the close of each fiscal year and filing a copy with the County Superintendent, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-10;



ADMINISTRATION

1320/page 3 of 3

Duties of School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

- i. Reporting to the Commissioner annually the amount of unpaid school debt, the interest rate payable, the dates of issue, and the due dates of bonds or other indebtedness, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-12;
- j. Preparing a summary of the annual audit and recommendations prior to the meeting of the Board to act thereon and supplying copies of the summary to interested persons, and to prepare the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) N.J.S.A. 18A:23-4;
- k. Subscribe to bonds, notes, contracts, and other legal instruments of the Board for which the signature of the Secretary is required, N.J.S.A. 18A:24-32; and
- l. Sign all school district warrants and certify to the payroll, N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1, 19-9.

13. Perform such other duties as may be required by the Board or Superintendent.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be directly responsible to the Superintendent for the performance of his/her assigned duties and responsibilities as School Business Administrator and to the Board for the performance of his/her legal duties as Board Secretary.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



1330 EVALUATION OF THE SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The Superintendent will evaluate the performance of the School Business Administrator, tenured or nontenured, in order to assist both the Board and the School Business Administrator in the proper discharge of their responsibilities and to provide the district with efficient and effective services.

The evaluation of the School Business Administrator will consist of an assessment, by the Superintendent, of the School Business Administrator's performance of the duties specified in the job description approved by the Board. Reference will be made to the report of the auditor. The Superintendent may, in his/her discretion, consult with staff members assigned to work with the School Business Administrator.

The Board and the Superintendent will annually establish procedures for the evaluation of the School Business Administrator. Such procedures may include, but need not be limited to, an informal conference with the School Business Administrator for the purpose of discussing his/her job performance, a written evaluation report to which the School Business Administrator may add comments, and the establishment of a written plan for performance improvement and growth. The School Business Administrator will be evaluated by the Superintendent no later than April 30th.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



1331 EVALUATION OF THE BOARD SECRETARY

The Board of Education will evaluate the performance of the Board Secretary in order to assist both the Board and the Board Secretary in the proper discharge of their responsibilities and to provide the district with efficient and effective services.

The evaluation of the Board Secretary will consist of an assessment, by members of the Board, of the Board Secretary's performance of the duties specified in the job description as they relate to the function of Board Secretary approved by the Board. Reference will be made to the report of the auditor. The Board may, in its discretion, consult with staff members assigned to work with the Board Secretary. If the Board Secretary also serves as School Business Administrator, the Superintendent of Schools shall evaluate the individual with regard to those duties and responsibilities.

The Board will annually establish procedures for the evaluation of the Board Secretary. Such procedures may include, but need not be limited to, an informal Board conference with the Board Secretary for the purpose of discussing his/her job performance, a written evaluation report to which the Board Secretary may add comments, and the establishment of a written plan for performance improvement and growth. The Board Secretary will be evaluated by the Superintendent no later than April 30th.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



1350 INCAPACITY OF SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/
BOARD SECRETARY

The Board of Education will appoint, by the affirmative votes of a majority of the members of the full Board, and fix the compensation of an Acting School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to serve when the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is so incapacitated as to render him/her unable to perform the duties of the office of School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be deemed to be incapacitated when:

1. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is absent on disability leave of a projected duration of one hundred eighty days or more; or
2. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is certified incapacitated by a physician in accordance with Board Policy No. 3161; or
3. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary has been suspended with pay; or
4. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary has been suspended without pay pending the resolution of tenure charges.

The Acting School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall discharge the duties of the office until the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary returns, resigns, or is removed from the position. The acts of the Acting School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be legal and binding as if done by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. The Acting School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall not acquire tenure in the position of School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1; 18A:17-5

Adopted: 3 November 2009



1400 JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The Board of Education shall adopt job descriptions for the positions of Superintendent, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and each supervisory position. The Superintendent shall prepare, approve, and disseminate to the Board job descriptions for all other employment positions created by the Board.

All job descriptions will be written and will be based on the outcome and process goals developed by the Board and, as appropriate to the position, on program objectives. Each job description will specify:

1. The qualifications and specific certificate and endorsement required for the position;
2. The function, duties, and responsibilities of the position;
3. The extent and the limits of the position holder's authority;
4. The work relationships between the position holder and other employees of the district; and
5. Any background experiences, personal qualities, and individual achievements that the Board prefers in a person appointed to the position.

Job descriptions will be reviewed periodically.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-4.1; 6A:32-4.4; 6A:32-4.5; 6A:32-5.1

Adopted: 3 November 2009



1510 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

It is the policy of the Board of Education that no qualified individual with a disability will, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in employment or under any program, activity or services sponsored by this Board. The Board will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008 (hereafter referred to as the Act).

Notice of Board Policy 1530 – Equal Educational Opportunities and Board Policy 5750 – Equal Educational Opportunity will be included in the Board policy manual, posted throughout the district, and referenced in any district statement regarding the availability of employment positions or educational services.

Employment

No employee or candidate for employment will be discriminated against in recruitment, hiring, advancement, discharge, compensation, job training, transfer, or any other term, condition, or privilege of employment solely on the basis of a disability provided the employee or candidate can, with or without reasonable accommodation, perform the essential functions of the position sought or held.

No candidate for employment will be required to answer a question or submit to an examination regarding a disability except as such disability relates directly to the performance of job-related functions. No candidate will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability that is not directly related to the essential function of the position for which he/she has applied.

Reasonable accommodations, not directly affecting the educational and/or instructional program, will be made to accommodate employment conditions to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities, such accommodations may include, but are not limited to:

Making existing facilities used by employees readily assessable to and usable by individuals with disabilities, job restructuring, part-time modified work schedules, reassignment to a vacant position, acquisition or modification of equipment or devices, appropriate adjustment or modifications of examinations, training materials or policies, the provision of qualified readers or interpreters, and other similar accommodations for individuals with disabilities.



ADMINISTRATION

1510/page 2 of 3

Americans with Disabilities Act

The district will furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of a service program, or activity conducted by the district.

Facilities Maintenance and Accessibility

No qualified individual with a disability will, because of the school district's facilities being inaccessible or unusable by disabled persons, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity offered by the Board. No new facilities will be constructed that do not fully comply with the Act. Alterations to existing facilities or part thereof, will be altered in such a manner to the maximum extent feasible, that the facilities are readily accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities who have a need to access Board facilities.

The district will maintain facilities and equipment required by the Act to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

Service, Program and Activity Access

The district will make reasonable accommodations so that services, program and activities are readily accessible and usable by qualified individuals with disabilities. The district is not required to provide personal devices or services of a personal nature to qualified individuals with disabilities.

Evaluation and Compliance

The Superintendent or designee will evaluate district programs and practices on nondiscrimination, in accordance with law, and will report to the Board accordingly. Assurances of compliance will be submitted as required by law.

The district, with the assistance of interested persons, who may include individuals with disabilities or members of organizations representing individuals with disabilities, or other interested community members and staff, will evaluate its current services, policies, practices, and the effects thereof with regard to the requirements of the Act and make necessary modifications to meet the Act requirements. If such modifications would result in a fundamental alteration of the nature of the affected program or activity, or undue financial or administration burden, the district will provide access through means which would not result in a fundamental alteration or undue financial or administrative burden 28 CFR §35.150(a)

Enforcement - 28 CFR §35.107



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION
1510/page 3 of 3
Americans with Disabilities Act

The Board will designate the Superintendent as district coordinator for matters dealing with ADA compliance. The district coordinator can be contacted at the following address or telephone number:

Address: North Caldwell Board of Education
132A Gould Avenue
North Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

Telephone Number: 973-712-4400 x1204

Grievance procedures are outlined in Regulation 1510

Guarantee of Rights

The Board will not interfere, directly or indirectly, with any person's exercise or enjoyment of the rights protected by the Act.

The Board will not discriminate against any person for that person's opposition to any act or practice made unlawful by law or this Policy or for that person's participation in any manner in an investigation or proceeding arising under the Act.

The district is not required to permit an individual to participate in or benefit from the district's services, programs, or activities when that individual poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

Notice

Policy and Regulation 1510 will be available to any member of the public in the district's Policy and Regulation Manual.

42 U.S.C. 12101 (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended)
N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-17
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1 et seq.
34 CFR Part 104

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 26 April 2017



1511 BOARD OF EDUCATION WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

It is the goal of the Board of Education that the information on the school district's internet websites are accessible to individuals with disabilities in compliance with the requirements of Federal law (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and that statute's implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and that statute's implementing regulations at 28 C.F.R. Part 35) and New Jersey law (N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1).

A. Federal Law – American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

1. For the purposes of the Federal law - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and that statute's implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and that statute's implementing regulations at 28 C.F.R. Part 35 and this Policy, "school district website" includes, but is not limited to, the internet home page, all subordinate pages, school or school district department pages, intranet pages and sites, and includes online content and functionality, developed by, maintained by, or offered through a third-party vendor or by using open sources.
2. The accessibility of online content and functionality will be measured according to the most up-to-date version of the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) ~~2.0 Level AA~~ and the Web Accessibility Initiative Accessible Rich Internet Application Suite (WAI-ARIA) 1.0 for web content (benchmarks for measuring accessibility).
3. By conforming to the benchmarks for measuring accessibility set forth above, the Board of Education will ensure that people with disabilities have an opportunity equal to that of their nondisabled peers to access the information on the district's website.
4. To ensure the district's website conforms with the above benchmarks for measuring accessibility, the Superintendent of Schools will designate a school staff member to act as the Website Accessibility Coordinator. The Coordinator will:



- a. Ensure that in-house staff and contractors responsible for webpages and webpage content development are properly trained on the Board of Education's website accessibility policy and procedures;
- b. Ensure that all new, newly added, and modified online content and functionality is accessible to people with disabilities as measured by conformance to the above benchmarks by, among other things:
 - (1) Checking the hypertext markup language (HTML) of all new webpages on the website to make sure that accessible elements are used, including "alt" tags, long descriptions, and captions, as needed;
 - (2) Ensuring that webpages are designed in a manner that allows them to be displayed using a visitor's own settings for color and fonts, and can be navigated with a keyboard;
 - (3) If images are used, including photos, graphics, scanned images, or image maps, making sure to include text equivalents for them, using "alt" tags and/or long descriptions for each and ensuring the text equivalents convey the meaningful information presented visually by the image;
 - (4) If online forms and tables are used, making those elements accessible;
 - (5) Ensuring that videos appearing on the website include appropriately synchronized audio description and captions;
 - (6) Ensuring when posting new documents on the website, the documents shall be provided in HTML or another text-based format (even if they are provided in another format, such as portable document format (PDF)). If documents are provided in both formats, provide both formats at the same time so people with disabilities have the same degree of access as others;
 - (7) Periodically enlisting people with a variety of disabilities to test the Board of Education's webpages for accessibility and ease of use and use this information to increase the Board's website accessibility;



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION

1511/page 3 of 3

Board of Education Website Accessibility

- (8) Periodically coordinating the audit of existing content and functionality of the website to identify online content or functionality that is inaccessible to persons with disabilities; and
 - (9) Developing and carrying out a corrective action plan, when necessary, for making the district's existing web content accessible.
- c. Ensure that alternative means are available for people with disabilities to access information, programs, and services that are normally provided on the Board's website.
- B. New Jersey Law – N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1
- 1. For the purpose of New Jersey law – N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1 and this Policy, “internet website or web service” includes any webpage, website, web service, online curriculum, or online third party or open educational resource product that is made available to enrolled students or the public by the school district.
 - 2. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1, no school district shall make available to the enrolled students of the district or school or to the public an Internet website or web service unless the Internet website or web service complies with the most up-to-date version of the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) if the Guidelines are approved by the Commissioner of Education, or any other applicable guidelines or requirements as may be designed or approved by the Commissioner of Education.
 - 3. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1.a. and b., the school district is required to submit a statement of assurance attesting to compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1 as required by the Commissioner of Education.

This Policy establishes minimum standards for the accessibility of web-based information and services considered necessary to meet the district's goals and ensure compliance with applicable Federal and State laws.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
34 C.F.R. Part 104; 28 C.F.R. Part 35
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1

Adopted: 18 October 2022



ADMINISTRATION
1522/page 1 of 2
School-level Planning
M

1522 SCHOOL-LEVEL PLANNING

The Board of Education recognizes the school level planning process involves parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and staff members in identifying school needs, establishing performance objectives, and monitoring progress toward those objectives.

School Report Card

The school district shall annually disseminate a report card for each school in the district which shall contain statistical information specified by the New Jersey Department of Education to all staff and parents. The school district shall also make the report card available to the media. The procedure the district will follow to disseminate the report card shall be in accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Department of Education.

School-Level Plan

By September 30, each school in the district shall develop and implement a two-year plan based on school report card data. This plan shall include student performance objectives, a review of progress by teaching and administrative staff, and the involvement of parents.

At least once per semester, each school shall conduct meetings by grade level, department, team, or similarly appropriate group to review the school-level plan. The review shall include: school report card data; progress toward achieving student performance objectives; and progress toward achieving Core Curriculum Content Standards. The results of each such meeting shall be considered by the school planning team in the development of the succeeding school-level plan.

Student Performance Objectives

Each school in the district shall develop two or more objectives based on student performance or behavior standards as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.4(a), 6A:32-13.1 and 13.2. The objectives shall cover a period of not more than two years.

If student performance is below minimum State standards, the objectives to meet those standards shall be established. Benchmarks (interim performance levels) shall be set forth to measure the school's progress toward the achievement of minimum State standards.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

If student performance is at or above minimum State standards, challenge objectives shall be established.

ADMINISTRATION
1522/page 3 of 3
School-level Planning

The Superintendent shall, no later than August 1 of each year, submit each school's objectives to the Executive County Superintendent for review and approval.

Each school shall achieve its student performance objectives by meeting established benchmarks for minimum State standards and/or achieving challenge objectives or demonstrating progress toward meeting such objectives.

Each school that does not meet established benchmarks for student performance objectives or demonstrate progress toward meeting challenge objectives for two or more successive years shall be assigned a technical assistance team by the Executive County Superintendent to facilitate accomplishment of these objectives.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-12.2

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 16 August 2011



ADMINISTRATION
1523/page 1 of 2
Comprehensive Equity Plan

1523 COMPREHENSIVE EQUITY PLAN

The Board of Education shall submit a Comprehensive Equity Plan based on an assessment of the district's needs for achieving equity in educational programs that includes a cohesive set of policies, programs and practices that ensure high expectations and positive achievement patterns and equal access to education opportunity for all learners, including students and teachers.

The Board's obligation to be accountable for the requirements in N.J.A.C. 6A:7 is not precluded or alleviated by any rule or regulation of any organization, club, athletic association, or other league or group.

The Comprehensive Equity Plan shall include the following:

1. An assessment of the school district's needs for achieving equity in educational programs. The assessment shall include staffing practices, quality-of-program data, stakeholder-satisfaction data, and student assessment and behavioral data disaggregated by gender, race, ethnicity, limited English proficiency, special education, migrant, date of enrollment, student suspension, expulsion, Child Study Team referrals, preschool through grade twelve promotion/retention data, preschool through grade twelve completion rates, and reexamination and reevaluation of classification and placement of students in special education programs if there is overrepresentation within a certain group:
2. A description of how other Federal, State and district policies, programs, and practices are aligned to the Comprehensive Equity Plan;
3. Progress targets for closing the achievement gap;
4. Professional development targets regarding the knowledge and skills needed to provide a thorough and efficient education as defined by the Core Curriculum Content Standards; differentiated instruction and formative assessments aligned to Core Curriculum Content Standards; and high expectations for teaching and learning; and



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

5. Annual targets addressing district needs in equity in school and classroom practices that are aligned to professional development targets.

ADMINISTRATION
1523/page 2 of 2
Comprehensive Equity Plan

A Comprehensive Equity Plan shall be written every three (3) years and the Board of Education shall initiate the Comprehensive Equity Plan within sixty (60) days of its approval and shall implement the plan in accordance with the timelines approved by the New Jersey Department of Education.

In the event the Board of Education does not implement the Comprehensive Equity Plan within one hundred eighty days of its approval date; or fails to report its progress annually sanctions deemed to be appropriate by the Commissioner of Education or his/her designee shall be imposed, and may include action to suspend, terminate, or refuse to award continued Federal or State financial assistance, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:55-2.

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.9

Adopted: 18 August 2011
Revised: 19 July 2016



1530 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Board of Education shall, in accordance with law, guarantee equal employment opportunity throughout the district.

The Board shall ensure all persons shall have equal and bias free access to all categories of employment and equal pay for equal work in this district without regard to the candidate's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation gender, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, or disability pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1. The school district's employment applications and pre-employment inquiries conform to the guidelines of the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights.

The Board will use equitable practices that prevent imbalance and isolation based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation gender, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, or disability among the district's certificated and non-certificated staff and within every category of employment, including administration. Promotions and transfers will be monitored to ensure non-discrimination.

The Board shall not assign, transfer, promote or retain staff, or fail to assign, transfer, promote or retain staff, on the sole basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability or socioeconomic status, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A7-1.1.

The Board will target-underutilized groups in every category of employment. The Board will provide among the faculty of each school role models of diverse racial and cultural backgrounds.

The Board shall not enter into contracts with a person, agency, or organization that discriminates in employment practices or in the provision of benefits or services, on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation gender, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, or disability, either in employment practices or in the provision of benefits or services to students or employees pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A7-1.1.

The Superintendent shall promulgate a complaint procedure for the adjudication of disputes alleging violation of the law prohibiting discrimination in employment or this policy.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION
1530/page 2 of 2
Equal Employment Opportunities
M

The Board shall not discriminate against any person for that person's exercise of rights under the laws prohibiting discrimination in employment or this policy.

18A:6-5; 6-6; 18A:28-10; 18A:29-2
N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1 et seq. 6A:7-1.8

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 16 August 2011
Revised: 19 July 2016



1540 ADMINISTRATOR'S CODE OF ETHICS

Definitions

"Administrator" means any employee of this school district who holds a position that:

1. Requires certification with the endorsement of school administrator, Principal, or School Business Administrator;
2. Does not require certification but is responsible for making recommendations regarding hiring or the purchase or acquisition of any property or services by the local school district; or
3. Requires certification with the endorsement of supervisor and is responsible for making recommendations regarding hiring or the purchase or acquisition of any property or services by the local school district.

"Business" means any corporation, partnership, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, trust, sole proprietorship, union, political organization, or other legal entity but does not include a school district or other public entity.

"Interest" means the ownership of or control of more than ten percent of the profits, assets, or stock of a business but does not include the control of assets in a labor union.

"Immediate family" means the person to whom the administrator is legally married and any dependent child of the administrator residing in the same household.

Code of Ethics

No administrator or member of his/her immediate family shall have an interest in a business organization or engage in any business, transaction, or professional activity that is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties in the public interest.

No administrator shall use or attempt to use his/her official position to secure unwarranted privileges, advantages, or employment for him/herself, a member of his/her immediate family, or any other person.



No administrator shall act in his/her official capacity in any matter where he/she, a member of his/her immediate family, or a business organization in which he/she has an interest, has a direct or indirect financial or personal involvement that might reasonably be expected to impair his/her independence of judgment in the exercise of official duties. No administrator shall act in his/her official capacity in any matter where he/she or a member of his/her immediate family has a personal involvement that is or creates some benefit to the administrator or a member of his/her immediate family.

No administrator shall undertake any employment or service, whether compensated or not, which might reasonably be expected to prejudice his/her independence of judgment in the exercise of official duties.

No administrator or member of his/her immediate family or business organization in which he/she has an interest shall solicit or accept any gift, favor, loan, political contribution, service, promise of future employment, or other thing of value based upon an understanding that the gift, favor, loan, contribution, service, promise, or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing him/her, directly or indirectly, in the discharge of his/her official duties.

No administrator shall accept offers of meals, entertainment, or hospitality which are limited to the clients/customers of the individual providing such hospitality. Administrators may attend hospitality suites or receptions at conferences only when they are open to all attending the conference.

No administrator shall use, or allow to be used, his/her public office or any information not generally available to the members of the public which he/she receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his/her office, for the purpose of securing financial gain for him/herself, any member of his/her immediate family, or any business organization with which he/she is associated.

No administrator or business organization in which he/she has an interest shall represent any person or party other than the Board of Education or this school district in connection with any cause, proceeding, application or other matter pending before this school district or in any proceeding involving this school district, except that this provision shall not be deemed to prohibit representation within the context of official labor union or similar representational responsibilities.

Nothing shall prohibit an administrator or members of his/her immediate family from representing him/herself or themselves in negotiations or proceedings concerning his/her or their own interests.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION

1540/page 3 of 3

Administrator's Code of Ethics

Each administrator shall annually, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:12-25 and 18A:12-26, law, file with the Commissioner a disclosure statement report regarding potential conflicts of interest. and with the School Ethics Commission a financial disclosure statement.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 through 18A:12-34; 18A:12-22;
18A:12-23; 18A:12-24; 18A:12-25; 18A:12-26;
18A:12-27; 18A:12-28; 18A:12-29;
18A:12-30; 18A:12-31; 18A:12-32; 18A:12-33; 18A:12-34

School Ethics Policy Guideline 1

Adopted: 3 November 2009



ADMINISTRATION

1550/page 1 of 1

Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination

Practices

Apr 18

M

1550 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT/ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PRACTICES

The Board of Education shall, in accordance with State statutes and administrative code and Federal law and regulations, strive to overcome the effects of any previous patterns of discrimination in school district employment practices and shall systematically monitor school district procedures to ensure continuing compliance with anti-discrimination laws and regulations.

The Board will ensure all persons regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status shall have equal and bias-free access to all categories of employment in the public educational system of New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1.

The Board will not enter into any contract with a person, agency, or organization that discriminates on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status, either in employment practices or in the provision of benefits or services to students or employees. In addition, the Board will encourage minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms to submit bids to be considered for the awarding of contracts.

The Board shall not assign, transfer, promote or retain staff, or fail to assign, transfer, promote or retain staff, on the sole basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status.

The Board shall ensure equal pay for equal work among members of the school district's staff, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1.

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 16 August 2011

Revised: 19 July 2016

Revised: 25 September 2018



1570 INTERNAL CONTROLS

As a condition of receiving State aid, the school district shall establish specific policies and procedures on internal controls designed to provide management with reasonable assurance that the district's goals and objectives will be met and that meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.5 through N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.13. Internal controls shall promote operational efficiency and effectiveness, provide reliable financial information, safeguard assets and records, encourage adherence to prescribed policies, and comply with law and regulation.

The specific internal controls contained in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6 shall be established together with other internal controls contained in N.J.A.C. 6A and other law and regulations, required by professional standards and as deemed necessary and appropriate by district management. The district may submit a written request to the Commissioner to approve an alternative system, approach, or process for implementing the internal controls required in N.J.C.A. 6A:23A-6. The application must include documented evidence that includes, but is not limited to, an independent, third-party written assessment that the alternative system, approach or process will achieve the same safeguards, efficiency, and other purposes as the specified internal control requirement(s).

The school district shall evaluate business processes annually and allocate available resources appropriately in an effort to establish a strong control environment pursuant to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.5. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.5(b), the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall identify processes that, when performed by the same individuals, are a violation of sound segregation of duties and shall segregate the duties of all such processes among Business office staff based on available district resources, assessed vulnerability, and associated cost-benefit. The district shall include in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) a detailed organizational chart for the Central office that tie to the district's position control logs, including but not limited to, the business, human resources, and information management functions.

The school district shall establish Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for each task or function of the business operations of the district by December 31, 2009. The SOP Manual shall include sections on each routine task or function as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.6(b) and 6A:23A-6.6(c). A standard operating procedure shall be established that ensures office supplies are ordered in appropriate quantities, maintained in appropriate storage facilities, and monitored to keep track of inventory.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION

1570/page 2 of 2

Internal Controls

The school district shall maintain an accurate, complete, and up-to-date automated position control roster to track the actual number and category of employees and the detailed information for each. Districts are required to maintain a position control roster by July 1, 2009. The position control roster shall share a common database and be integrated with the district's payroll system, agree to the account codes in the budget software, and ensure that the data within the position control roster system includes, at a minimum, the required information as required in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.8(a)3.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.4; 6A:23A-6.5; 6A:23A-6.6;
6A:23A-6.7; 6A:23A-6.8

Adopted: 3 November 2009



1581 VICTIM OF DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE LEAVE

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq., an employee who was a victim of an incident of domestic violence as defined in Section 3 of P.L. 1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19) or a sexually violent offense as defined in Section 3 of P.L. 1998, c.71 (C.30:4-27.26), or whose child, parent, spouse, domestic partner, or civil union partner was a victim shall be entitled to unpaid leave of no more than twenty days in one twelve-month period, to be used in the twelve-month period following any incident of domestic violence or any sexually violent offense as provided in N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq.

For the purposes of N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. and this Policy, an “employee” means a person who is employed for at least twelve (12) months by the Board of Education, with respect to whom benefits are sought under N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. – “NJ SAFE Act” for not less than 1,000 hours during the immediately preceding twelve (12) month period.

For the purposes of N.J.S.A. 34:11C-3 and this Policy, each incident of domestic violence or any sexually violent offense shall constitute a separate offense for which an employee is entitled to unpaid leave, provided the employee has not exhausted the allotted twenty (20) days for the twelve (12) month period. The unpaid leave may be taken intermittently in intervals of no less than one (1) day, as needed for the purpose of engaging in any of the following activities as they relate to the incident of domestic violence or a sexually violent offense:

1. Seeking medical attention for, or recovering from, physical or psychological injuries caused by domestic or sexual violence of the employee or the employee’s child, parent, spouse, domestic partner, or civil union partner.
2. Obtaining services from a victim services organization for the employee or the employee’s child, parent, spouse, domestic partner, or civil union partner;
3. Obtaining psychological or other counseling for the employee or the employee’s child, parent, spouse, domestic partner, or civil union partner;
4. Participating in safety planning, temporarily or permanently relocating, or taking other actions to increase the safety of the employee or the employee’s child, parent, spouse, domestic partner, or civil union partner from future domestic or sexual violence or to ensure economic security;



5. Seeking legal assistance or remedies to ensure the health and safety of the employee or the employee's child, parent, spouse, domestic partner, or civil union partner, including preparing for, or participating in, any civil or criminal legal proceeding related to or derived from domestic or sexual violence; or
6. Attending participating in, or preparing for a criminal or civil court proceeding relating to an incident of domestic or sexual violence of which the employee or the employee's child, parent, spouse, domestic partner, or civil union partner, was a victim.

An eligible employee may elect, or the Board of Education may require the employee, to use any of the accrued paid vacation leave, personal leave, or medical or sick leave (in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1) during any part of the twenty (20) day period of unpaid leave provided under N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. In such case, any paid leave provided by the Board, and accrued pursuant to established policies of the Board, shall run concurrently with the unpaid leave provided under N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. and, accordingly, the employee shall receive pay pursuant to the Board's applicable paid leave policy during the period of otherwise unpaid leave. If an employee requests leave for a reason covered by both N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. and the "Family Leave Act," P.L. 1989, c.261 (C.34:11B-1 et seq.) or the Federal "Family Medical Leave Act of 1993," Pub.L.103-3 (29 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq.), the leave shall count simultaneously against the employee's entitlement under each respective law.

Leave granted under N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. and this Policy shall not conflict with any rights pursuant to the "Family Leave Act," P.L. 1989, c.261 (C.34:11B-1 et seq.) the "Temporary Disability Benefits Law," P.L. 1948, c.110 (C.43:21-25 et seq.), or the Federal "Family and Medical leave Act of 1993," Pub.L.103-3 (29 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq.).

Prior to taking this leave an employee shall, if the necessity for the leave is foreseeable, provide the Superintendent of Schools with written notice of the need for the leave. The notice shall be provided as far in advance as is reasonable and practical under the circumstances.

Nothing contained in N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. and this Policy shall be construed to prohibit the Superintendent from requiring that a period of this leave be supported by the employee with documentation of the domestic violence or a sexually violent offense which is the basis for the leave. If documentation is required, the employee shall be regarded as having provided sufficient documentation if the employee provides one or more of the following:

1. A domestic violence restraining order or other documentation of equitable relief issued by a court of competent jurisdiction;



2. A letter or other written documentation from the county or municipal prosecutor documenting the domestic violence or a sexually violent offense;
3. Documentation of the conviction of a person for the domestic violence or a sexually violent offense;
4. Medical documentation of the domestic violence or a sexually violent offense;
5. Certification from a certified Domestic Violence Specialist or a director of a designated domestic violence agency or Rape Crisis Center, stating that the employee or employee's child, parent, spouse, domestic partner, or civil union partner is a victim of domestic violence or a sexually violent offense; or
6. Other documentation or certification of the domestic violence or a sexually violent offense provided by a social worker, member of the clergy, shelter worker, or other professional who has assisted the employee or employee's child, parent, spouse, domestic partner, or civil union partner in dealing with the domestic violence or a sexually violent offenses.

For the purposes of N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. and this Policy, "Certified Domestic Violence Specialist" means a person who has fulfilled the requirements of certification as a Domestic Violence Specialist established by the New Jersey Association of Domestic Violence Professionals; and "designated domestic violence agency" means a county-wide organization with a primary purpose to provide services to victims of domestic violence services profile as defined by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency in the Department of Children and Families and is under contract with the division for the express purpose of providing the services.

For the purposes of N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. and this Policy, "Rape Crisis Center" means an office, institution or center offering assistance to victims of sexual offenses through crisis intervention, medical and legal information and follow-up counseling.

The Board shall display conspicuous notice of its employees' rights and obligations pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq., in such form and in such manner as the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development shall prescribe, and use other appropriate means to keep its employees so informed.



No provision of N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. and this Policy shall be construed as requiring or permitting the Board to reduce employment benefits provided by the Board or required by a collective bargaining agreement which are in excess of those required by N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. Nor shall any provision of N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. be construed to prohibit the negotiation and provision through collective bargaining agreements of leave policies or benefit programs which provide benefits in excess of those required by N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. This provision shall apply irrespective of the date that a collective bargaining agreement takes effect.

Nothing contained in N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. and this Policy shall be construed as permitting the Board to:

1. Rescind or reduce any employment benefits accrued prior to the date on which the leave taken pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq. commenced; or
2. Rescind or reduce any employment benefit, unless the rescission or reduction of the benefit is based on changes that would have occurred if an employee continued to work without taking the leave provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq.

All information and/or documentation provided to the Board or Superintendent of Schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq., any information regarding a leave taken pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq., and any failure of an employee to return to work, shall be retained in the strictest confidentiality, unless the disclosure is voluntarily authorized in writing by the employee or is required by a Federal or State law, rule or regulation.

The Board of Education shall not discharge, harass or otherwise discriminate or retaliate or threaten to discharge, harass or otherwise discriminate or retaliate against an employee with respect to the compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment on the basis that the employee took or requested any leave to which the employee was entitled pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11C-3 or on the basis that the employee refused to authorize the release of information deemed confidential pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11C-3.f.

N.J.S.A. 34:11C-1 et seq.

Adopted: July 15, 2014

Revised: 24 November 2020



ADMINISTRATION

1613/page 1 of 3

Disclosure and Review of Applicant's

Employment History

July 2018

M

1613 DISCLOSURE AND REVIEW OF APPLICANT'S EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

A school district, charter school, nonpublic school, or contracted service provider holding a contract with a school district, charter school or nonpublic school (hiring entity) shall not employ for pay or contract for the paid services of any person serving in a position which involves regular contact with students unless the hiring entity complies with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6 et seq. and as outlined in Policy and Regulation 1613.

An applicant the hiring entity seeks to offer employment to and will fill a position which involves regular contact with students shall be required to provide their employment history pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.7.a.(1). The applicant shall also provide written authorization that consents to and authorizes the disclosure of information regarding the applicant's employment history and the release of related records by the applicant's current or employer(s) regarding child abuse and/or sexual misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.7.a.(3).

A hiring entity shall review an applicant's employment history as required in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.7.b. and if the hiring entity determines to continue the applicant's employment application process, the hiring entity shall contact those employers listed by the applicant and request confirmation of the information provided by the applicant pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.7.a.

Upon the hiring entity receiving and reviewing the information disclosed by the applicant's current and/or former employer(s), and finding an affirmative response to any of the inquiries required in N.J.S.A. 18A:7.7.b.(2), and if the hiring entity determines to continue with the applicant's job application process, the hiring entity shall make further inquiries of the applicant's current or former employer(s) to ascertain additional details regarding the information disclosed.

The failure of an employer to provide the information requested by the hiring entity pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.7.b. within a twenty-day timeframe may be grounds for the automatic disqualification of an applicant from employment with a hiring entity in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.9.c.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.9.c., a hiring entity shall not be liable for any claims brought by an applicant who is not offered employment or whose employment is terminated because of any information received or due to the inability to conduct a full review of the applicant's employment history pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.7.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION

1613/page 2 of 3

Disclosure and Review of Applicant's

Employment History

July 2018

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.9.d., a hiring entity shall have the right to immediately terminate an individual's employment or rescind an offer of employment if the applicant is offered employment or commences employment following June 1, 2018, and information regarding the applicant's history of sexual misconduct or child abuse is subsequently discovered or obtained by the employer that the employer determines disqualifies the applicant or employee from employment under N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6 et seq. The termination of employment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.9 shall not be subject to any grievance or appeals procedures or tenure proceedings pursuant to any collectively bargained or negotiated agreement or any law, rule, or regulation.

A hiring entity may employ or contract with an applicant on a provisional basis for a period not to exceed ninety days pending review of information received pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.7.b. provided the conditions outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.10.b. are satisfied.

All requests for information sent to this school district, charter school, or nonpublic school from a hiring entity regarding a current or former employee in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6 et seq. shall be directed to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall review the request for information and confirm the applicant's employment relationship and ensure the written authorization is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18AL:6-7.7.a(2) prior to the release of information requested and the release of related records in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6 et seq.

On or after June 1, 2018, a hiring entity may not enter into a collectively bargained or negotiated agreement, an employment contract, an agreement for resignation or termination, a severance agreement, or any other contract or agreement or take any action that is prohibited as outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.12. Any provision of an employment contract or agreement for resignation or termination or a severance agreement that is executed, amended, or entered into after June 1, 2018, and that is contrary to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6 et seq. shall be void and unenforceable.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.11, information received by a school district, charter school or nonpublic school under Policy and Regulation 1613 and N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6 et seq. shall not be deemed a public record under N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. or the common law concerning access to public records. A school district, charter school, or nonpublic school that provides information or records about a current or former employee or applicant shall be immune from criminal and civil liability for the disclosure of the information, unless the information or records provided were knowingly false.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION
1613/page 3 of 3
Disclosure and Review of Applicant's
Employment History
July 2018

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.7; 18A:6-7.8; 18A:6-7.9; 18A:6-7.10
18A:6-7.11; 18:A6-7.12; 18A:6-7.13

New Jersey Department of Education Guidance and Resources to Assist
With Pre-Employment Requirements of P.L. 2018, c.5. – June 25, 2018

Adopted: 25 September 2018



1620 ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

The Executive County Superintendent shall review and approve for all Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and School Business Administrators in school districts, county vocational school districts, county special services school districts and other districts, except charters, within the County under the supervision of the Executive County Superintendent:

1. New employment contracts, including contracts that replace expired contracts for existing tenured and non-tenured employees;
2. Renegotiations, extensions, amendments, or other alterations of the terms of existing employment contracts that have been previously approved by the Executive County Superintendent; and
3. Provisions for contract extensions where such terms were not included in the original employment contract or are different from the provisions contained in the original approved employment contract.

In counties where there is no Executive County Superintendent or Acting Executive County Superintendent, the Assistant Commissioner for Field Services shall review and approve all above contracts.

The contract review and approval shall take place prior to any required public notice and hearing pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-11 and prior to the Board approval and execution of those contracts to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, including but not limited to N.J.S.A. 18A:30-3.5, 18A:30-9, 18A:17-15.1 and 18A:11-12.

The public notice and public hearing required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-11 is applicable to a Board that renegotiates, extends, amends, or otherwise alters the terms of an existing contract with the Superintendent of Schools, Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, or School Business Administrator.

The public notice and public hearing requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:11-11 do not apply to new contracts that replace expired contracts for existing employees in one of these positions, whether tenured or not tenured.



In connection with the Executive County Superintendent's review of the contract, the Board shall provide the Executive County Superintendent with a detailed statement setting forth the total cost of the contract for each applicable year, including salary, longevity (if applicable), benefits and all other emoluments.

The review and approval shall be consistent with the following additional standards:

1. Contracts for each class of administrative position shall be comparable with the salary, benefits and other emoluments contained in the contracts of similarly credentialed and experienced administrators in other school districts in the region with similar enrollment, academic achievement levels and challenges, and grade span.
2. No contract shall include provisions that are inconsistent with the travel requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 including, but not limited to, the provisions for mileage reimbursement and reimbursement for meals and lodging in New Jersey. Any contractual provision that is inconsistent with law is superseded by the law.
3. No contract shall include provisions for the reimbursement or payment of employee contributions that are either required by law or by a contract in effect in the district with other teaching staff members, such as payment of the employee's State or federal taxes, or of the employee's contributions to FICA, Medicare, State pensions and annuities (TPAF), life insurance, disability insurance (if offered), and health benefit costs.
4. No contract shall contain a payment as a condition of separation from service that is deemed by the Executive County Superintendent to be prohibited or excessive in nature. The payment cannot exceed the lesser of the calculation of three months pay for every year remaining on the contract with pro-ration for partial years, not to exceed twelve months, or the remaining salary amount due under the contract.
5. No contract shall include benefits that supplement or duplicate benefits that are otherwise available to the employee by operation of law, an existing group plan, or other means; e.g., an annuity or life insurance plan that supplements or duplicates a plan already made available to the employee. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a contract may contain an annuity where those benefits are already contained in the existing contract between the employee and the district.
6. Contractual provisions regarding accumulation of sick leave and supplemental compensation for accumulated sick leave shall be consistent with N.J.S.A. 18A:30-3.5. Supplemental payment for accumulated sick leave shall be payable only at the time of retirement and shall not be paid to the individual's estate or beneficiaries in the event of the individual's death prior to retirement. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:30-3.2, a new Board



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

of Education contract may include credit of unused sick leave in accordance with the new Board of Education's policy on sick leave credit for all employees.

ADMINISTRATION

1620/page 3 of 4

Administrative Employment Contracts

7. Contractual provisions regarding accumulation of unused vacation leave and supplemental compensation for accumulated unused vacation leave shall be consistent with N.J.S.A. 18A:30-9. Contractual provisions for payments of accumulated vacation leave prior to separation can be included but only for leave accumulated prior to June 8, 2007 and remaining unused at the time of payment. Supplemental payments for unused vacation leave accrued consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:30-9 after June 8, 2007 as well as unused vacation leave accumulated prior to June 8, 2007 that has not been paid, shall be payable at the time of separation and may be paid to the individual's estate or beneficiaries in the event of the individual's death prior to separation.
8. Contractual provisions that include a calculation of per diem for twelve month employees shall be based on a two hundred sixty day work year.
9. No provision for a bonus shall be made except where payment is contingent upon achievement of measurable specific performance objectives expressly contained in a contract approved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1, where compensation is deemed reasonable relative to the established performance objectives, and achievement of the performance objectives has been documented to the satisfaction of the Board of Education.
10. No provision for payment at the time of separation or retirement shall be made for work not performed except as otherwise authorized above.
11. No contract shall include a provision for a monthly allowance except for a reasonable car allowance. A reasonable car allowance cannot exceed the monthly cost of the average monthly miles traveled for business purposes multiplied by the allowable mileage reimbursement pursuant to applicable law and regulation and NJOMB circulars. If such allowance is included, the employee cannot be reimbursed for business travel mileage nor assigned permanently a car for official district business. Any provision of a car for official district business must conform with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.12 and be supported by detailed justification. No contract can include a provision of a dedicated driver or chauffeur.
12. All Superintendent contracts shall include the required provision pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-51 which states that in the event the Superintendent's certificate is revoked, the contract is null and void.

Any actions by the Executive County Superintendent undertaken pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-3.1 and this Policy may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to the procedures set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:3.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION
1620/page 4 of 4
Administrative Employment Contracts

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1; 6A:23A-7 et seq.
Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 28 April 2021



ADMINISTRATION

1631/page 1 of 2

Residency Requirement for Person Holding School
District Office, Employment or Position

Feb 12

1631 RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR PERSON HOLDING SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE, EMPLOYMENT OR POSITION

Every person holding an office, employment or position in a school district shall have his or her principal residence in New Jersey in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:14-7.

For the purpose of this Policy, “school district” means any local or regional school district established pursuant to Chapter 8 or Chapter 13 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and any jointure commission, county vocational school, county special services district, educational services commission, educational research and demonstration center, environmental education center, and educational information and resource center.

For the purpose of this Policy, a person may have at most one principal residence and the State of a person’s principal residence means the State where the person spends the majority of his or her nonworking time, which is most clearly the center of his or her domestic life, and which is designated as his or her legal residence for voting. Having a home in New Jersey is not significant enough by itself to meet the principal residence requirement of the law. The fact that a person is domiciled in New Jersey shall not by itself satisfy the requirement of principal residency.

A person, regardless of the office, employment or position, who holds an office, employment, or position in the school district on September 1, 2011, but does not have his or her principal residence in New Jersey on September 1, 2011, shall not be subject to this residency requirement of N.J.S.A. 52:14-7 while the person continues to hold office, employment or position without a break in public service of greater than seven (7) days.

A person may request an exemption from the provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:14-7 on the basis of critical need or hardship. The request shall be made to a five (5) member committee established in accordance with the provisions of 52:14-7 to consider applications for such exemptions. The decision on whether to approve an application from any person shall be made by a majority vote of the members of the committee, and those voting in the affirmative shall so sign the approved application. If the committee fails to act on an application within thirty days after the receipt thereof, no exemption shall be granted and the residency requirement of N.J.S.A. 52:14-7 shall be operative.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION

1631/page 2 of 2

Residency Requirement for Person Holding School
District Office, Employment or Position

Any person holding or attempting to hold an office, employment or position in violation of N.J.S.A. 52:14-7 shall be considered as illegally holding or attempting to hold the office, employment or position; however, the person shall have one (1) year from the time of taking the office, employment or position to satisfy the requirement of principal residency. If such person fails to satisfy the requirement of principal residency as defined in N.J.S.A. 52:14-7 after the 365-day period, that person shall be deemed unqualified for holding the office, employment or position. The Superior Court shall, in a civil action in lieu of prerogative writ, give judgment of ouster against such person, upon the complaint of any officer or citizen of the State, provided that any such complaint shall be brought within one (1) year of the alleged 365-day period of failure to have his or her principal residence in this State.

Notice of the residency requirements as outlined in N.J.S.A. 52:14-7 and this Policy should be provided to all existing persons holding office, employment or a position in the school district and to candidates seeking to hold office, employment or a position in the school district.

N.J.S.A. 52:14-7

Adopted: March 27, 2012



1642 EARNED SICK LEAVE LAW

All persons holding any office, position, or employment in local school districts, regional school districts, or county vocational schools of the State who are steadily employed by the Board of Education or who are protected by tenure in their office, position, or employment under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:30-2 or any other law, except persons in the classified service of the civil service under Title II, Civil Service, of the Revised Statutes, shall be allowed sick leave with full pay for a minimum of ten (10) school days in any school year in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:30-2.

However, a Board of Education may determine some persons holding an office, position, or employment are not eligible for sick leave in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:30-2. These persons shall be covered under the provisions of the New Jersey Earned Sick Leave Law (Act), N.J.S.A. 34:11D-1 through 34:11D-11. Policy and Regulation 1642 outline the provisions of the Act for those persons the Board of Education determines are not eligible for sick leave in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:30-2 or any rule or law of New Jersey other than the Act.

For the purposes of Policy and Regulation 1642, “employer” means a local school district, regional school district, county vocational school, or charter school of the State who does not provide sick leave with full pay to an employee pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:30-2 or any other law, rule, or regulation of New Jersey and is required to comply with the requirements of the Act.

For the purposes of Policy and Regulation 1642, “employee” means an individual engaged in service for compensation to a local school district, regional school district, county vocational school, or charter school of the State who is not provided sick leave with full pay pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:30-2 or any other law, rule, or regulation of New Jersey and is eligible to accrue earned sick leave in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:11D-2, for every thirty (30) hours worked, an employee eligible to accrue earned sick leave under the Act shall accrue one hour of earned sick leave commencing no later than October 29, 2018.

The employer will not provide an employee with the full complement of earned sick leave for a benefit year as required under N.J.S.A. 34:11D-2 on the first day of each benefit year in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:11D-2.a.



The employer will not permit the employee to accrue or use in any benefit year, or carry forward from one benefit year to the next, more than forty (40) hours of earned sick leave.

Unless the employee has accrued earned sick leave prior to October 29, 2018, the earned sick leave shall begin to accrue on October 29, 2018, for any employee who is hired and commences employment before October 29, 2018, and the employee shall be eligible to use the earned sick leave beginning February 26, 2019, after the employee commences employment.

If the employee's employment commences after October 29, 2018, the earned sick leave shall begin to accrue upon the date that employment commences. The employee shall be eligible to use the earned sick leave beginning on the 120th calendar day after the employee commences employment.

The employer shall be in compliance with N.J.S.A. 34:11D-2 if the employer offers paid time off to an employee, which is fully paid and shall include, but is not limited to personal days, vacation days and sick days, and may be used to the purposes of N.J.S.A., 34:11D-3 in the manner provided by the Act, and is accrued at a rate equal to or greater than the rate described in N.J.S.A. 34:11D-2.

The employer shall pay the employee for earned sick leave at the same rate of pay with the same benefits as the employee normally earns, except that the pay rate shall not be less than the minimum wage required for the employee pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11-56a4.

The employer shall permit an employee to use the earned sick leave accrued pursuant to the Act for any of the reasons outlined in N.J.S.A. 34:11D-3.a.

No employer shall take retaliatory personnel action or discriminate against an employee who accrues sick leave under the Act because the employee requests or uses earned sick leave either in accordance with the Act or the employer's own earned sick leave policy for employees covered under the Act. Any complaints alleging a violation of the Act shall be filed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:11D-4.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 34:11D-5, failure of the employer to comply with the provisions of the Act shall be regarded as a failure to meet the wage payment requirements of the "New Jersey State Wage and Hour Law."

The employer shall retain records documenting hours worked and earned sick leave taken by employees covered under the Act in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:11D-6.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION
1642/page 3 of 3
Earned Sick Leave Law
Mar 19

The employer shall provide notification, in a form issued by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, to employees of their rights under the Act; post the notification; and provide a copy of the notification to employees eligible to accrue earned sick leave under the Act in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:11D-7.

N.J.S.A. 34:11d-1 THROUGH 34:-11D-11

Adopted: January 7, 2020



1643 FAMILY LEAVE

The Board of Education will provide family leave to staff members in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA) and the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). These laws have similar and different provisions that provide different rights and obligations for a staff member and the Board.

If a staff member is eligible for leave for reasons recognized under both the FMLA and NJFLA, then the time taken shall run concurrently and be applied to both laws. The NJFLA provides twelve weeks leave in a twenty-four month period and the FMLA provides twelve weeks leave in a twelve month period

A. New Jersey Family Leave Act

1. Definitions Relative to New Jersey Family Leave Act

“Base Hours” means the hours of work for which a staff member receives compensation. Base hours shall include overtime hours for which a staff member is paid additional or overtime compensation, and hours for which a staff member receives workers’ compensation benefits. Base hours shall also include hours a staff member would have worked except for having been in military service. Base hours do not include hours for when a staff member receives other types of compensation, such as administrative, personal leave, vacation, or sick leave.

“Child” means a biological, adopted, foster child, or resource family child, stepchild, legal ward, or child of a parent, including a child who becomes the child of a parent pursuant to a valid written agreement between the parent and a gestational carrier.

“Eligible employee” means any individual employed by the same employer for twelve months or more, who has worked 1,000 or more base hours during the preceding twelve month period.



“Employer” includes the State, any political subdivision thereof, and all public offices, agencies, boards, or bodies.

“Family member” means a child, parent, parent-in-law, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, spouse, domestic partner, or one partner in a civil union couple, or any other individual related by blood to a staff member, and any other individual that a staff member shows to have a close association with a staff member which is the equivalent of a family relationship.

“Health care provider” means a duly licensed health care provider or other health care provider deemed appropriate by the Director of the Division on Civil Rights in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety.

“Parent” means a person who is the biological parent, adoptive parent, foster parent, resource family parent, step-parent, parent-in-law, or legal guardian, having a “parent-child relationship” with a child as defined by law, or having sole or joint legal or physical custody, care, guardianship, or visitation with a child, or who became the parent of the child pursuant to a valid written agreement between the parent and a gestational carrier.

“Serious health condition” means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition which requires:

- a. Inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility; or
- b. Continuing medical treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider.

As used in the definition of a serious health condition, “continuing medical treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider” means:

- a. A period of incapacity (that is, inability to work, attend school, or perform regular daily activities due to a serious health condition, treatment therefore, and recovery therefrom) of more than three consecutive days, and any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition, that also involves:



- (1) Treatment two or more times by a health care provider; or
 - (2) Treatment by a health care provider on one occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of a health care provider;
- b. Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy, or for prenatal care;
 - c. Any period of incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition;
 - d. A period of incapacity, which is permanent or long-term, due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective (such as Alzheimer's disease, a severe stroke, or the terminal stages of a disease) where the individual is under continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a health care provider; or
 - e. Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery therefrom) by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services under orders of, or on referral by a health care provider, either for restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.), severe arthritis (physical therapy), or kidney disease (dialysis).

“Spouse” means a person to whom a staff member is lawfully married as defined by New Jersey law.

“State of emergency” means a natural or man-made disaster or emergency for which a state of emergency has been declared by the President of the United States or the Governor, or for which a state of emergency has been declared by a municipal emergency management coordinator.

2. Reasons for NJFLA Leave

- a. A staff member may take NJFLA leave to provide care made necessary by reason of:



- (1) The birth of a child of the staff member, including a child born pursuant to a valid written agreement between the staff member and the gestational carrier;
- (2) The placement of a child into foster care with the staff member or in connection with adoption of such child by a staff member;
- (3) The serious health condition of a family member of the staff member; or
- (4) A state of emergency declared by the Governor of New Jersey, or when indicated to be needed by the Commissioner of Health – New Jersey Department of Health or other public health authority, an epidemic or communicable disease, a known or suspected exposure to the communicable disease, or efforts to prevent spread of a communicable disease which:
 - (a) Requires in-home care or treatment of a child due to the closure of the school or place of care of the child of a staff member, by order of a public official due to the epidemic or other public health emergency;
 - (b) Prompts the issuance by a public health authority of a determination, including by mandatory quarantine, requiring or imposing responsive or prophylactic measures as a result of illness caused by an epidemic of a communicable disease or known or suspected exposure to the communicable disease because the presence in the community of a family member in need of care by a staff member would jeopardize the health of others; or
 - (c) Results in the recommendation of a health care provider or public health authority, that a family member in need of care by a staff member voluntarily undergo self-quarantine as a result of suspected exposure to a communicable disease because the presence in the community of that family member in need of care by a staff member, would jeopardize the health of others.



3. Staff Member Eligibility

- a. NJFLA leave may be taken for up to twelve weeks within any twenty-four month period. The NJFLA leave shall be unpaid with benefits subject to contributions required to be made by the staff member.
- b. A staff member is eligible for NJFLA leave if a staff member is employed by the same Board for twelve months or more, and has worked 1,000 or more base hours during the preceding twelve month period.
- c. The method to determine the twenty-four month period in which the twelve weeks of NJFLA leave entitlement occurs shall be a “rolling” twenty-four month period measured backward from the date a staff member uses any leave under NJFLA.
- d. This Policy shall serve as notice to all staff members of the method chosen in A.3.c. above. This method shall be applied consistently and uniformly to all staff members.
 - (1) If the Board transitions to another method, the Board is required to give at least sixty days’ notice to all staff members and the transition must take place in such a way that staff members retain their full benefit of twelve weeks of NJFLA leave under whichever method affords the greatest benefit to a staff member.
- e. The Board shall grant NJFLA leave to more than one staff member from the same family (for example, a husband and a wife, or a brother and a sister) at the same time, provided such staff members are otherwise eligible for NJFLA leave.
- f. The fact that a holiday may occur within the week taken by a staff member as NJFLA leave has no effect and the week is counted as a week of NJFLA leave.
 - (1) However, if a staff member is out on NJFLA leave and the staff member is not regularly scheduled to work for one or more weeks, the weeks the staff member is not regularly scheduled to work do not count against their NJFLA leave entitlement.



4. Types of NJFLA Leave
 - a. Staff members are required to provide notice in writing for any NJFLA leave requested. In emergent circumstances, a staff member may provide the Board with oral notice when written notice is impracticable.
 - (1) Staff members must provide the Board written notice after submitting oral notice in emergent circumstances.
 - b. Consecutive NJFLA leave is NJFLA leave that is taken without interruption based upon a staff member's regular work schedule and does not include breaks in employment in which a staff member is not regularly scheduled to work.
 - (1) A staff member must provide the Board with notice of consecutive NJFLA leave no later than thirty days prior to the commencement of consecutive NJFLA leave, except where emergent circumstances warrant shorter notice.
 - (2) A staff member shall provide the Board with certification pursuant to A.5. below.
 - c. Intermittent NJFLA leave is NJFLA leave due to a single qualifying reason, taken in separate periods of time, broken up by periods in which the staff member returns to work.
 - (1) A staff member is entitled to take NJFLA leave intermittently for the birth of a child of the staff member, including a child born pursuant to a valid written agreement between the staff member and a gestational carrier or the placement of a child into foster care with the staff member or in connection with adoption of such child by the staff member.
 - (a) The staff member shall provide the Board with prior notice of not less than fifteen calendar days before the first day on which NJFLI benefits are paid for the intermittent NJFLA leave, unless an emergency or other unforeseen circumstance precludes prior notice.



- (b) The staff member shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the intermittent NJFLA leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the Board and, if possible, provide the Board, prior to the commencement of intermittent NJFLA leave, with a regular schedule of the days or days of the week on which the intermittent NJFLA leave will be taken.
 - (c) A staff member shall provide the Board with certification for intermittent NJFLA leave pursuant to A.5.b. below.
- (2) The staff member is entitled to take intermittent NJFLA leave for the serious health condition of a family member of the staff member when medically necessary if:
- (a) The total time which the intermittent NJFLA leave is taken does not exceed twelve months if taken in connection with a single serious health condition. If the intermittent NJFLA leave is taken in connection with more than one serious health condition, the intermittent NJFLA leave must be taken within a consecutive twenty-four month period or until such time the twelve week NJFLA leave is exhausted, whichever is shorter;
 - (b) The staff member provides the Board with prior notice of not less than fifteen calendar days before the first day on which benefits are paid for the intermittent NJFLA leave.
 - (i) The staff member may provide notice less than fifteen days prior to the intermittent NJFLA leave if an emergency or other unforeseen circumstance precludes prior notice;
 - (c) The staff member makes a reasonable effort to schedule the intermittent NJFLA leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the school district and, if possible, provide the school district, prior to the commencement of intermittent NJFLA leave, with a regular schedule of the days or days of the week on which the intermittent NJFLA leave will be taken; and



- (d) The staff member provides the Board with a copy of the certification outlined in A.5.c. below.
- (3) In the case of NJFLA leave taken due to an epidemic of a communicable disease, a known or suspected exposure to the communicable disease, or efforts to prevent spread of the communicable disease, the NJFLA leave may only be taken intermittently if:
- (a) The staff member provides the Board with prior notice of the intermittent NJFLA leave as soon as practicable;
 - (b) The staff member makes a reasonable effort to schedule the NJFLA leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the school district and, if possible, provide the school district prior to the commencement of the intermittent NJFLA leave, with a regular schedule of the day or days of the week on which the intermittent NJFLA leave will be taken; and
 - (c) A staff member provides the Board with a copy of the certification outlined in A.5.d. below.
- (4) Intermittent leave taken on a reduced leave schedule is NJFLA leave due to a single qualifying reason, that is scheduled for fewer than a staff member's usual number of hours worked per workweek, but not for fewer than a staff member's usual number of hours worked per workday and may only be taken to care for the serious health condition of a family member of a staff member when medically necessary, except that:
- (a) A staff member shall not be entitled to intermittent NJFLA leave on a reduced leave schedule for a period exceeding twelve consecutive months for any one period of NJFLA leave;
 - (b) The staff member must provide the Board with prior notice of the intermittent NJFLA leave on a reduced leave schedule as soon as practicable;



- (c) A staff member shall make a reasonable effort to schedule intermittent NJFLA leave on a reduced leave schedule so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the school district. A staff member shall provide the school district with prior notice of the care, medical treatment, or continuing supervision by a health care provider necessary due to a serious health condition of a family member, in a manner which is reasonable and practicable; and
 - (d) A staff member must provide the Board with a copy of the certification outlined in A.5.c. below.
 - d. NJFLA leave taken because of the birth or placement for adoption of a child of the staff member may commence at any time within a year after the date of the foster care placement, birth, or placement for adoption.
 - e. A staff member shall not, during any period of NJFLA leave, perform services on a full-time basis for any person for whom a staff member did not provide those services immediately prior to commencement of the NJFLA leave.
 - (1) A staff member on NJFLA leave may not engage in other full-time employment during the term of the NJFLA leave, unless such employment commenced prior to the NJFLA leave and is not otherwise prohibited by law.
 - (2) During the term of NJFLA leave a staff member may commence part-time employment which shall not exceed half the regularly scheduled hours worked for the Board from whom a staff member requested NJFLA leave. A staff member may continue part-time employment which commenced prior to a staff member's NJFLA leave, at the same number of hours that a staff member was regularly scheduled prior to such NJFLA leave.
 - (3) The Board may not maintain a policy or practice which prohibits part-time employment during the course of a NJFLA leave.



5. Certification

- a. The Board shall require a staff member who requests NJFLA leave to sign a form of certification established by the Board attesting that such staff member is taking NJFLA leave in accordance with the law.
 - (1) The Board may not require a staff member to sign or otherwise submit a form of certification attesting to additional facts, including a staff member's eligibility for NJFLA leave.
 - (2) The Board may subject a staff member to reasonable disciplinary measures, depending on the circumstances, when a staff member intentionally misrepresents the reason that such staff member is taking NJFLA leave.
 - (3) The form of certification established by the Board shall contain a statement warning a staff member of the consequences of refusing to sign the certification or falsely certifying. Any staff member who refuses to sign the certification established by the Board may be denied the requested NJFLA leave.
 - (4) The Board requires that any period of NJFLA leave be supported by certification issued by a health care provider.
- b. Where the certification, issued by the health care provider, is for the birth of a child of a staff member, including a child born pursuant to a valid written agreement between the staff member and a gestational carrier or the placement of a child into foster care with the staff member or in connection with adoption of such child by the staff member, the certification need only state the date of birth or date of placement, whichever is appropriate.
- c. Any period of NJFLA leave for the serious health condition of a family member of a staff member shall be supported by certification provided by a health care provider. The certification shall be sufficient if it states:
 - (1) The date, if known, on which the serious health condition commenced;
 - (2) The probable duration of the condition;



- (3) The medical facts within the knowledge of the provider of the certification regarding the condition;
 - (4) The serious health condition warrants the participation of the staff member in providing health care to the family member, as provided in the "Family Leave Act," P.L. 1989, c.261 (C.34:11B-1 et seq.) and regulations adopted pursuant to the NJFLA;
 - (5) An estimate of the amount of time the staff member is needed for participation in the care of the family member;
 - (6) If the NJFLA leave is intermittent, a statement of the medical necessity for the intermittent NJFLA leave and the expected duration of the intermittent NJFLA leave; and
 - (7) If NJFLA leave is intermittent and for planned medical treatment, the dates of the treatment.
- d. In any case in which the Board has reason to doubt the validity of the certification provided pursuant to A.5.c. above, the Board may require, at its own expense, that a staff member obtain an opinion regarding the serious health condition from a second health care provider designated or approved, but not employed on a regular basis, by the Board. If the second opinion differs from the certification provided pursuant to A.5.c. above, the Board may require, at its own expense, that a staff member obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the Board and a staff member concerning the serious health condition. The opinion of the third health care provider shall be considered to be final and shall be binding on the Board and a staff member.
- e. Where the certification is for an epidemic of a communicable disease, a known or suspected exposure to the communicable disease, or efforts to prevent the spread of the communicable disease, the certification shall be sufficient if it includes:
- (1) For NJFLA leave taken to provide in-home care or treatment of a child due to the closure of the school or place of care of the child of a staff member, by order of a public official due to the epidemic or other public health emergency, the date on which the closure of the



school or place of care of the child of a staff member commenced and the reason for such closure;

(2) For NJFLA leave taken due to a public health authority's issuance of a determination requiring or imposing responsive or prophylactic measures as a result of illness caused by an epidemic of a communicable disease or known or suspected exposure to the communicable disease because the presence in the community of a family member in need of care by a staff member would jeopardize the health of others, the date of issuance of the determination, and the probable duration of the determination; or

(3) For NJFLA leave taken because a health care provider or public health authority recommends that a family member in need of care by a staff member voluntarily undergo self-quarantine as a result of suspected exposure to a communicable disease because the presence in the community of that family member in need of care by a staff member would jeopardize the health of others, the date of the recommendation, the probable duration of the condition, and the medical or other facts within the health care provider or public health authority's knowledge regarding the condition.

f. The Board shall not use the certification requirements as outlined in A.5. to intimidate, harass, or otherwise discourage a staff member from requesting or taking NJFLA leave or asserting any of a staff member's rights to NJFLA leave.

6. Denial or Exemption of NJFLA Leave

a. Denial of NJFLA Leave

(1) The Board may deny NJFLA leave to a staff member if:

(a) A staff member is a salaried staff member who is among the highest paid 5% of the Board's staff members or the seven highest paid staff members of the Board, whichever is greater;

(b) The denial is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the Board's operations; and



- (c) The Board notifies a staff member of its intent to deny the NJFLA leave at the time the Board determines that the denial is necessary.
 - (2) The provisions of A.6.a.(1) above shall not apply when, in the event of a state of emergency declared by the Governor of New Jersey or when indicated to be needed by the Commissioner of Health – New Jersey Department of Health or other public health authority, the NJFLA leave is for an epidemic of a communicable disease, a known or suspected exposure to a communicable disease, or efforts to prevent spread of a communicable disease.
 - (3) In any case in which NJFLA leave has already commenced at the time of the notification pursuant to A.6.a.(1)(c) above, a staff member shall return to work within ten working days of the date of notification.
- 7. Reinstatement from NJFLA Leave
 - a. Upon the expiration of a NJFLA leave, a staff member shall be restored to the position such staff member held immediately prior to the commencement of the NJFLA leave. If such position has been filled, the Board shall reinstate such staff member to an equivalent position of like seniority, status, employment benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.
 - b. If, during NJFLA leave, the Board experiences a reduction in force or layoff and a staff member would have lost their position had a staff member not been on NJFLA leave, as a result of the reduction in force or pursuant to the good faith operation of a bona fide layoff and recall system including a system under a collective bargaining agreement where applicable, a staff member shall not be entitled to reinstatement to the former or an equivalent position. A staff member shall retain all rights under any applicable layoff and recall system, including a system under a collective bargaining agreement, as if a staff member had not taken the NJFLA leave.
- 8. Notice to Staff Members



- a. The Board shall display the official Family Leave Act poster of the Division on Civil Rights in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety

(Division) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:8-2.2. The poster is available for printing from the Division's website.

- b. Access to and/or distribution of this Policy shall serve as school district notice to staff members of their rights pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:14-1.14.

9. Local Board of Education Practices

a. Accrued Paid NJFLA Leave

- (1) Whether a staff member is required to use any other accrued leave time concurrent with NJFLA leave time will depend upon either the school district's practice or a provision in a collective bargaining agreement, if applicable.

- (a) Sick leave may only be used concurrently with the NJFLA leave in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1 and N.J.S.A. 34:11B-3.

b. Multiple Leaves of Absence

- (1) Where a Board maintains leaves of absence which provide benefits, other than health benefits, that differ depending upon the type of leave taken, the Board shall provide those benefits to a staff member on NJFLA leave in the same manner as it provides benefits to staff members who are granted other leaves of absence which most closely resemble NJFLA leave.

10. New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program (NJFLI)

- a. Board of Education staff members are eligible to apply for benefits under the NJFLI Program administered by the State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

- b. All applications for benefits under the NJFLI Program must be filed directly with the State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The eligibility requirements, wage requirements, benefit



duration and amounts, and benefit limitations shall be in accordance with the provisions of the NJFLI Program as administered by the State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. A formal appeal may be submitted to the State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development if an employee or the Board disagrees with a determination on a claim.

- c. The NJFLI Program provides eligible individuals a monetary benefit and not a leave benefit. The school district administrative and related staff will comply with the State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development requests for information in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 12:21-3.9.
- d. A printed notification of staff members' rights relative to the receipt of benefits under the NJFLI Program will be posted in each of the school district worksites and in a place or places accessible to all employees at the worksite.
- e. Each staff member shall receive a copy of this notification in writing at the time of the staff member's hiring, whenever the staff member provides written notice to the Superintendent of their intention to apply for benefits under the NJFLI Program, or at any time upon the first request of the staff member.
 - (1) The written notification may be transmitted to the staff member in electronic form.
 - (2) Access to and/or distribution of this Policy shall serve as school district notice to staff members of their rights under the NJFLI Program.

B. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act

1. Definitions Relative to Federal Family and Medical Leave Act

"Covered Employer" means any public or private elementary or secondary school(s) regardless of the number of employees employed.

"Employee" means a staff member eligible for family and medical leave in accordance with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

"Hours of Service" means hours actually worked by the employee. It does not mean hours paid. Thus, non-working time – such as vacations, holidays,



furloughs, sick leave, or other time-off (paid or otherwise) – does not count for purposes of calculating FMLA eligibility for the employee.

“Parent” means a biological, adoptive, step, or foster father or mother, or any other individual who stood in loco parentis to a staff member when a staff member has a son or daughter as defined below. This term does not include parents “in law.”

“Serious health condition” means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical facility or continuing treatment by a health care provider. “Serious health condition” may include treatment of substance abuse pursuant to 29 CFR §825.119.

“Son” or “daughter” means a biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is either under age eighteen or age eighteen or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability at the time that FMLA leave is to commence. “Spouse” means a husband or wife. For purposes of this definition, husband or wife refers to the other person with whom an individual entered into marriage as defined or recognized under State law in the State in which the marriage was entered into or, in the case of a marriage entered into outside of any State, if the marriage is valid in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least one State. This definition includes an individual in a same-sex marriage or common law marriage.

“Week” or “Workweek” means the number of days a staff member normally works each calendar week.

2. Qualifying Reasons for FMLA Leave

a. A staff member may take FMLA leave to provide care made necessary:

- (1) For the birth of a son or daughter of a staff member and in order to care for such son or daughter;
- (2) For the placement of a son or daughter with a staff member for adoption or foster care;
- (3) In order to care for the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of a staff member if such spouse, son, daughter, or parent has a serious health condition;



- (4) For a serious health condition that makes a staff member unable to perform the functions of the position of such staff member.
 - b. FMLA leave taken in relation to military service shall be in accordance with 29 CFR §825.112.
 - c. Entitlement to FMLA leave taken for the birth of a son or daughter or placement of a son or daughter with a staff member for adoption or foster care shall expire at the end of the twelve month period beginning on the date of such birth or placement.
3. Staff Member Eligibility
 - a. A staff member is eligible for up to twelve weeks of FMLA leave in a twelve month period.
 - b. A staff member shall become eligible for FMLA leave after the staff member has been employed at least twelve months by the Board and employed for at least 1,250 hours of service during the twelve month period immediately preceding the commencement of the FMLA leave.
 - (1) The twelve months a staff member must have been employed need not be consecutive months pursuant to 29 CFR §825.110(b).
 - (2) The minimum 1,250 hours of service shall be determined according to the principles established under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) for determining compensable hours of work pursuant to 29 CFR §785.
 - (3) The Board shall not provide pay for FMLA leave.
 - c. The method to determine the twelve month period in which the twelve weeks of FMLA leave entitlement occurs will be a “rolling” twelve month period measured backward from the date a staff member uses any FMLA leave.
 - d. Pursuant to 29 CFR §825.201, a husband and wife both employed by the Board are limited to a combined total of twelve weeks of FMLA leave during the twelve month period if the FMLA leave is taken for the birth of a son or daughter of a staff member or to care for such son or daughter after birth; for placement of a son or daughter with a staff member for adoption



or foster care or in order to care for the son or daughter after placement; or to care for a staff member's parent with a serious health condition.

4. Types of FMLA leave

- a. Continuous FMLA leave is taken by staff members for a continuous period of time. Such FMLA leave is not broken up by a period of work and is continuous when a staff member is absent for three consecutive working days or more. Continuous FMLA leave may be taken for any qualifying reason.
- b. Intermittent FMLA leave is FMLA leave taken in separate blocks of time due to a single qualifying reason. A reduced FMLA leave schedule is a FMLA leave schedule that reduces a staff member's usual number of working hours per workweek, or hours per workday. A reduced FMLA leave schedule is a change in a staff member's schedule for a period of time, normally from full-time to part-time.
 - (1) Intermittent or reduced FMLA leave may be taken for the following qualifying reasons:
 - (a) For the serious health condition of the staff member or to care for a parent, son, or daughter with a serious health condition.
 - (i) For intermittent FMLA leave or FMLA leave on a reduced FMLA leave schedule taken for the reason outlined in B.4.b.(1)(a) above there must be a medical need for FMLA leave and it must be that such medical need can be best accommodated through an intermittent or reduced FMLA leave schedule.
 - (ii) The treatment regimen and other information described in the certification of a serious health condition and in the certification of a serious injury or illness, shall address the medical necessity of intermittent FMLA leave or FMLA leave on a reduced FMLA leave schedule.



- (iii) Intermittent FMLA leave may be taken for a serious health condition of a parent, son, or daughter, for a staff member's own serious health condition, which requires treatment by a health care provider periodically, rather than for one continuous period of time, and may include FMLA leave of periods from an hour or more to several weeks.
- (b) For planned and/or unanticipated medical treatment of a serious health condition when medically necessary.
- (c) To provide care or psychological comfort to a covered family member with a serious health condition when medically necessary.
- (d) For absences where a staff member or family member is incapacitated or unable to perform the essential functions of the position because of a chronic serious health condition even if he or she does not receive treatment by a health care provider.
- (e) For FMLA leave taken after the birth of a healthy child or placement of a healthy child for adoption or foster care, only if the Board agrees.
 - (i) The Board's agreement is not required; however, for FMLA leave during which the mother has a serious health condition in connection with the birth of her child or if the newborn child has a serious health condition.
- (2) If a staff member needs FMLA leave intermittently or on a reduced FMLA leave schedule for planned medical treatment, then a staff member must make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the Board's operations.
- (3) When a staff member takes FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced FMLA leave schedule basis, the Board must account for the



FMLA leave using an increment no greater than the shortest period of time that the Board uses to account for use of other forms of leave

provided that it is not greater than one hour and provided further that a staff member's FMLA leave entitlement may not be reduced by more than the amount of FMLA leave actually taken.

- (a) If the Board accounts for use of leave in varying increments at different times of the day or shift, the Board may not account for FMLA leave in a larger increment than the shortest period used to account for other leave during the period in which the FMLA leave is taken.
- (b) If the Board accounts for other forms of leave use in increments greater than one hour, the Board must account for FMLA leave use in increments no greater than one hour.

5. Staff Member Notice Requirements

- a. A staff member eligible for FMLA leave must give at least a thirty day written advance notice to the Superintendent or designee if the need for the FMLA leave is foreseeable based on an expected birth, placement for adoption or foster care, or planned medical treatment for a serious health condition of a staff member or a family member.
 - (1) If thirty days is not practical, a staff member must provide notice "as soon as practicable" which means as soon as both possible and practical, taking into account all the facts and circumstances in the individual case.
 - (2) Where it is not possible to give as much as thirty days' notice, "as soon as practical" ordinarily would mean at least verbal notification to the Superintendent or designee within one or two business days or when the need for FMLA leave becomes known to a staff member.
 - (3) The written notice shall include the reasons for the FMLA leave, the anticipated duration of the FMLA leave, and the anticipated start of the FMLA leave.



- (4) When planning medical treatment, a staff member must consult with the Superintendent or designee and make a reasonable effort to schedule the FMLA leave so as not to unduly disrupt the educational program, subject to the approval of the health care provider.
 - (a) Staff members are ordinarily expected to consult with the Superintendent or designee prior to scheduling of treatment that would require FMLA leave for a schedule that best suits the needs of the Board and a staff member.
 - (5) Intermittent FMLA leave or FMLA leave on a reduced FMLA leave schedule must be medically necessary due to a serious health condition or a serious injury or illness. A staff member shall advise the Board of the reasons why the intermittent/reduced FMLA leave schedule is necessary and of the schedule for treatment, if applicable.
 - (a) A staff member and the Board shall attempt to work out a schedule for such FMLA leave that meets a staff member's needs without unduly disrupting the Board's operations, subject to the approval of the health care provider.
 - (6) Where a staff member does not comply with the Board's usual notice and procedural requirements, and no unusual circumstances justify the failure to comply, FMLA-protected leave may be delayed or denied.
- b. When the approximate timing of the need for FMLA leave is not foreseeable, a staff member should give notice to the Superintendent or designee for FMLA leave as soon as practicable under the facts and circumstances of the particular case.
- (1) It is expected a staff member will give notice to the Superintendent or designee within no more than one or two business days of



learning of the need for FMLA leave, except in extraordinary circumstances where such notice is not foreseeable.

- (2) A staff member should provide notice to the Board either in person, by telephone, telegraph, fax machine, email, or other electronic means.

6. Outside Employment During FMLA Leave

- a. A staff member during any period of FMLA leave is prohibited from performing any services on a full-time basis for any person for whom a staff member did not provide services immediately prior to commencement of the FMLA leave.

- (1) A staff member using FMLA leave may commence part-time employment that shall not exceed half the regularly scheduled hours worked for the Board.

- (2) A staff member may continue the part-time employment that commenced prior to the FMLA leave at the same number of hours that a staff member was regularly scheduled prior to such FMLA leave.

7. “Instructional Employees” Exceptions for FMLA Leave

- a. “Instructional Employees” are those staff members whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in class, a small group, or in an individual setting. This term includes teachers, athletic coaches, driving instructors, and special education assistants, such as signers for the hearing impaired.

- (1) Teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal job actual teaching or instructing, guidance counselors, child study team members, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, and/or bus drivers are not considered instructional staff members for the purposes of this Policy.

- (2) For purposes of this Policy “Instructional Employees” shall be referred to as “Instructional Staff Members”.



- b. “Semester” means the school semester that typically ends near the end of the calendar year and the end of the spring each school year. The Board can have no more than two semesters in a school year.
- c. FMLA leave taken at the end of the school year and continues into the beginning of the next school year is considered consecutive FMLA leave.
- d. Eligible instructional staff members that need intermittent or reduced FMLA leave to care for a family member or for a staff member’s own serious health condition which is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment and would be on FMLA leave more than twenty percent of the total number of working days over the period the FMLA leave would extend, the Board may:
 - (1) Require a staff member to take the FMLA leave for a period or periods of a particular duration, not greater than the duration of the planned treatment; or
 - (2) Transfer a staff member temporarily to an available alternative position for which a staff member is qualified, which has equivalent pay and benefits and which better accommodates recurring periods of FMLA leave than does a staff member’s regular position.
- e. If the instructional staff member does not give the required notice for FMLA leave that is foreseeable and desires the FMLA leave to be taken intermittently or on a reduced FMLA leave schedule, the Board may require a staff member to take FMLA leave of a particular duration, or to transfer temporarily to an alternative position. Alternatively, the Board may require a staff member to delay taking the FMLA leave until the notice provision is met.
- f. If an instructional staff member begins FMLA leave more than five weeks before the end of the school year, the Board may require a staff member to continue taking FMLA leave until the end of the semester if:
 - (1) The FMLA leave will last three weeks; and
 - (2) A staff member would return to work during the three-week period before the end of the semester.



- g. If an instructional staff member begins FMLA leave for a purpose other than a staff member's own serious health condition during the five week period before the end of the semester, the Board may require a staff member to continue taking FMLA leave until the end of the semester if:
 - (1) The FMLA leave will last more than two weeks; and
 - (2) The staff member would return to work during the two week period before the end of the semester.
- h. If an instructional staff member begins FMLA leave for a purpose other than a staff member's own serious health condition during the three week period before the end of a semester, the Board may require a staff member to continue taking FMLA leave until the end of the semester if the FMLA leave will last more than five working days.
- i. An example of FMLA leave falling within the situations outlines in B.7.f., B.7.g., and B.7.h. above:
 - (1) If a staff member plans two weeks of FMLA leave to care for a family member which will begin three weeks before the end of the term, the Board could require a staff member to stay out on FMLA leave until the end of the term.
- j. In the case of a staff member who is required to take FMLA leave until the end of an academic term, only the period of FMLA leave until a staff member is ready and able to return to work shall be charged against a staff member's FMLA leave entitlement.
- k. The Board may require a staff member to stay on FMLA leave until the end of the school term. Any additional leave required by the Board to the end of the school term is not counted as FMLA leave; however:
 - (1) The Board shall be required to maintain a staff member's group health insurance; and
 - (2) The Board shall be required to restore a staff member to the same or equivalent job including other benefits at the conclusion of the leave.



8. FMLA Leave Related to Military Service
 - a. Definitions for FMLA related to military service shall be in accordance with 29 CFR §§825.122; .126; .127; and .310.
 - b. The foreign deployment of the staff member's spouse, child, or parent in accordance with 29 CFR §§825.122 and .126:
 - (1) The district must grant an eligible staff member up to twelve work weeks of unpaid, job-protected FMLA leave during any twelve month period for qualifying exigencies that arise when the staff member's spouse, child, or parent is on covered active duty, or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty.
 - c. Military caregiver FMLA leave provides care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness in accordance with 29 CFR §§825.122 and .127:
 - (1) The district must grant up to a total of twenty-six workweeks of unpaid, job-protected FMLA leave during a "single twelve month period" to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness.
9. Verification
 - a. The Board shall require that a staff member's FMLA leave to care for a staff member's covered family member with a serious health condition, or due to a staff member's own serious health condition that makes a staff member unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of a staff member's position, be supported by a certification issued by the health care provider of a staff member or a staff member's family member.
 - (1) The Board must give written notice of a requirement for certification each time a certification is required. The Board's oral request to a staff member to furnish any subsequent certification is sufficient.
 - b. The Board shall require a staff member furnish certification at the time a staff member gives notice of the need for FMLA leave or within five business days thereafter, or, in the case of unforeseen FMLA leave, within five business days after the FMLA leave commences.



- (1) The Board may request certification at some later date if the Board later has reason to question the appropriateness of the FMLA leave or its duration.
 - (2) A staff member must provide the requested certification to the Board within fifteen calendar days after the Board's request, unless it is not practicable under the particular circumstances to do so despite a staff member's diligent, good faith efforts or the Board provides more than fifteen calendar days to return the requested certification.
- c. When FMLA leave is taken because of a staff member's own serious health condition, or the serious health condition of a family member, the Board shall require a staff member to obtain a medical certification from a health care provider that sets forth the following information:
- (1) The name, address, telephone number, and fax number of the health care provider and type of medical practice/specialization;
 - (2) The approximate date on which the serious health condition commenced, and its probable duration;
 - (3) A statement or description of appropriate medical facts regarding the patient's health condition for which FMLA leave is requested. The medical facts must be sufficient to support the need for FMLA leave.
 - (a) Such medical facts may include information on symptoms, diagnosis, hospitalization, doctor visits, whether medication has been prescribed, any referrals for evaluation or treatment (physical therapy, for example), or any other regimen of continuing treatment;
 - (4) If a staff member is the patient, information sufficient to establish that a staff member cannot perform the essential functions of a staff member's job as well as the nature of any other work restrictions, and the likely duration of such inability;
 - (5) If the patient is a covered family member with a serious health condition, information sufficient to establish that the family member is in need of care, and an estimate of the frequency and duration of the FMLA leave required to care for the family member;



- (6) If a staff member requests FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis for planned medical treatment of a staff member's or a covered family member's serious health condition, information sufficient to establish the medical necessity for such intermittent or reduced schedule FMLA leave and an estimate of the dates and duration of such treatments and any periods of recovery;
 - (7) If a staff member requests FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis for a staff member's serious health condition, including pregnancy, that may result in unforeseeable episodes of incapacity, information sufficient to establish the medical necessity for such intermittent or reduced schedule FMLA leave and an estimate of the frequency and duration of the episodes of incapacity; and
 - (8) If a staff member requests FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis to care for a covered family member with a serious health condition, a statement that such FMLA leave is medically necessary to care for the family member, which can include assisting

in the family member's recovery, and an estimate of the frequency and duration of the required FMLA leave.
- d. A staff member may choose to comply with the certification requirement by providing the Board with an authorization, release, or waiver allowing the Board to communicate directly with the health care provider of a staff member or his or her covered family member.
- (1) It is a staff member's responsibility to provide the Board with complete and sufficient certification and failure to do so may result in the denial of FMLA leave.
- e. If the Board has reason to doubt the validity of a medical certification, the Board may require a staff member to obtain a second opinion at the Board's expense.
- (1) The Board may designate the health care provider to furnish the second opinion, but the selected health care provider may not be employed on a regular basis by the Board.



- f. If the opinions of a staff member's and the Board's designated health care providers differ, the Board may require a staff member to obtain certification from a third health care provider, again at the Board's expense. This third opinion shall be final and binding. The third health care provider must be designated or approved jointly by the Board and the staff member.

10. Reinstatement Following FMLA Leave

- a. On return from FMLA leave a staff member is entitled to be returned to the same position a staff member held when FMLA leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.

- (1) A staff member is entitled to such reinstatement even if a staff member has been replaced or his or her position has been restructured to accommodate for a staff member's absence.

- (2) The requirement that a staff member be restored to the same or equivalent job with the same or equivalent pay, benefits, and terms and conditions of employment does not extend to de minimis, intangible, or unmeasurable aspects of the job.

- b. Denial of Reinstatement

- (1) A staff member has no greater right to reinstatement or to other benefits and conditions of employment that if a staff member had been continuously employed during the FMLA leave period.

- (a) The Board must be able to show that a staff member would not otherwise have been employed at the time reinstatement is requested in order to deny restoration to employment.

- (2) The Board may deny job restoration to "key employees", if such denial is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the operations of the Board.

- (a) A "key employee" is a salaried FMLA-eligible staff member who is among the highest paid ten percent of all staff members employed by the Board within seventy-five miles



of a staff member's worksite.

(3) If a staff member is unable to perform an essential function of the position because of a physical or mental condition, including the continuation of a serious health condition or an injury or illness also covered by workers' compensation, a staff member has no right to restoration to another position under the FMLA.

(a) The Board's obligation may; however, be governed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, State leave law, or workers' compensation laws.

(4) A staff member who fraudulently obtains FMLA leave from the Board is not protected by FMLA's job restoration or maintenance of

health benefits provisions.

c. Intent to Return to Work

(1) The Board may require a staff member on FMLA leave to report periodically on a staff member's status and intent to return to work.

d. Fitness for Duty Certification

(1) As a condition of restoring a staff member whose FMLA leave was a result of a staff member's own serious health condition that made a staff member unable to perform a staff member's job, the Board shall require all similarly-situated staff members (i.e., same occupation, same serious health condition) who take FMLA leave for such conditions to obtain and present certification from a staff member's health care provider that a staff member is able to resume work.

(2) A staff member has the same obligations to participate and cooperate in the fitness-for-duty certification process as in the initial certification process.

11. The Board of Education Notice

a. Notice of Staff Member Rights Under FMLA



- (1) The Board shall post and keep posted on its premises, in conspicuous places where staff members are employed, a notice explaining the FMLA's provisions and providing information concerning the procedures for filing complaints of violations of the FMLA with the Wage and Hour Division.
 - (a) The notice will be posted prominently where it can be readily seen by staff members and applicants for employment.
 - (b) The poster and the text will be large enough to be easily read and contain fully legible text.
 - (c) Electronic posting is sufficient to meet this posting requirement as long as it otherwise meets the requirements of B.11.
 - (2) The Board shall also provide this general notice to each staff member by including the notice in staff members' handbooks or other written guidance to staff members concerning staff member benefits or FMLA leave rights, if such written materials exist, or by distributing a copy of the general notice to each new staff member upon hiring. In either case, distribution may be accomplished electronically.
 - (3) Access to and/or distribution of this Policy shall serve as school district notice to staff members of their rights pursuant to 29 CFR §825 et seq.
- b. Eligibility Notice
- (1) When a staff member requests FMLA leave, or when the Board acquires knowledge that a staff member's FMLA leave may be for an FMLA-qualifying reason, the Board must notify the staff member of the staff member's eligibility to take FMLA leave within five business days, absent extenuating circumstances.
- c. Designation Notice
- (1) The Board is responsible in all circumstances for designating leave



as FMLA-qualifying, and for giving notice of the designation to a staff member. The Board must notify a staff member whether the leave will be designated and will be counted as FMLA leave within five business days absent extenuating circumstances.

- (2) If the Board requires paid leave to be substituted for unpaid FMLA leave, or that paid leave taken under an existing leave plan be counted as FMLA leave, the Board must inform a staff member of this designation at the time of designating the FMLA leave.

12. Local Board of Education Practices

a. Substitution of Paid Leave

- (1) Whether a staff member is required to use sick time or any other accrued leave time concurrent with FMLA leave time will depend upon either the district's practice or a provision in the district's collective bargaining agreement, if applicable.

b. Maintenance of Staff Member Benefits

- (1) The Board must maintain a staff member's coverage under any group health plan on the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if a staff member had been continuously employed during the entire FMLA leave period.

C. Shared Provisions

1. Interference with Family Leave Rights

The NJFLA and the FMLA prohibit interference with a staff member's rights under the law, and with legal proceedings or inquiries relating to a staff member's rights. Unless permitted by the law, no staff member shall be required to take family leave or to extend family leave beyond the time requested. A staff member shall not be discriminated against for having exercised his/her rights under the NJFLA and the FMLA nor discouraged from the use of family leave.

2. Non-Tenured Teaching Staff

Family leave granted to a nontenured staff member cannot extend a staff member's employment beyond the expiration of his/her employment contract.



3. Record Keeping

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the keeping of accurate attendance records that distinguish family leave from other kinds of leave so a staff member's entitlement to NJFLA leave and FMLA leave can be properly determined.

4. Processing of Complaints

a. New Jersey Family Leave Act

- (1) Any complaint alleging a violation of the NJFLA shall be processed in the same manner as a complaint filed under the terms of N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 13:4 through the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division on Civil Rights.

b. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

- (1) If there is a dispute between the Board and a staff member as to whether leave qualifies as FMLA leave, it should be resolved through discussion between the staff member and the Superintendent or designee. Such discussions and the decision shall be documented by the Superintendent or designee.
- (2) A staff member also may file, or have another person file on his/her behalf, a complaint with the United States Secretary of Labor. A complaint may be filed in person, by mail, or by telephone with the Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, at any local office of the Wage and Hour Division.
- (3) This Policy 1643 shall be posted on the school district website, in a manner accessible to all staff members and a hard copy shall be provided to all staff members annually prior to the beginning of the school year and upon initial employment in the school district during the school year.

ADOPTED: 21 July 2021
29 CFR §825 et seq.
29 CFR §785
N.J.S.A. 10:5-1;
N.J.S.A. 34:11B et seq. N.J.A.C. 13:14-1 et seq.



ADMINISTRATION
1648/page 1 of 9
Restart and Recovery Plan
Aug 20

1648 RESTART AND RECOVERY PLAN

On June 26, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) published “The Road Back – Restart and Recovery Plan for Education” (Guidance), a guidance document for reopening New Jersey schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Guidance provided school officials with the information necessary to ensure that schools reopen safely and are prepared to accommodate staff and students’ unique needs during these unprecedented times. The NJDOE required school districts in the State to develop, in collaboration with community stakeholders, a “Restart and Recovery Plan” (Plan) to reopen schools that best fits the district’s local needs.

The Guidance requires the Board of Education to adopt certain policies and the Board adopts Policy 1648 to address those policy requirements in the Guidance. Policy 1648 shall only be effective through the current COVID-19 pandemic and will take precedence over any existing Policy on the same or similar subject, unless determined otherwise by the Superintendent.

A. NJDOE Guidance – Key Subject Area 1 – Conditions for Learning

1. Transportation

- a. If the school district is providing transportation services on a school bus, a face covering must be worn by all students upon entering the school bus unless doing so would inhibit the student’s health. It is necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities. Exceptions to the face covering requirements shall be those outlined in A.2.d. below:
 - (1) Accommodations for students who are unable to wear a face covering should be addressed according to that student's particular need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- b. The school district shall use best practices for cleaning and disinfecting district-owned school buses and other transportation vehicles in accordance with A.3. below.



- c. District-employed school bus drivers and aides on district-owned school buses shall practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated for other school staff.
- d. If the school district is using contracted transportation services, the contractor shall ensure all Board of Education safety actions and protocols are followed by the contractor and its employees and/or its agents.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix C for the protocols/procedures for “Transportation” which is also included in the school district’s Restart and Recovery Plan.]

2. Screening, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms

- a. The school district shall screen students and employees upon arrival to a school building or work location for COVID-19 symptoms and a history of exposure.
 - (1) School staff must visually check students and employees for symptoms upon arrival (which may include temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are free of COVID-19 symptoms.
 - (2) Health checks must be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.
 - (3) Results must be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed.
 - (4) The screening protocol will take into account students and employees with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students and employees.
 - (5) Students and employees with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others.



- (6) If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a school district facility tests positive for COVID-19, district officials must immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.
- b. School staff and visitors are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health or the individual is under two years of age.
 - (1) If a visitor refuses to wear a face covering for non-medical reasons and if such covering cannot be provided to the individual at the point of entry, the visitor's entry to the school/district facility may be denied.
 - c. Students are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. It is ~~also~~ necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities.
 - (1) Accommodations for students who are unable to wear a face covering should be addressed according to that student's need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.
 - d. Exceptions to the Requirement for Face Coverings
 - (1) Doing so would inhibit the individual's health.
 - (2) The individual is in extreme heat outdoors.
 - (3) The individual is in water.
 - (4) A student's documented medical condition, or disability as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP), precludes the use of a face covering.
 - (5) The student is under the age of two, due to the risk of suffocation.



ADMINISTRATION
1648/page 4 of 9
Restart and Recovery Plan

- (6) During the period a student is eating or drinking.
- (7) Face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, or anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance (e.g. face coverings should not be worn by Pre-K students during nap time).
- (8) The student is engaged in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities.
- (9) Face coverings may be removed during gym and music classes when individuals are in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet apart.
- (10) When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix E for the protocols/procedures for “Screening, PPE, and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms” which is also included in the school district’s Restart and Recovery Plan.]

3. Facilities Cleaning Practices

- a. The school district must continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise.
- b. A procedure manual must be developed to establish cleaning and disinfecting schedules for schools and school equipment, targeted areas to be cleaned, and methods and materials to be used.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix G for the protocols/procedures for – “Facilities Cleaning Practices” which is also included in the school district’s Restart and Recovery Plan.]



4. Wraparound Supports

a. Mental Health Supports

The school district's approach to student mental health supports will be affected by the learning environment in place at the beginning of the school year. If in-person instruction is not feasible, the district must find other ways to assess and monitor students' mental health.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix K for the protocols/procedures for “Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports” which is also included in the school district's Restart and Recovery Plan.]

5. Contact Tracing

a. Upon notification that a resident has tested positive for COVID-19, the local health department will call the school district to determine close contacts to whom they may have spread the virus, where close contact is defined as being within six feet for a period of at least ten minutes.

b. The school district shall assist the local health department in conducting contact tracing activities, including ongoing communication with the identified individual and/or their contacts.

c. The school district shall ensure adequate information and training is provided to the staff as necessary to enable staff to carry out responsibilities assigned to them.

d. A staff liaison(s) shall be designated by the Superintendent or designee and shall be responsible for providing notifications and carrying out other components that could help ensure notifications are carried out in a prompt and responsible manner.

e. School districts shall allow staff, students, and families to self-report symptoms and/or suspected exposure.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix F for the protocols/procedures for “Contact Tracing” which is also included in the school district's Restart and Recovery Plan.]

B. NJDOE Guidance – Key Subject Area 2 – Leadership and Planning

1. Scheduling



ADMINISTRATION
1648/page 6 of 9
Restart and Recovery Plan

- a. The school district's Plan must account for resuming in-person instruction and shall provide steps to shift back to virtual learning models if circumstances change and in-person instruction guidelines can no longer be followed.
- b. The school district's Plan accommodates opportunities for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction, while ensuring requirements for a 180-day school year are met.
- b. The school district's Plan accommodates opportunities for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction, while ensuring requirements for a 180-day school year are met.
- c. The school district recognizes special populations will require unique considerations to ensure the continuity of learning as well as the health and safety of students and staff within the least restrictive environment.
 - (1) Special Education and English Language Learners (ELL)
 - (a) The school district shall provide educators with professional development to best utilize the accessibility features and accommodations tools made available through technology-based formats in accordance with this Policy.
 - (b) The school district shall continue to ensure students receive individualized supports that meet the requirements of the IEP and 504 Plans.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix N for the protocols/procedures for “Scheduling of Students” which is also included in the school district's Restart and Recovery Plan.]

2. Staffing

- a. The school district shall comply with all applicable employment laws when making staffing and scheduling requirements, including, but not limited to, the Americans Disabilities Act (ADA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), and all applicable State laws.



- b. As the school district adjusts schedules, teaching staff members must maintain quality instruction for students pursuant to the minimum requirements set forth in NJDOE regulation.

[See Policy Guide 1648 – Appendix O for the protocols/procedures for “Staffing” which is also included in the school district’s Restart and Recovery Plan.]

C. NJDOE Guidance – Key Subject Area 3 – Policy and Funding

1. School Funding

a. Purchasing

The school district may likely need to purchase items not needed in the past and may experience increased demand for previously purchased goods and services to implement the Plan. The school district shall continue to comply with the provisions of the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.

b. Use of Reserve Accounts, Transfers, and Cashflow

The school district shall apply for the approval from the Commissioner of Education, prior to performing certain budget actions, such as withdrawing from the emergency reserve account or making transfers that cumulatively exceed ten percent of the amount originally budgeted.

c. Costs and Contracting

The school district shall follow all New Jersey State laws and regulations applicable to local school districts for purchasing when procuring devices and connectivity or any technology related item.

D. NJDOE Guidance – Key Subject Area 4 – Continuity of Learning

1. Ensuring the Delivery of Special Education and Related Services to Students with Disabilities

- a. The school district shall continue to meet their obligations to students with disabilities to the greatest extent possible.



2. Professional Learning
 - a. The school district shall prepare and support teaching staff members in meeting the social, emotional, health, and academic needs of all students throughout the implementation of the Plan.
 - (1) Professional Learning
 - (a) The school district shall grow each teaching staff member's professional capacity to deliver developmentally appropriate standards-based instruction remotely.
 - (2) Mentoring and Induction
 - (a) The school district shall ensure:
 - (i) All novice provisional teachers new to the district be provided induction;
 - (ii) One-to-one mentoring is provided to novice provisional teachers by qualified mentors;
 - (iii) Mentors can provide sufficient support and guidance to novice provisional teachers working in a remote environment;
 - (iv) Mentoring is provided in both hybrid and fully remote learning environments and that mentors and provisional teachers will agree upon scheduling, structure, and communication strategies they will use to maintain the mentoring experience; and
 - (v) The use of online collaborative tools for school staff to remain connected to other mentors, new teachers, and administrators to maintain a sense of communal support.



(3) Evaluation

- (a) The school district has considered the requirements and best practices with provisional status teachers, nontenured educators, and those on Corrective Action Plans (including extra observations, extra observers, assuring more frequent feedback and face-to-face).

3. Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- a. The school district shall implement innovative learning models for new learning environments regarding CTE.

b. Quality CTE Programs

The school district shall ensure students have access to appropriate industry-recognized, high-value credentials.

c. Work-Based Learning

The school district will ensure students are provided the opportunity to participate in safe work-based learning, either remotely (simulations, virtual tours, etc.) or in-person.

New Jersey Department of Education “The Road Back – Restart and Recovery Plan for Education” Memorandum – New Jersey Governor and Department of Education – Conditions for Learning – Health and Safety – August 3, 2020

Adopted: 20 August 2020



1648.02 REMOTE LEARNING OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES

On July 24, 2020, the New Jersey Governor and the Commissioner of Education published a supplemental guidance document titled “Clarifying Expectations Regarding Fulltime Remote Learning Options for Families 2020-2021” as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This supplemental guidance includes an additional “anticipated minimum standard,” as this phrase is used throughout “The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education” (NJDOE Guidance). This additional “anticipated minimum standard” provides that, in addition to the methods and considerations explicitly referenced in the NJDOE Guidance for scheduling students for in-person, remote, or hybrid learning, families/guardians (hereinafter referred to as “parents”) may submit, and school districts shall accommodate, requests for full-time remote learning.

Requests for full-time remote learning may include any service or combination of services that would otherwise be delivered to students on an in-person schedule, which may be a hybrid schedule, such as instruction, behavioral and support services, special education, and related services. A parent may request some services be delivered entirely remotely, while other services follow the same schedule they otherwise would according to the provisions in the school district’s Restart and Recovery Plan (Plan) and Policy 1648.

A parent may contact the Principal or designee of the building the student would attend with any questions on: a request to transition from in-person services to full-time remote learning; a request to transition from full-time remote learning to in-person services; the procedures of this Policy; and/or any other information regarding the school district’s Plan and Policy 1648.

To ensure clarity and consistency in implementation of full-time remote learning, the Board of Education adopts this Policy that addresses the following:

- A. Unconditional Eligibility for Full-time Remote Learning
 - 1. All students are eligible for full-time remote learning.



- a. Eligibility for full-time remote learning cannot be conditioned on a parent demonstrating a risk of illness or other selective criteria.
 - b. Unconditional eligibility for full-time remote learning includes students with disabilities who attend in-district schools or receiving schools (county special services school districts, educational services commissions, jointure commissions, Katzenbach School for the Deaf, regional day schools, college operated programs, and approved private schools for students with disabilities).
- B. Procedures for Submitting Full-time Remote Learning Requests
1. A parent may request a student receive full-time remote learning from the school district by submitting a written request to the Principal of the school building their child would attend. The written request shall be provided to the Principal at least _____ calendar days before the student is eligible to commence full-time remote learning in accordance with B.2. below.
 2. The student may only begin full-time remote learning within five (5) school days after receiving written approval of the Principal
 3. The written request for the student to receive full-time remote learning shall include:
 - a. The student's name, school, and grade;
 - b. The technology the student will be using to receive full-time remote learning, including the student's connectivity capabilities;
 - c. A request for any service or combination of services that would otherwise be delivered to the student on an in-person or hybrid schedule, such as instruction, behavioral and support services, special education, and related services;
 - d. For students with disabilities, the school district staff will determine if an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting or an amendment to a student's IEP is needed for full-time remote learning; and
 - e. Any additional information the Principal or designee requests to ensure the student, when receiving remote learning, will receive the same quality and



scope of instruction and other educational services as any other student otherwise participating in school district programs.

- (1) The documentation required by the school district to be provided in the parent's request for full-time remote learning shall not exclude any students from the school district's full-time remote learning option, but rather be limited to the minimum information needed to ensure proper recordkeeping and implementation of successful remote learning.
 4. Upon receiving the written request, the Principal or designee may request additional information from the parent to assist the Principal or designee in providing the student the same quality and scope of instruction and other educational services as any other student otherwise participating in school district programs.
 5. The Principal or designee will review the written request and upon satisfaction of the procedures outlined in this Policy, the Principal or designee will provide written approval of the parent's request for full-time remote learning.
 - a. In the event the request does not satisfy the procedures outlined in this Policy, the Principal or designee will notify the parent in writing of the issues that need to be addressed by the parent to satisfy the procedures outlined in this Policy.
 6. The Principal's written approval of the request shall be provided to the parent within (14) fourteen calendar days of receiving the parent's written request.
 - a. The written approval will include the date the remote learning program will commence for the student in accordance with B.2. above.
- C. Scope and Expectations of Full-Time Remote Learning
1. The scope and expectations of the school district's full-time remote learning program will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. The length of the school day pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3 and compliance with the Board's Attendance Policy and Regulation 5200; the provisions of the district's remote learning program outlined in the school district's Plan;



and any other Board policies and regulations that govern the delivery of services to, and district expectations of, students participating in the remote learning program and their families;

- b. The technology and the connectivity options to be used and/or provided to the student during remote learning; and
- c. Any additional information the Principal or designee determines is needed to ensure the student, when receiving remote learning, will receive the same quality and scope of instruction and other educational services as any other student otherwise participating in school district programs (i.e. students participating in a hybrid model).
 - (1) This includes, for example, access to standards-based instruction of the same quality and rigor as afforded all other students of the district, the district making its best effort to ensure that every student participating in remote learning has access to the requisite educational technology, and the provision of special education and related services to the greatest extent possible.
- d. The school district will endeavor to provide supports and resources to assist parents, particularly those of younger students, with meeting the expectations of the school district's remote learning option.

D. Procedures to Transition from Full-Time Remote Learning to In-Person Services

- 1. A parent may request their student transition from full-time remote learning to in-person services, if in-person services are being provided, by submitting a written request to the Principal of the building the student will attend. This request must be submitted at least _____ calendar days before the student is eligible for in-person services.
- 2. A student is only eligible to transition from full-time remote learning to in-person services commencing at the beginning of a marking period.
- 3. The written request from the parent for the student to transition from full-time remote learning to in-person services shall include:
 - a. The student's name, school, and grade;



- b. The in-person program may only commence for a student transitioning from full-time remote learning to in-person services in accordance with D.2. above; and
 - c. Any additional information the Principal or designee determines would be important on the student's transition from full-time remote learning to in-person services.
 4. A student previously approved for remote learning wanting to transition into the school district's in-person program must spend at least one marking period in remote learning before being eligible to transition into the school district's in-person program.
 - a. This will allow parents to make the arrangements needed to effectively serve students' home learning needs and will support educators in ensuring continuity of instruction for the student.
 5. The Principal or designee will review the request for compliance with this Policy, and upon satisfaction of the procedures in this Policy, will provide the parent of the student a written approval of the student entering the school district's in-person program.
 - a. In the event the request does not satisfy the procedures outlined in this Policy, the Principal or designee will notify the parent in writing of the issues that need to be addressed by the parent to satisfy the procedures outlined in this Policy.
 6. Upon approval of the student's transition from full-time remote learning to in-person services, the school district will provide specific student and academic services to better assist parents anticipate their student's learning needs and help educators maintain continuity of services.
 7. School districts that offer Pre-K will consult their Pre-K curriculum providers regarding appropriate measures to assess a Pre-K student's learning progress during the transition from full-time remote learning to in-person learning.
- E. Reporting
 1. To evaluate full-time remote learning, and to continue providing meaningful guidance for school districts, it will be important for the New Jersey Department to



Education (NJDOE) to understand the extent and nature of demand for full-time remote learning around the State.

- a. The school district will be expected to report to the NJDOE data regarding participation in full-time remote learning. Data will include the number of students participating in full-time remote learning by each of the following subgroups: economically disadvantaged; major racial and ethnic groups; students with disabilities; and English learners.

F. Procedures for Communicating District Policy with Families

1. The school district will have clear and frequent communication with parents, in their home language, to help ensure this important flexibility is as readily accessible as possible. Communication must include, at a minimum, information regarding:
 - a. Summaries of, and opportunities to review, the school district's full-time remote learning Policy/Plan;
 - b. Procedures for submitting full-time remote learning requests in accordance with B. above;
 - c. Scope and expectations of full-time remote learning in accordance with C. above;
 - d. The transition from full-time remote learning to in-person services and vice-versa in accordance with B. and D. above; and
 - e. The school district's procedures for ongoing communication with families and for addressing families' questions or concerns.

G. Home or Out-of-School Instruction

1. No provision of this Policy supersedes the district's requirements to provide home or out-of-school instruction for the reasons outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A, N.J.A.C. 6A, or any applicable Board policy unless determined otherwise by the Superintendent or designee.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION

1648.02/page 7 of 7

Remote Learning Options for Families

[See the District's Restart and Recovery Plan – Appendix Q for the protocols/procedures for “Remote Learning Options for Families” which is outlined in the school district's Restart and Recovery Plan.]

New Jersey Department of Education Guidance Document:
“Clarifying Expectations Regarding Fulltime Remote Learning
Options for Families 2020-2021”

Adopted: 1 September 2020



1648.11 THE ROAD FORWARD COVID-19 – HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Board of Education plans to provide full-day, full-time, in-person instruction and operations for the 2021-2022 school year. In June 2021, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) worked collaboratively to develop guidance, The Road Forward – Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year (The Road Forward).

The Road Forward replaces the mandatory anticipated minimum standards outlined in the NJDOE’s “The Road Back – Restart and Recovery Plan for Education” (June 2020) and provides a range of recommendations rather than mandatory standards. These recommendations are meant to assist school districts in implementing protocols to reduce risks to students and staff from COVID-19 while still allowing for full-time learning.

The Board considered many factors as they prepared for the 2021-2022 school year, including the level of COVID-19 transmission in the community at large and in the school community, as well as vaccination coverage rates in both the community at large and the school community.

For the purpose of this Policy, “Order” shall mean any Governor of New Jersey Executive Order, New Jersey State Agency mandate, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, New Jersey statute, or administrative code requiring compliance by the school district.

The Board considered the recommendations outlined in The Road Forward to develop health and safety protocols. The Board will consider all recommended Orders and comply with all mandatory Orders when developing health and safety protocols and reviewing them periodically.

The Board considered the recommendations outlined in The Road Forward to develop the school district’s COVID-19 protocols in the following areas and included in corresponding Appendices:



- A. General Health and Safety Concerns of Students, Staff Members, and Visitors
 - 1. Vaccination – See Appendix A.;
 - 2. Communication with the Local Health Department – See Appendix B.;
 - 3. Mask Wearing Protocol – See Appendix C.;
 - 4. Physical Distancing and Cohorting Protocols – See Appendix D.;
 - 5. Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette Protocols – See Appendix E.;
 - 6. Provision of Meals – See Appendix F.; and
 - 7. Transportation Protocols – See Appendix G.
- B. Cleaning, Disinfection, and Airflow – See Appendix H.
- C. Screening, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff Members – See Appendix I.
- D. Contact Tracing – See Appendix J.
- E. Testing – See Appendix K.
- F. Student and Staff Member Travel – See Appendix L.

The absence of one or more of the recommendations outlined in The Road Forward and/or in the school district's health and safety protocols will not prevent the reopening of the school(s) in the district for full-day in-person operation with all enrolled students and staff members present.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION

1648.11/page 3 of 3

The Road Forward COVID-19 –Health and Safety

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9, schools must be in session for 180 days to receive State Aid. The statute requires that school facilities be provided for at least 180 days during the school year. N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9(b) indicates when a school district is required to close the schools of the district for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive and/or recommendation by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure, days of virtual or remote instruction commensurate with in-person instruction will count toward the school district's 180-day requirement.

The school district may be confronted with the incidence of COVID-19 positive cases among staff and/or students. If the school district is required to exclude a student, group of students, a class, or multiple classes as a result of possible exposure to COVID-19, while the school itself remains open for in-person instruction, the school district may offer virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction to the extent possible. In circumstances when the school facilities remain open and in-person instruction continues in those classrooms that are not required to quarantine, those days in session will also count toward the school district's 180-day requirement in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

The school district anticipates updates to The Road Forward and as such this Policy is subject to review by the Superintendent to ensure compliance with Orders that may arise after Board adoption of this Policy. All revisions to Orders affecting this Policy and corresponding Appendices shall be reviewed by the Superintendent with the Board Attorney, School Physician, and Board of Education, if appropriate. The Superintendent may revise the health and safety protocols included in any Appendix as necessary and appropriate. All students, parents, and staff members will be notified of any changes to school district-developed protocols implemented as a result of this Policy, as appropriate.

Adopted: 27 October 2021



1648.13 SCHOOL EMPLOYEE VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with Executive Order No. 253 signed by the Governor of New Jersey on August 23, 2021, the Board shall adopt and maintain a policy that requires all covered workers to either provide adequate proof that they have been fully vaccinated or submit to COVID-19 testing at a minimum of one to two times each week.

This requirement shall take effect on October 18, 2021, at which time any covered workers that have not provided adequate proof to the school district that they are fully vaccinated must submit to COVID-19 testing at a minimum of one to two times each week on an ongoing basis until fully vaccinated.

For purposes of Executive Order 253 and this Policy, “covered workers” shall include all individuals employed by the Board of Education, both full and part-time, including, but not limited to, administrators; teachers; educational support professionals; individuals providing food, custodial, and administrative support services; substitute teachers, whether employed directly by the Board of Education or otherwise contracted; contractors; providers; and any other individuals performing work in the school district whose job duties require them to make regular visits to the school district, including volunteers. Covered workers do not include individuals who visit the school district only to provide one-time or limited duration repairs, services, or construction.

A covered worker shall be considered “fully vaccinated” for COVID-19 two weeks or more after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks or more after they have received a single-dose vaccine. Individuals will only be considered fully vaccinated after they have received a COVID-19 vaccine that is currently authorized for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the World Health Organization (WHO), or that are approved for use by the same.

Workers who are not fully vaccinated, or for whom vaccination status is unknown, or who have not provided sufficient proof of documentation, shall be considered unvaccinated in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 253.



Covered workers shall demonstrate proof of full vaccination status by presenting any of the following documents if they list COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for EUA by the FDA or the WHO, or that are approved for use by the same, along with an administration date for each dose:

1. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Vaccination Card issued to the vaccine recipient by the vaccination site, or an electronic or physical copy of the same;
2. Official record from the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) or other State immunization registry;
3. A record from a health care provider's portal/medical record system on official letterhead signed by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, registered nurse, or pharmacist;
4. A military immunization or health record from the United States Armed Forces; or
5. Docket mobile phone application record or any State specific application that produces a digital health record.

The Board of Education's collection of vaccination information from covered workers shall comport with all Federal and State laws, including, but not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act, that regulate the collection and storage of that information.

To satisfy the testing requirement of Executive Order 253 and this Policy, an unvaccinated covered worker must undergo screening testing at a minimum of one to two times each week, to be determined by the Superintendent of Schools.

An unvaccinated covered worker is required to submit proof of a COVID-19 test. The unvaccinated covered worker may choose either antigen or molecular tests that have EUA by the FDA or are operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Where a Board of Education provides the unvaccinated covered worker with on-site COVID-19 test(s), the school district may similarly elect to administer or provide access to either an antigen or molecular test.



If the covered worker is not working on-site in the school district during a week when testing would otherwise be required, the Superintendent or designee may not require the worker to submit to testing for that week. This requirement shall not supplant any requirement imposed by the Board of Education regarding diagnostic testing of symptomatic workers or screening testing of vaccinated workers.

The Board of Education shall track test results required by Executive Order 253 and must report those results to the local public health department.

Nothing in Executive Order 253 and this Policy shall prevent a Board of Education from revising this Policy to include additional or stricter requirements, as long as such revisions comport with the minimum requirements of Executive Order 253.

Executive Order 253 authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Health (DOH) to issue a directive supplementing the requirements outlined in Executive Order 253, which may include, but not be limited to, any requirements for reporting vaccination and testing data to the DOH. Actions taken by the Commissioner of the DOH pursuant to Executive Order 253 shall not be subject to the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1et seq.

This Policy shall be supplemented by Policy 1648.11 – Appendix A, which shall include the school district’s protocols implementing the provisions of this Policy.

The Superintendent is authorized to implement revisions to provisions in this Policy based on any subsequent Executive Orders or any additional mandates that affect any provisions of this Policy. Any such revisions in this Policy shall be submitted by the Superintendent to the Board of Education for ratification if the Board cannot approve such revisions before the effective date.

Executive Order 253 – August 23, 2021

Adopted: 27 October 2021

Revised: 15 March 2022



2110 PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The North Caldwell School District encourages the growth and development of each student to his/her full potential within a developmentally appropriate environment.

All staff will strive to provide an environment that fosters:

1. Attainment of New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards;
2. Enthusiastic love of learning;
3. A sense of responsibility;
4. Creative thinking and problem solving skills;
5. Appreciation of the arts;
6. Respect and sensitivity for others; and
7. Awareness of a rapidly changing and diverse world.

To achieve this mission, the district will:

1. Nurture cooperative partnerships among home, school, and community that ensure participation in the education of our children;
2. Provide technological resources within an integrated curricula; and
3. Enhance the professional skills and talents of the staff to meet the educational, emotional, and social needs of the children.

The district's goal is to remain competitive in our continued quest for academic excellence.

It is the expectation of this school district that all students achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2132 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The educational goals of the North Caldwell School District shall be the following educational outcome and process goals and shall be applicable to the public school system of this community. These goals have been developed along with the other districts comprising the West Essex Regional School District to ensure continuity from Kindergarten through grade twelve.

1. Educational Outcome Goals:
 - a. To master basic skills in obtaining information, identifying and solving problems, thinking critically, and communicating effectively;
 - b. To enjoy the process of learning and to stimulate the desire for continuous pursuit of knowledge;
 - c. To become an effective and responsible contributor to the family, community, State, country and world;
 - d. To master skills in reading, language, arts, mathematics, and social studies;
 - e. To acquire the ability and desire to express one's self creatively in one or more of the arts and to appreciate the aesthetic expressions of other people;
 - f. To acquire and apply the skills necessary to take an active part, individually and in groups, in the political and social decision-making processes;
 - g. To acquire the knowledge, skills, and understanding that permit one to play a satisfying and responsible role as both producer and consumer;
 - h. To acquire career-oriented skills and the knowledge necessary for further education;
 - i. To acquire the understanding of and the ability to form responsible relations with a wide range of people and cultures;
 - j. To understand the need for ecological awareness and action;
 - k. To teach life-oriented skills necessary for practical everyday living;



- l. To acquire the knowledge, habits, and attitudes that promote personal and public health including the physical, mental, and emotional aspects;
 - m. To reinforce an understanding of ethical principles and values and the ability to apply them to one's own life;
 - n. To foster an appreciation and understanding of one's own worth, abilities and potentialities;
 - o. To acquire the skills necessary to evaluate and adapt to change; and
 - p. To appreciate the benefits of leisure.
2. Educational Process Goals:
The public schools shall provide:
- a. Instruction which bears meaningful relationship to the present and future needs and interests of students;
 - b. An opportunity for the student to participate in decisions which will affect the direction of his/her educational experience;
 - c. Specialized and individualized educational experiences to meet the needs of each student including the learning disabled and gifted;
 - d. Opportunities for teaching staff members and students to make recommendations concerning the operation of the schools;
 - e. Appropriate guidance services for each student;
 - f. A continuing program of evaluating students to help determine appropriate educational experiences;
 - g. An environment in which students are encouraged to develop a positive attitude toward competition;
 - h. Resources for education to be used with maximum efficiency;
 - i. Instructional and administrative personnel of high professional standards; and
 - j. Opportunities for the promotion of constructive cooperation with parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and community groups.



POLICY

**NORTH CALDWELL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

N.J.A.C. 6:32-12.2

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 16 August 2011



2200 CURRICULUM CONTENT

The Board of Education will provide the instruction and services mandated by law and rules as necessary for the implementation of a thorough and efficient system of free public education and such other instruction and services as the Board deems appropriate for the thorough and efficient education of the students of this district. The Board shall annually approve a list of all programs and courses that comprise the district's curriculum and shall approve any subsequent changes in the curriculum in accordance with Policy 2220.

For purposes of this policy "curriculum" means planned learning opportunities designed to assist students toward the achievement of the intended outcomes of instruction.

The curriculum will be reviewed by the Superintendent and approved annually by the Board. In accordance with law, the curriculum shall, as a minimum, include the curricular mandates of N.J.S.A. 18A - Education and N.J.A.C. 6 and 6A - Education and all of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and Cumulative Progress Indicators.

The Superintendent is responsible for implementing the curriculum approved by the Board.

The Board directs the curriculum be consistent with the educational goals and objectives of this district, the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and responsive to identified student needs. The Superintendent shall, in consultation with teaching staff members, assure the effective articulation of curriculum across all grade levels and among the school districts sending to the West Essex Regional School District.

The curriculum shall provide programs in accordance with Board policies and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, including but not limited to:

1. Instruction in workplace readiness skills, visual and performing arts, comprehensive health and physical education, language arts literacy, mathematics, science, social studies (including instruction on the Constitution of the United States, United States history, Community Civics, and the geography, history and civics of New Jersey, and World Languages;
2. Continuous access to sufficient programs and services of a library/media facility, classroom collection, or both, to support the educational program of all students in accordance with Policy 2530;



3. A continuum of educational programs and services for all children with disabilities, in accordance with Policy 2460 and Regulation 2460;
4. Bilingual education, English as a Second Language, and English language services for students of limited English language proficiency, when the number of such students so necessitates, in accordance with Policy 2423;
5. Programs and services for students at risk who require remedial assistance in accordance with Policies 2414, 2415, and 5460;
6. Equal educational opportunity for all students in accordance with Policies 2260, 5750 and 5755;
7. Career awareness and exploration as required, and vocational education as appropriate;
8. Educational opportunities for students with exceptional abilities, in accordance with Policy 2464;
9. Instruction in accident and fire prevention;
10. A substance abuse prevention program;
11. A program for family life education; and
12. Programs that encourage the active involvement of representatives from the community, business, industry, labor and higher education in the development of educational programs aligned with the standards.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-2; 18A:6-3; 18A:35-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.1 et seq.; 6A:14 et seq.
New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 19 July 2016



2210 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The Board of Education is committed to the continuing improvement of the educational program of the district. To this end, the curriculum shall be evaluated and modified in accordance with a plan for curriculum development.

As educational leader of the district, the Superintendent shall be responsible to the Board for the development of curriculum and shall establish procedures for curriculum development that ensure the effective participation of teaching staff members, students, the community, and members of the Board.

The Superintendent may conduct experimental programs that are not part of the duly adopted curriculum and are deemed to be necessary to the continuing growth of the instructional program; he/she shall report to the Board any such pilot program conducted, along with its objectives, evaluative criteria, and costs, before each such program is initiated.

The Superintendent shall report to the Board periodically on all progress in curriculum development.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2220 ADOPTION OF COURSES

The Board of Education shall provide a comprehensive instructional program to serve the educational needs of the children of this district by the adoption of courses of study.

For purposes of this policy, a “course of study” means the planned content of a series of classes, courses, subjects, studies, or related activities.

No course of study will be taught in this district unless it has been formally adopted by the Board. The Board shall determine which units of the instructional program constitute courses of study and are thereby subject to the adoption procedures of the Board.

The Superintendent is responsible for the continuous evaluation of the courses of study against the educational goals of the Board and shall recommend to the Board such new or altered courses of study as are deemed to be in the best interests of the students of this district. The Superintendent's recommendation will include the following information about the proposed course of study:

1. The specific objective of the course of study and the relationship of the course to the educational goals adopted by the Board;
2. The applicability of the course to students and an enumeration of those groups of students to be affected by it;
3. A description of course content, including any instructional method that departs significantly from the ordinary and is an integral part of the course of study;
4. A rationale for the course in terms of the goals of this district and a justification of the course, especially when it is proposed to take the place of an existing course of study;
5. The resources that implementation of the course will require, including textbooks, material, equipment, and specially trained personnel;
6. The course proficiencies to be mastered by students;
7. The methods and standards by which the efficacy of the course will be monitored and evaluated; and



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM
2220/page 2 of 2
Adoption of Courses

8. A developmental history of the course and, where available, information on its use elsewhere.

The Superintendent shall maintain a current list of all courses of study offered by this district and shall provide each member of the Board with a copy.

N.J.S.A. 18A:4-25; 18A:4-28; 18A:33-1; 18A:35-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1 et seq.; 6A:8-4.1; 6A:8-4.4

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2230 COURSE GUIDES

The Board of Education directs the preparation of a guide for each approved course of study in order to direct and assist teaching staff members toward the attainment of goals addressed by that course.

Each course guide will contain, as appropriate to the course of study, content standards; objectives, concepts, and skills to be taught; attitudes and appreciations to be developed; suggested activities designed to achieve the objectives; suggested methods of instruction; performance indicators; evaluation criteria intended to test the extent to which learning objectives have been achieved; and a reading list of supplemental titles for the guidance of teachers.

The course guides will be the basic instructional tool for each course of study.

Each teacher shall conduct the course of study as required by the course guide. Any deviation from the content of the guide must be approved by the Building Principal in advance of its implementation.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the preparation of course guides, and shall develop a plan for such preparation that includes the participation of appropriate staff members and resource personnel; the participation of members of the community; the participation of students at appropriate grade levels; continuing research in instructional methods, materials, and activities; systematic review of all course guides to ensure their continuing usefulness in achieving goals set by the Board; and a system of administrative review to ensure that course guides are being followed by teaching staff members to the degree of conformity desired by the Board.

All new course guides and revisions of existing guides shall be submitted to the Board for approval before they are implemented.

Copies of all current course guides shall be kept on file in each school office.

N.J.S.A. 18A:33-1

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2240 CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

The Board of Education believes that the consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the schools. Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such issues can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions.

For purposes of this policy a controversial issue is a topic on which opposing points of view have been expressed by responsible and thoughtful persons.

The Board will permit the introduction and proper educational use of controversial issues provided that their use in the instructional program is related to the instructional goals of the course of study and level of maturity of the students. The discussion of controversial issues must not tend to indoctrinate students or persuade them to a particular point of view. Instead, teachers must encourage fair presentation and open-mindedness and the free exchange of ideas in a spirit of scholarly inquiry, drawing upon information and insights from the widest feasible range of resources.

When the consideration of controversial issues have not been specified in the course guide, the Board will permit the instructional use of only those issues that have been approved in advance by the Building Principal.

The discussion of controversial issues in the classroom will be conducted in an unprejudiced and dispassionate manner and cannot be allowed to disrupt the educational process. In the discussion of any issue, a teacher may express a personal opinion, provided the expression is characterized as personal opinion and does not attempt to persuade students to the teacher's point of view.

The Superintendent shall assist teaching staff members in developing a sensitivity to the occurrence of controversial issues in the context of the curriculum and developing techniques for the management of controversial issues that do not stifle a spirit of free inquiry.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2260 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL AND
CLASSROOM PRACTICES

The Board of Education shall provide equal and bias-free access for all student to all school facilities, courses, programs, activities and services, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion disability or socioeconomic status, by:

1. Ensuring equal and barrier-free access to all school and classroom facilities;
2. Attaining minority representation within each school, which approximates the district's overall minority representation. Exact apportionment is not required, however, the ultimate goal is a reasonable plan achieving the greatest degree of racial balance which is feasible and consistent with sound educational values and procedures;
3. Utilizing a State approved English language proficiency measure on an annual basis for determining the special needs of English language learners and their progress in learning English pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:151.3(c);
4. Utilizing bias-free multiple measures for determining the special needs of students with disabilities, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4;
5. Ensuring that support services, including intervention and referral services and school health services pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16, are available to all students; and
6. Ensuring that a student is not discriminated against because of a medical condition. A student shall not be excluded from any education program or activity because of a long-term medical condition unless a physician certifies that such exclusion is necessary. If excluded, the student shall be provided with equivalent and timely instruction that may include home instruction, without prejudice or penalty.

The Board of Education shall ensure that the district's curriculum and instruction are aligned to the State's Core Curriculum Content Standards and address the elimination of discrimination by narrowing the achievement gap, by providing equity in educational programs and by providing



opportunities for students to interact positively with others regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status, by:

1. Ensuring there are no differential requirements for completion of course offerings or programs of study solely on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status;
2. Ensuring courses shall not be offered separately on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability or socioeconomic status;
 - a. Portions of classes which deal exclusively with human sexuality may be conducted in separate developmentally appropriate sessions for male and female student, provided that the course content for such separately conducted sessions is the same.
3. Reducing or preventing the underrepresentation of minority, female, and male students in all classes and programs including gifted and talented, accelerated and advanced classes;
4. Ensuring that schools demonstrate the inclusion of a multicultural curriculum in its instructional content, materials and methods, and that students understand the basic tenet of multiculturalism;
5. Ensuring that African American history, as well as the history of other cultures, is infused into the curriculum and taught as part of the history of the United States, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards; and
6. Ensuring that instruction on the Holocaust and other acts of genocide is included in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary schools, as developmentally appropriate, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-28.



PROGRAM

2260/page 3 of 3

Affirmative Action Program for School and
Classroom Practices

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The Board of Education shall ensure all students have access to adequate and appropriate counseling services. When informing students about possible careers, professional or vocational gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status. The district will not use tests, guidance, or counseling materials which are biased or stereotyped on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability or socioeconomic status.

The Board of Education shall ensure that the district's physical education program and its athletic programs are equitable, co-educational, and do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status, as follows:

1. The district shall provide separate restroom, locker room and shower facilities on the basis of gender, but such facilities provided for students of each gender shall be comparable;
2. A school within a school district may choose to operate separate teams for both genders in one or more sports or single teams open competitively to members of both genders, so long as the athletic program as a whole provides equal opportunities for students of both genders to participate in sports at comparable levels of difficulty and competency; and
3. The activities comprising such athletic programs shall receive equitable treatment, including, but not limited to, staff salaries, purchase and maintenance of equipment, quality and availability of facilities, scheduling of practice and game time, length of season and all other related areas or matters.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-20

N.J.A.C. 6A7-1.7

Adopted: 15 March 2011

Revised: 16 August 2011

Revised: 19 July 2016



2270 RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS

The Board of Education recognizes that religious belief and disbelief are matters of personal conviction rather than governmental authority and the students of this district are protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and by Article I, Paragraph 4 of the New Jersey State Constitution from the establishment of religion in the schools. The First Amendment requires public school officials to show neither favoritism toward nor hostility against religious expression such as prayer.

The United States Department of Education's Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools (USDOE Guidance) provides information on the current state of the law concerning religious expression in public schools.

The following activities as outlined in the USDOE Guidance will be permitted upon applying the governing constitutional principles in particular contexts related to: prayer during non-instructional time; organized prayer groups and activities; teachers, administrators, and other school employees' activities; moments of silence; accommodations for prayer during instructional time; prayer in classroom assignments; student assemblies and noncurricular events; prayer at graduation; and/or baccalaureate ceremonies.

The following activities as outlined in the USDOE Guidance will be permitted upon applying the governing constitutional principles in particular contexts related to religious expression: religious literature; teaching about religion; student dress codes and policies; and/or religious excusals.

The Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 4071, is designed to ensure that student religious activities are afforded the same access to Federally funded public secondary school facilities as are student secular activities. The United States Department of Justice has developed guidance for interpreting the Equal Access Act's requirements outlined in the USDOE Guidance in the area of general provisions, prayer service and worship exercises, means of publicized meetings, lunch-time and recess, and leadership of religious student groups.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM
2270/page 2 of 2
Religion in the Schools

Any issues regarding religion in the schools and the provisions of this Policy shall be referred to the Superintendent of Schools who may consult with the Board Attorney.

U.S. Const. Amend. 1

The Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 4071

U.S. Department of Education - Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools January 16, 2020

N.J. Const. (1947) Art. 1, para. 4

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6 et seq.; 18A:36-16

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 24 November 2020



2310 STUDENT GROUPING

The Board of Education believes that each student should be provided with the instruction that will best suit his/her intellectual, physical, emotional, and social capabilities. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop a schedule and class organization that will provide for the placement of students in instructional groups that will offer them the greatest educational benefit.

The grouping of students should be flexible and should take into consideration the age, mental ability, past academic record, emotional needs, physical maturity, and interests of each student.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2312 CLASS SIZE

The Superintendent shall initially inform the Board of the number of anticipated class sections for each grade level for the upcoming school year by May 1.

He/She shall take into consideration such factors as student needs, curriculum requirements, types of instructional setting, district finances, and space or equipment limitations.

Understanding that enrollment patterns may change, the Superintendent will notify the Board of Education during the budget development process.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2330 HOMEWORK

The Board of Education acknowledges the educational validity of work assigned to students for completion outside the classroom as an adjunct to and extension of the instructional program of the schools.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the assignment of homework according to these guidelines:

1. Homework should be a properly planned part of the curriculum, extending and reinforcing the learning experience of the school;
2. Homework should help children learn by providing practice in the mastery of skills, experience in data gathering and integration of knowledge, and an opportunity to remediate learning problems;
3. Homework should help develop the student's responsibility and provide an opportunity for the exercise of independent work and judgment;
4. The number, frequency, and degree of difficulty of homework assignments should be based on the ability and needs of the student and take into account other activities that make a legitimate claim on the student's time;
5. As a valid educational tool, homework should be clearly assigned and its product carefully evaluated and that evaluation should be reported to the student;
6. The schools should recognize the role of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) by suggesting ways in which parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may assist the school in helping a child carry out assigned responsibilities;
7. Homework should always serve a valid learning purpose; it should never be used as a punitive measure.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2340 FIELD TRIPS

The Board of Education recognizes that field trips properly planned and integrated with the curriculum are an educationally sound and important part of the program of the schools that can supplement and enrich classroom instruction by providing learning experiences in an environment outside the schools.

For purposes of this policy, a field trip means any journey by a group of students away from the school premises, under the supervision of a teacher, and integrally related to an approved course of study.

The Board of Education shall approve all proposed field trips.

The Board requires parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to pay for all field trips, except that no student in a special education class or student unable to pay the cost assessed shall be prohibited from attending a field trip. (N.J.S.A. 18A:36-21)

The determination of a student's inability to pay will be based upon the student's eligibility for free and reduced meals in accordance with Board Policy No. 8540.

Students on field trips remain under the supervision of this Board and are subject to its rules and regulations.

A student who violates rules or disregards the authority of supervisors on a field trip significantly endangers the safety of other students and may be summarily dismissed from the trip. The teaching staff member in charge will make arrangements for the dismissed student's transportation to home or school as appropriate. The cost of any such transportation will be borne by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student. The Board reserves the right to take further disciplinary measures in accordance with Policy No. 5600.

The Superintendent shall prepare regulations for the operation of field trips that ensure that the safety and well-being of students shall be protected at all times; that parental permission is sought and obtained before any student may be removed from the region for a field trip; that each field trip is properly planned, integrated with the curriculum, and followed up by appropriate activities that enhance its usefulness; that the effectiveness of field trip activities are monitored and continually evaluated; that teachers are allowed a considerable degree of flexibility and innovation in planning field trips; that no field trip will be approved unless it contributes to the achievement of specified instructional objectives; and that teachers are not permitted to make on-site alterations to a trip itinerary, except where the health, safety or welfare of students is imperiled or where changes or substitutions beyond the control of the teacher have frustrated the purpose of the trip.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-21 et seq.; 18A:53-2

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2360 USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Board of Education recognizes the use of technology in the educational process is an essential part of the schooling experience. Technology is to be viewed as a resource to enhance the learning process among other resources available to teachers and students. In addition, technology can be used to enhance the administration of the schools and the district. In order to provide direction and meaning to the use of technology as an instructional resource, the Board encourages and supports staff use of technology as a component of the learning process.

For purposes of this policy “technology” includes, but is not limited to, the use of computers and computer peripherals, communications networks, access to databases and libraries of information and the integration of audio, video, multimedia devices and media for purposes of teaching and learning.

The Superintendent, in consultation with teaching and support staff, shall recommend to the Board the acquisition of appropriate technology to best implement the curricular, instructional, and administrative program of the school district. The Superintendent shall prepare a technology plan for the school district to encompass the following:

Curricular, Instructional and Administrative Need

The technology plan shall define the curricular, instructional and administrative need for technological equipment and media for the district.

In-service Education

The Board shall provide opportunities for school staff to participate in in-service programs on hardware or software programs to be used in the execution of educational and administrative tasks. In-service programs may be provided in or out of the district.

Standards, Codes and References

All technology installations shall conform to the industry standards and applicable federal, State and local statutes and codes.



Facilities Planning

In all facilities projects involving new constructions, additions, and renovations the Superintendent or designee shall ensure the plans include provisions for current and future technology needs in terms of the structural, electric/electronic, mechanical, acoustical and visual systems of the building(s). All educational specifications shall include features required for the use of instructional technology.

Computers

The school district will provide support or maintenance agreements for specified brands of computers. All other computers purchased or donated will be subject to repair only when non-allocated funding is available and therefore may remain unrepaired until funding is available.

Computer Software Acquisition and Upgrading

The school district will only support the specified upgrades and training. Staff members shall not purchase software that has not been included on a list of specified software or has been approved by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent will recommend the purchase of upgrades to software as needed. An evaluation of upgrades shall be made by appropriate personnel and no upgrade shall be purchased without the express approval of the Superintendent.

Site Licenses

In the case where more than one copy of a software program is required, the Computer Systems Technician shall attempt to acquire or negotiate a site license with the software developers. In the event a site license is not possible, vendors shall be sought who will provide multiple copies at a discounted cost.

Software Copyright

All employees shall strictly adhere to the copyright laws of the United States. No software shall be copied and/or distributed except in accordance with these laws. All software placed on media workstations or any network with public access shall be copy protected by the Computer Systems Technician, who shall assure that individuals who have access to such programs shall not copy them without authorization.



Internal Communication (District)

The school district shall provide communication between schools by a variety of means.

External Communications

The Board encourages the use of external communications so schools may utilize the vast resources of external databases and communicate with other schools, external agencies, and businesses throughout the world. Gateways to such communications will be supported by the school district. The use of particular gateways shall be approved by the Computer Systems Technician. The Computer Systems Technician shall be responsible for the installation of software in district owned computers and/or computer systems that prevents access to gateways and Internet sites that have material considered by the Computer Systems Technician to be inappropriate for use by students.

Computer Laboratories and Distributed Computing

In order to provide teacher, staff, and student access to computers, the Board directs that provisions be made to provide computer access in computer laboratories, classrooms, and school libraries/media centers.

Audio/Video

All audio and/or video materials shall be used in accordance with the copyright laws of the United States. Teachers, students, or staff who create audio or video materials containing the voices or images of the individuals involved shall obtain proper releases from those individuals, their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for instructional use within the school.

Informing Parents, Legal Guardians and Interested Parties

Upon request, the Building Principal shall make available to parent/legal guardians the computer hardware and software used in the district in order that a computer purchased privately for home use may be compatible with the computer and software the student uses in the school setting.

Technology Coordination

The Board shall appoint the Computer Systems Technician to assure the technology needs of the district are met in the most efficient manner possible at the lowest costs available to meet specified needs.



Broadcast Rights and Copyrights

The Board specifically retains the Broadcast rights and copyrights to all materials created by employees of the Board as part of their responsibilities to the Board. Any financial remuneration for the use of such materials shall be retained by the Board.

Computer Security

The Computer Systems Technician shall develop security procedures to include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

1. Physical Security of Equipment

All computer equipment shall be maintained in a secure manner appropriate to its location.

2. Data Security

- a. Back-up procedures for system files, libraries, and data shall be practiced in a timely fashion.
- b. Disaster recovery plans shall be kept up-to-date at all times.
- c. Password protection shall be in place and updated periodically.
- d. Resource security shall be in place to prevent unauthorized access to system files, libraries, and data.

3. Employee Training

All new employees having, as part of their job responsibilities, access to computers and information systems will be trained in the proper security procedures outlined above.

All employees having, as part of their job responsibilities, access to computers and information systems will be kept up-to-date on current security procedures for equipment and data.



4. Transaction Audit Trail

Appropriate procedures will be maintained in order to monitor system activity and users, as necessary.

5. Security Officer

The Superintendent shall designate the Computer Systems Technician as the district's Computer Security Officer to monitor system security procedures.

Use of Facsimile (FAX) Machines

Fax machines provide a useful means of communicating and shall be subject to the same rules that apply to the use of telephones. All incoming faxes shall be considered confidential mail. No disclosure of the contents of any fax shall be made except to the individual for whom the fax is intended. Any individual violating this confidentiality shall be subject to discipline as provided by the policies and regulations of the Board.

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-6.1 et seq.
17 U.S.C. 101 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2361 ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTER NETWORK/COMPUTERS AND RESOURCES

The Board of Education recognizes as new technologies shift the manner in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred; these changes will alter the nature of teaching and learning. Access to technology will allow students to explore databases, libraries, internet sites and bulletin boards while exchanging information with individuals throughout the world. The Board supports access by students to these information sources but reserves the right to limit in-school use to materials appropriate for educational purposes. The Board directs the Superintendent to effect training of teaching staff members in skills appropriate to analyzing and evaluating such resources as to appropriateness for educational purposes.

The Board also recognizes technology allows students access to information sources that have not been pre-screened by educators using Board approved standards. The Board therefore adopts the following standards of conduct for use of computer networks and declares unethical, unacceptable or illegal behavior as just cause for taking disciplinary action, limiting or revoking network access privileges, and/or instituting legal action.

The Board provides access to computer networks/computers for educational purposes only. The Board retains the right to restrict or terminate student access to computer networks/computers at any time, for any reason. School district personnel will monitor networks and online activity to maintain the integrity of the networks, ensure their proper use and ensure compliance with Federal and State laws that regulate Internet safety.

Standards for Use of Computer Networks

Any individual engaging in the following actions when using computer networks/computers shall be subject to discipline or legal action:

- A. Using the computer network/computers for illegal, inappropriate or obscene purposes, or in support of such activities. Illegal activities are defined as activities that violate Federal, State, local laws and regulations. Inappropriate activities are defined as those that violate the intended use of the networks. Obscene activities shall be defined as a violation of generally accepted social standards for use of publicly owned and operated communication vehicles.
- B. Using the computer network/computers to violate copyrights, institutional or third party copyrights, license agreements or other contracts.



- C. Using the computer network in a manner that:
1. Intentionally disrupts network traffic or crashes the network;
 2. Degrades or disrupts equipment or system performance;
 3. Uses the computing resources of the school district for commercial purposes, financial gain, or fraud;
 4. Steals data or other intellectual property;
 5. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to the files of others or vandalizes the data of another person;
 6. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to resources or entities;
 7. Forges electronic mail messages or uses an account owned by others;
 8. Invades privacy of others;
 9. Posts anonymous messages;
 10. Possesses any data which is a violation of this policy and/or
 11. Engages in other activities that do not advance the educational purpose for which computer networks/computers are provided.

Internet Safety Protection

As a condition for receipt of certain Federal funding, the school district shall be in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and has installed technology protection measures for all computers in the school district, including computers in media centers/libraries. The technology protection must block and/or filter material and visual depictions that are obscene as defined in Section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code; child pornography, as defined in Section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code; are harmful to minors including any pictures, images, graphic image file or other material or visual depiction that taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; or depicts, describes, or represents in a patently offensive way, with respect to what is suitable for minors, sexual acts or conduct; or taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.



This Policy also establishes Internet safety policy and procedures in the district as required in the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act. Policy 2361 addresses access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web; the safety and security of minor when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications; unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online; unauthorized disclosures, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

Notwithstanding blocking and/or filtering the material and visual depictions prohibited in the Children's Internet Protection Act and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, the Board shall determine other internet material that is inappropriate for minors.

In accordance with the provisions of the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Superintendent of Schools or designee will develop and ensure education is provided to every student regarding appropriate online behavior, including students interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and/or chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response.

The Board will provide reasonable public notice and will hold one annual public hearing during a regular monthly Board meeting or during a designated special Board meeting to address and receive public community input on the Internet Safety Policy – Policy and Regulation 2361. Any changes in Policy and Regulation 2361 since the previous year's annual public hearing will also be discussed at a meeting following the annual public hearing.

Consent Requirement

No student shall be allowed to use the school districts' computer networks/computers and the Internet unless they have filed with the principal a consent form signed by the student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Violations

Individuals violating this Policy shall be subject to the consequences as indicated in Regulation 2361 and other appropriate discipline, which includes but are not limited to:

1. Use of the network only under direct supervision;
2. Suspension of network privileges;
3. Revocation of network privileges;



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM
2361/page 4 of 4
Acceptable Use of Computer Network/Computers
and Resources

4. Suspension of computer privileges;
5. Revocation of computer privileges;
6. Suspension from school'
7. Expulsion from school; and/or
8. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities.

N.J.S.A. 2A:38A-3

Federal Communications Commission: Children's Internet Protection Act

Federal Communications commission: Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 13 November 2012



2363 STUDENT USE OF PRIVATELY-OWNED TECHNOLOGY

The Board of Education recognizes technology is always changing and as a result of increased accessibility to technology many students possess technology devices for their use during non-school hours. These privately-owned devices may be beneficial to students during school hours for approved educational purposes. Therefore, the Board of Education will allow students to use their privately-owned technology devices under conditions outlined in this Policy.

For the purpose of this Policy, “technology” means hardware or software.

For the purpose of this Policy, “privately-owned” means technology hardware and software that is purchased, owned and maintained by the student at no expense to the school or school district.

For the purpose of this Policy, “hardware” means any device that can store, access, retrieve, and/or communicate data or information. “Hardware” may include, but is not limited to, any type of computer device; wireless telephone; electronic reader; personal digital assistant (PDAs); video broadcasting and/or recording device; or camera.

For the purpose of this Policy, “software” means any computer program(s) or related data that provide instruction for telling a computer or other hardware device what to do and how to do it.

The use of privately-owned technology by a student in the educational program during the school day must be approved by the student’s parent or legal guardian and the school teaching staff member responsible for supervising and/or providing the student’s instructional program. A teaching staff member may approve a student’s use of privately-owned technology based on the assignment(s) to the student. The teaching staff member may also prohibit the use of privately-owned technology for an assignment(s).

Teaching staff members must get prior approval from their immediate supervisor or Principal before allowing students to use privately-owned technology during instructional time.

Students who use privately-owned technology in school will not be given access to the school district’s computer server(s) or network(s). In the event the teaching staff member approves the use of privately-owned technology to access the Internet, the access must be through the privately-owned technology without the use of any school district hardware or software. A teaching staff member who approves a student to use their privately-owned technology to access the Internet during instructional time will provide the student with a list of approved Internet sites the student is permitted to access. A student granted such permission must comply with



school district policies and regulations regarding acceptable use of computers and technology. Any use of privately-owned technology by a student shall be in strict accordance with the teaching staff member's specific approval(s) and Board policies and regulations. Any violation will subject the student to appropriate discipline and/or grading consequences.

The teaching staff member, in considering the use of privately-owned technology, will ensure such approval does not provide any advantage or benefit to the student who owns such technology over the student who does not own such technology. The teaching staff member will not approve the use of privately-owned technology if the teaching staff member determines the use would be advantageous or beneficial to the student who owns such technology over the student who does not own such technology.

The school district assumes no responsibility for any privately-owned technology brought to school by a student. The student shall be responsible for the proper operation and use of any privately-owned technology brought to school. School staff members shall not be responsible for the effective use and/or technical support for any privately-owned technology.

The school district shall assume no responsibility for the security of or damage to any privately-owned technology brought to school by a student. Students are encouraged to purchase private insurance for loss, damage or theft of any privately-owned technology the student brings to school.

Adopted: 13 November 2012



2411 GUIDANCE COUNSELING

The Board of Education requires that a planned program of guidance and counseling be an integral part of the educational program of the schools to assist students in making and implementing informed educational and occupational choices including academic, career and personal/social development.

A program of guidance and counseling, including developmental career guidance and exploration, shall be offered to all students in this school district and shall be conducted entirely by Child Study Team members.

The Superintendent is directed to implement a guidance program that carries out the purposes of this policy and:

1. Involves teaching staff members at all appropriate levels;
2. Honors the individuality of each student;
3. Is integrated with the total educational program;
4. Is coordinated with available resources of the community;
5. Provides for cooperation of school staff with parent and shares parents' concern for the development of their children;
6. Provides for the means of sharing information among appropriate staff members in the student's interest;
7. Is available equitably to all students and prohibits biased counseling and the use of materials that discriminate among students on the basis of their race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, or disability; and
8. Establishes a referral system that utilizes all the aid the schools and community offer, guards the privacy of the student, and monitors the efficacy of such referrals.

N.J.A.C. 6A:19-1.2; 6A:8-2.2

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7; 6A:8-3.2

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 19 July 2016



2412 HOME INSTRUCTION DUE TO HEALTH CONDITION

The Board of Education shall provide instructional services to an enrolled student whether a general education student in Kindergarten through grade six or special education student age three to twelve, when the student is confined to the home or another out-of-school setting due to a temporary or chronic health condition or a need for treatment that precludes participation in their usual education setting whether general or special education.

A parent's requests for home instruction shall include a written determination from the student's physician documenting the projected need for confinement at the student's residence or other treatment setting for more than ten consecutive school days or twenty cumulative school days during the school year. The written determination from the student's physician shall be forwarded to the school physician, who shall either verify the need for home instruction or provide reasons for denial. The parent for denial within five school days after receipt of the written determination by the student's physician.

The school district shall be responsible for the costs of providing instruction in the home or out-of-school setting either directly, or through online services, including any needed equipment, or through contract with another district Board of Education, Educational Services Commission, Jointure Commission, or approved clinic or agency. The school district shall provide instructional services within five school days after receipt of the school physician's verification or, if verification is made prior to the student's confinement, during the first week of the student's confinement to the home or out-of-school setting.

The home or out-of-school instruction shall meet the minimum standards as required in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1(c). The school district shall establish a written plan for delivery of instruction and maintain a record of delivery of instructional services and student progress. The teacher providing instruction shall be a certified teacher. The teacher shall provide instruction for the number of days and length of time sufficient to continue the student's academic progress and dependent upon the student's ability to participate.

For a student with disabilities, the home instruction shall be consistent with the student's (IEP) to the extent appropriate and shall meet the Core Curriculum Content Standards. When the provision for home instruction for a student with disabilities will exceed thirty consecutive school days in a school year, the IEP team shall convene a meeting to review and, if appropriate, revise the student's IEP.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM
2412/page 2 of 2
Home Instruction Due to Health Condition

For a student without disability, the home instruction shall meet the Core Curriculum Content Standards and the requirements of the Board for promotion to the next grade level. When the provision for home instruction for a student without disability will exceed sixty calendar days, the school physician shall refer the student to the Child Study Team for evaluation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

The Board reserves the right to withhold home instruction when the reason for the student's confinement is such as to expose a teacher to a health hazard or dangerous home situation; when a parent or other adult twenty-one years of age or older, who has been designated by the parent, is not present during the hours of instruction, or when the condition of the student is such as to preclude benefit from such instruction.

Students on home instruction will be accounted for on the attendance register as required by the Department of Education. The name of a student on home instruction will not be released at a public Board meeting or placed in a public record.

N.J.S.A. 18A:46-10
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.8; 6A:14-4.9; 6A:16-10.1

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 5 May 2015



2414 PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS AT RISK

The Board of Education recognizes that certain conditions place children at risk of not acquiring the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary for school success, school completion, and successful functioning as an adult in society.

A “student at risk” means a student who is in danger of failure to achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and the high school graduation requirements or dropping out of school because of specific cognitive, affective, economic, social, and/or health needs. The conditions that may place a student at risk include the student's failure to acquire the essential skills needed to stay on grade level or the student's performance below minimum levels of proficiency; history of adjustment or behavioral problems; placement on long-term suspension for violation of school rules; history of poor school attendance; being limited in English language proficiency; being disruptive or disaffected; pregnancy or parenthood; failure to qualify for promotion or graduation; condition of poverty as defined by his/her eligibility for free meals or free milk and/or exhibiting other characteristics identified by the Board.

Programs and services for students at risk shall meet the goals of:

1. Enhancing the health, self-esteem, and acquisition of the life skills necessary for age-appropriate development and productive functioning in the school setting and society;
2. Identifying and assisting students who are not meeting standards for behavior and achievement in areas such as attendance, conduct, and mastery of the curriculum, as well as performing below state minimum levels of proficiency; and
3. Improving the school climate so that students experience school as a safe, supportive, and disciplined place where academic and interpersonal growth and learning can take place.

Programs and services for students at risk may be offered during the regular school day, beyond the regular school day, or during the summer. Any such programs and services that do not require the services of a teaching staff member or cannot be reasonably accommodated in the school setting may be delivered by qualified persons who are not necessarily certified but are supervised by appropriately certified teaching staff members.

The Board shall provide staff training necessary to implement the programs and services for students at risk.

N.J.A.C. 6:8-1.1 et seq.



POLICY

**NORTH CALDWELL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2415 EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2001 is a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), of 1965 that provides Federal funds to help all New Jersey's school children achieve. The purpose of the ESSA is to ensure all students have equitable access to high-quality educational resources and opportunities and to close educational achievement gaps. The Board of Education elects to augment the instructional program of students by projects supported by federal funds allocated under the ESSA and the district will comply with the requirements of all the programs authorized by the ESSA.

The district may be eligible for several grant programs funded through the ESSA, including, but not limited to, Title I through Title VII. Many of the Titles of the ESSA have several parts and subparts that provide a funding source for specific purposes.

Application Procedure

The district will submit an annual ESSA Consolidated Formula Subgrant Application to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). The school district's application shall include all information required by the NJDOE and the ESSA for the district to be considered for funding under the ESSA.

Covered Programs

Formula grants under the ESSA are non-competitive grants that school districts are eligible for based on the make-up of their student bodies. These formula grants for each Title are committed to different purposes and may be used to support different activities and programs.

Title I

The largest Federal program supporting elementary and secondary education is Title I. The ESSA strengthens Title I requirements for the State's assessments, accountability system, and support for school improvement. The law also requires minimum qualifications for teachers and paraprofessionals in Title I programs.

The school district must use the best available measure for identifying children from low-income families to: identify eligible school attendance areas, determine the ranking of each area, and determine allocations as identified in the Title I guidelines and regulations



The school district will offer Title I services to eligible children enrolled in private elementary and secondary schools. The services and benefits will be equitable in comparison to services and benefits for participating public school children.

The school district will provide the New Jersey Department of Education assurances it will provide the maximum coordination between the Title I program, the regular school program, and services provided by other programs for specialized populations. The Title I program will consider the special needs of homeless children, migrant children, children with disabilities and limited English Language Learner (ELL) children. Title I funds will be reserved so that migrant children who are otherwise eligible to receive Title I services, even if they arrive during the school year, are served.

Type of Title I Program

The school district will offer a Target Assistance Title I program.

Target Assistance Program

Schools that are not eligible for (or do not choose to operate) school-wide Title I programs must use Title I funds to provide targeted services to low-achieving students. A Target Assistance program must be established in accordance with the Title I guidelines and regulations and the New Jersey Department of Education.]

New Jersey Department of Education Accountability System

The district will comply with the accountability system established by the New Jersey State Plan and approved by the United States Department of Education.

Fiscal Responsibility

The district will comply with the requirements as outlined in Policy 2415.02 Title I – Fiscal Responsibilities in accordance with the NJDOE and the ESSA.

Staff

The district will comply with the staff certification requirements of the ESSA and the NJDOE. In addition, the district will ensure all paraprofessionals meet the requirements as established by the ESSA and as outlined in Policy 4125 – Employment of Support Staff Members.



The district will comply with the staff certification requirements of the ESSA and the NJDOE. In addition, the district will ensure all paraprofessionals meet the requirements as established by the ESSA and as outlined in Policy 4125 – Employment of Support Staff Members.

Parent and Family Engagement

The district will comply with the requirements as outlined in Policy 2415.04 – Title I – District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement and Policy 2415.50-Title I – School Parent and Family Engagement as applicable in accordance with the NJDOE and the ESSA.

Student Surveys, Analysis and/or Evaluations

The Protection of Student Rights Amendment (PPRA) applies to school districts that receive federal funding from the United States Department of Education. The district will comply with the requirements as outlined in Policy 2415.05 - Student Surveys, Analysis and/or Evaluations in accordance PPRA.

Unsafe School Choice Option

In the event there is a school in the district designated as Persistently Dangerous or in accordance with the Victims of Violent Criminal Offenses as outlined in NCLB, the district will comply with the requirements of Policy 2415.06 – Unsafe School Choice Option in accordance with the NJDOE and the ESSA.

Property

Property acquired through Title I funds for use in public or private schools will be acquired in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law, will be held in title by the Board of Education, and will not be used for other purposes so long as it is required in the Title I program.

Property no longer required for Title I purposes will be used for other, similarly funded projects or disposed of in accordance with State and federal guidelines.

Capital Expenses

The Superintendent will assure the district abides by New Jersey's Public Contracts Law; consults appropriate private school officials prior to making any decisions regarding capital expenses; ensure funds that are received to cover capital expenses provide equitable Title I services to private school students; ensure accounts for any capital funding is separately



maintained; assure lease purchase agreements are consistent with applicable statute and administrative code.

Post-Award Requirements

The school district will maintain all project records for five years following the completion of the activity for which the funds were used. The school district will prepare and submit all reports as required by the State Department of Education in a timely manner.

Supplement, Not Supplant

Grant funds provide under federal programs, including the ESEA of 1965 as amended by the ESSA funding, shall supplement, not supplant the funds that would, in the absence of such - federal funds be made available from State and local sources for the education of students, participating in programs assisted under the ESEA of 1965 as amended by the ESSA.

Evaluation

The Superintendent will evaluate the ESSA programs as required by the United States and the New Jersey Departments of Education.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 21 March 2013
Revised: 21 July 2021
Revised: 18 October 2022



2415.01 ACADEMIC STANDARDS, ACADEMIC ASSESSMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), requires New Jersey to implement a single accountability system to include challenging academic content and academic achievement standards. The accountability requirements under NCLB were built on the foundation of the former Improving America's Schools Act (IASA).

To meet the Federal requirements, New Jersey has adopted the New Jersey Single Accountability System. State assessments in language arts literacy and mathematics are based on the New Jersey Core Curriculum content Standards. All students enrolled in new Jersey public schools, plus all student subgroups, must meet the proficiency benchmarks to ensure the goal of 100% proficiency. Students must score either "proficient" or "advanced proficient" on the assessments to be counted toward meeting the benchmarks.

Schools are evaluated using adequate yearly progress (AYP) indicators. Student achievement is determined by grade span (Elementary School – grades three through five, Middle School – grades six through eight, and High School – grades nine through twelve) and in each content area. There are indicators that must be met (including participation and proficiency rates) plus a secondary indicator. A safe harbor calculation is applied to measure significant progress if the benchmark is missed. When a school does not meet AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area, it is designated as a "school in need of improvement."

AYP shall be calculated for all New Jersey schools under the provisions of NCLB. Schools that do not meet AYP as defined under NCLB are placed into one of the following categories. Title I schools in need of improvement must implement the sanctions for each category.

Year 1 – Early Warning: A school that does not make AYP for one year is placed into "early warning" status.

Year 2 – In Need of Improvement/School Choice: A school that does not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area is designated as a "school in need of improvement." Parents/legal guardians shall be promptly notified if their child's school has been designated as in need of improvement. For Title I schools certain interventions apply, including intradistrict school choice (or supplemental education services if choice is not available) and development of a school improvement plan (Title I Unified Plan). The district must offer the school technical assistance to address the areas that caused the school to be in need of improvement. Parents/legal guardians shall be notified of their



right to request intradistrict public school choice and parents/legal guardians of eligible students shall be notified of the availability of supplemental educational services, if choice is not available, including the provider list Web address.

Year 3 – In Need of Improvement/Supplemental Educational Services (SES): A school that does not make AYP for three consecutive years in the same content area shall continue to be identified as a “school in need of improvement.” The Title I school must continue to offer intradistrict school choice and must also offer SES to eligible students. Technical assistance must continue to be offered by the district, parents must receive notification of the school’s status, and the school improvement plan (Title I Unified Plan) is updated annually. Parents/legal guardians of eligible students shall be notified of the availability of supplemental educational services, if choice is not available, including the provider list Web address.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) offers school support by engaging a team of experienced professionals to conduct an extensive school review called Collaborative Assessment and Planning for Achievement (CAPA). The CAPA team interviews stakeholders and staff, reviews school and district documents, and conducts on-site observations to develop a report that contains recommendations for school improvement, which then becomes part of the Title I Unified Plan.

Year 4 – Corrective Action: A school that does not make AYP for four consecutive years in the same content area is identified as a school in corrective action. The Title I school must continue to offer intradistrict school choice and SES, notify parents of the school’s status, revise its school improvement plan (Title I Unified Plan), and receive technical assistance from the district and the NJDOE.

The district must take at least one of the following corrective actions:

1. Provide, for all relevant staff, appropriate, scientifically research-based professional development that is likely to improve academic achievement of low-performing students.
2. Institute a new curriculum grounded in scientifically-based research and provide appropriate professional development to support its implementation.
3. Extend the length of the school year or school day.
4. Replace the school staff who are deemed relevant to the school not making adequate progress.



5. Significantly decrease management authority at the school.
6. Restructure the internal organization of the school.
7. Appoint one or more outside experts to advise the school how to revise and strengthen the improvement plan it created while in school improvement status and how to address the specific issues underlying the school's continued inability to make AYP.

Year 5 – Planning for Restructuring: A Title I school that does not make AYP for five consecutive years in the same content area must plan to restructure. The restructuring plan is implemented at the beginning of the following school year if the school continues to miss AYP benchmarks and moves to Year 6. During the planning year, the Title I school must continue to offer intradistrict school choice and SES, notify parents of the school's status and invite parent input during the restructuring process, and receive technical assistance from the district and the NJDOE. The technical assistance design for a school being restructured emphasizes the following:

1. The importance of improving instruction by using strategies grounded in scientifically-based research so that all children in the school achieve proficiency in the core academic subjects of language arts and mathematics.
2. The importance of analyzing and applying data in decision-making.

The restructuring plan must include one of the following alternative governance systems for the school as outlined by NCLB regulations and consistent with New Jersey practice and statutes:

1. Implement any major restructuring of the school's governance that is consistent with the principles of restructuring as set forth in the No Child Left Behind Act.
2. Re-open school as a public charter school as defined by State statute and regulation (N.J.S.A. 18A:36A-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A)
3. Replace all or most of the school staff, which may include the Principal, who are relevant to the school's inability to make adequate progress (consistent with existing contractual provisions and applicable statutory protections in Title 18A).

Year 6 – Restructuring-1: A Title I school that does not make AYP for six consecutive years in the same content area must implement the approved restructuring plan. The



Title I school must continue to offer intradistrict school choice and SES, notify parents of the school's status and invite parent input and support during the implementation process, and receive technical assistance from the district and the NJDOE. Technical assistance is critical to help school staff remain focused on increasing student achievement while the school is adjusting to potentially radical changes in its administration and governance structures. A CAPA visit will occur at the school to determine the fidelity of implementation of the restructuring plans and to review the governance structure of the school.

Year 7 (and over) – Restructuring-2 (and over): If the school has not made AYP for seven or more consecutive years, the NJDOE will meet with school and district administrators to continually review implementation of the restructuring plan/Title I Unified Plan. Benchmark meetings with NJDOE staff, the school, and the district will occur twice a year to assess the support implementation of the school improvement plan.

Removal from Early Warning/Improvement Status: To be removed from early warning or improvement status, the school must make AYP for two consecutive years in the content area that caused the school to go into status, providing the school makes AYP in the other content areas. The first year of making AYP is a “hold year” and the school does not progress to the next sanction level, but must continue to implement current interventions. If the school does not make AYP the year following “hold,” the school goes back into improvement status at the level prior to the hold year.

No Child Left Behind §1116

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 16 August 2011



2415.02 TITLE I – FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The North Caldwell Board of Education will comply with the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Maintenance of Effort

To be in compliance with the requirements of the ESEA as amended by the ESSA, the North Caldwell Board of Education will maintain either a combined fiscal effort per student, or aggregate expenditures of State and local funds with respect to the provision of the free public education by the Local Education Agency (LEA) for the preceding fiscal year that is not less than ninety percent of the combined fiscal effort per student, or the aggregate expenditures, for the second preceding fiscal year.

Comparability with Multiple Schools

To be in compliance with the requirements of the ESEA as amended by the ESSA, the North Caldwell Board of Education directs the Superintendent to assign teachers, administrators, and auxiliary personnel to the schools in such a way that the equivalence of personnel is ensured among schools. The school district will ensure that State and local funds are used to provide comparable services for Title I and non-Title I schools.

Comparability of Materials and Supplies

To be in compliance with the requirements of the ESEA as amended by the ESSA, the North Caldwell Board of Education directs the Superintendent to distribute curriculum materials and instructional supplies to the schools in such a way that the equivalence of such material is ensured among schools.

Supplement, Not Supplant

Grant funds provided under Federal programs, including the ESEA as amended by the ESSA, shall supplement, not supplant the funds that would, in the absence of such Federal funds, be made available from State and local sources for the education of students participating in programs assisted under the ESEA as amended by the ESSA.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM
2415.02/page 2 of 2
Title I – Fiscal Responsibilities

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Adopted: 21 July 2021



2415.03 HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

Introduction

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001 requires all teachers be or become highly qualified in the core academic content area(s) they teach. New, newly hired and veteran teachers in non-Title I schools and veteran teachers in Title I school-wide and targeted assistance programs must satisfy the definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher by the end of the 2005-2006 school year. New and newly hired teachers in Title I schools must satisfy the definition by September 2003.

Definitions

“Equivalent of an undergraduate major” is a 30-credit coherent sequence of courses in a subject field that includes study at the introductory, intermediate and advanced levels.

“New Jersey HOUSE Standard” is New Jersey’s High Objective Uniform State Evaluation Standard to provide teachers with an alternative means of demonstrating their content knowledge for the core academic subject(s) they teach. The New Jersey HOUSE Standard is the means by which teachers can document their content expertise in the core academic subject(s) they teach. The New Jersey HOUSE Standard uses a Content Knowledge Matrix to document college coursework, professional activities, teaching activities, and successful teaching performance.

“New to the Profession” are teachers in their first year of teaching and hired after the first day of school in the 2002-2003 school year. In Title I schools, these teachers must be highly qualified at the time of hire. In non-Title I schools, these teachers must be highly qualified as of the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

“Newly hired teachers” are teachers with prior teaching experience who are either returning to teaching after an absence or are changing school districts. Teachers changing building, class or grade-level assignments within their district are not considered newly hired. In Title I schools, these teachers must be highly qualified at the time of hire. In non-Title I schools, these teachers must be highly qualified by the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

“School Organization” is the most typical organizational structures in New Jersey and are as follows:

- Elementary schools (K-5, K-6, K-8) in which classes are self-contained and teachers provide instruction in the full range of content to a single class, all day.



- Middle schools (5-8, 6-8) are those in which classes are departmentalized and teachers provide instruction in one or more content areas to different classes of students throughout the day.
- Secondary schools (9-12) are those in which classes are departmentalized and teachers provide instruction in one or more content areas to different classes of students throughout the day.

“Teacher – Bilingual Education” is a bilingual teacher that provides direct instruction in one or more content areas in students’ native language and English as a replacement for content instruction provided in a classroom where only English is spoken. The teacher must satisfy the federal definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher for the content area(s) and level(s) they teach.

“Teacher – ESL” is an ESL teacher that provides daily support to students with limited English proficiency and may co-teach classes with a Language Arts Literacy instructor. ESL teachers may also provide direct instruction in English, reading or language arts. When ESL teachers provide direct instruction, they must satisfy the federal definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher based on the grade level of the content/curriculum they teach rather than the chronological age of their students.

“Teaching Assignment” is an assignment teaching in the grade level and/or core academic subject area. It is not the class schedule. Multiple sections of the same course (i.e., three classes of freshman composition or two periods of world history) count as one teaching assignment. Teaching all subjects to one class of elementary or special education (elementary) students all day (i.e., 5th grade, 2nd grade) is one assignment.

“Testing Option” provides the teacher an opportunity to submit a passing score on a State licensing exam taken in New Jersey or a passing score on a State licensing exam taken in another State as verification they have satisfied the federal definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher. Examples of appropriate tests include: The National Teacher Exam (NTE); the Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge Test; the Praxis II Content Knowledge Test(s) for the relevant content area teaching assignment(s). The Praxis II series of Content Knowledge Tests for the middle school level will become available in New Jersey during the 2003-2004 school year.

“Undergraduate Major” is defined as thirty credits of content coursework within the subject field listed as the major.



“Veteran Teachers” in Title I schools are teachers who were hired before the first day of school in 2002-2003. These teachers may use the New Jersey HOUSE Standard to satisfy the federal definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher. Experienced teachers who are newly hired may also use the New Jersey HOUSE Standard. “Veteran Teachers” in non-Title I schools are teachers who are hired before the first day of school in 2005-2006. These teachers may use the New Jersey HOUSE Standard to satisfy the federal definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher. All veteran teachers must be highly qualified by the end of 2005-2006.

NCLB Core Academic Content Areas

All teachers with primary responsibility for direct instruction in one or more of the core academic content areas are required to demonstrate they satisfy the federal definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher. This includes elementary generalists who teach all subjects to a particular grade/class, special education teachers who provide direct instruction in one or more content areas, middle and secondary level content area instructors and basic skills supplemental teachers. This also includes bilingual teachers and English as a second language (ESL) teachers who provide direct instruction in core academic content.

The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards that align with the list of core academic subjects of §9101 of NCLB are: language arts literacy, science, mathematics, social studies, world languages, and visual and performing arts. Teachers in the areas of health, physical education, technological literacy, career education and consumer, family and life skills and those holding educational services certificates are not required to satisfy the federal definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher.

Requirements - Title I Schools and Programs

New to the profession and newly hired elementary teachers must, as of September 2003, do as follows:

1. Hold at least a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
2. Hold a valid New Jersey teaching certificate for which no requirements have been waived (i.e., no emergency certification); and
3. Pass a rigorous State test of content knowledge and teaching skills in the basic elementary school curriculum (may have been a State certification test such as the National Teacher Examination (NTE) or Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge Test).



Newly hired elementary teachers may use the New Jersey HOUSE Standard, if needed. However, these teachers must meet the requirement at the time of hire. New to the profession elementary teachers may not use the New Jersey HOUSE Standard.

Veteran elementary teachers who have been working in schools supported with Title I funds prior to the 2002-2003 school year and veteran elementary teachers who are transferring to Title I schools within the district have until the end of the 2005-2006 school year to satisfy the definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher using the criteria listed above or by fulfilling the New Jersey HOUSE Standard in lieu of passing a rigorous State test of content knowledge and teaching skills for an elementary curriculum.

New to the profession and newly hired middle and secondary teachers must, as of September 2003, do as follows:

1. Hold at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
2. Hold a valid New Jersey teaching certificate for which no requirements have been waived (i.e., no emergency certification);
3. Pass a rigorous State test in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches (may have been a State certification test such as the NTE or Praxis II Content Knowledge Test for the appropriate subject and level); or
4. Successfully complete either an undergraduate major, a graduate degree, coursework equivalent to an undergraduate major, or advanced certification or credentialing (i.e., National Board Certification) for each core academic subject teaching assignment.

Newly hired middle and secondary teachers may use the New Jersey HOUSE Standard, if needed. However, these teachers must meet the requirement at the time of hire. New to the profession middle and secondary teachers may not use the New Jersey HOUSE Standard.

Veteran middle and secondary teachers who have been working in schools supported with Title I funds prior to the 2002-2003 school year and middle and secondary teachers who are transferring to Title I schools within the district have until the end of the 2005-2006 school year to satisfy the definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher using the criteria listed above or by fulfilling the New Jersey HOUSE Standard in each content area teaching assignment in lieu of passing a State test or having a major, advanced degree, coursework equivalent to a major, or an



advanced credential (i.e., National Board certification) for each content area teaching assignment.

Requirements – Non-Title I Schools

New to the profession, newly hired and veteran elementary teachers must, by the end of the 2005-2006 school year, do as follows:

1. Hold at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
2. Hold a valid New Jersey teaching certificate for which no requirements have been waived (i.e., no emergency certification); and either:
 - a. Pass a rigorous State test of content knowledge and teaching skills in the basic elementary curriculum (may have been a State certification test such as the NTE Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge Test); or
 - b. Document ten points on the New Jersey HOUSE Standard as an Elementary Generalist.

New to the profession, newly hired and veteran middle and secondary teachers must, by the end of the 2005-2006 school year do as follows:

1. Hold at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
2. Hold a valid New Jersey teaching certificate for which no requirements have been waived (i.e., no emergency certification); and one of the following:
 - a. Pass a rigorous State test in each core academic subject in which the teacher teaches (may have been a State certification test such as the NTE or Praxis II Content Knowledge Test for the appropriate subject and level); or
 - b. Hold an undergraduate major, a graduate degree or thirty credits of coursework equivalent to an undergraduate major for each core academic subject teaching assignment; or



- c. Hold National Board Certification in the content area(s) of the teaching assignment; or
- d. Document ten points on the New Jersey HOUSE Standard for each core academic subject teaching assignment.

Districts may hire middle and special education teachers for the 2003-2004 school year who satisfy the requirements for a standard instructional license under the current State licensing regulations. Middle and special education teachers must pass the relevant Praxis II Content Knowledge Test(s) in the 2003-2004 school year. The Praxis II Content Knowledge Test(s) for middle grades will be available early in 2004.

Special Education Teachers who provide direct content instruction must pass the relevant Praxis II Test(s) at the appropriate grade level(s) for the subject(s) they teach based on the grade level of the content/curriculum they teach. Requirements for special education teachers who provide consultative/support (in-class and pull-out) services and/or who co-teach with a content area instructor in general education settings will be as required based on the final version of the reauthorized IDEA legislation.

Parent Notification

In September of each school year, schools receiving Title I funds (including funds used for before/after school programs) must notify all parents/legal guardians of their right to inquire about the qualifications of their child's teacher(s). In November each year, schools receiving Title I funds must notify parents if any of their child's teachers have not yet satisfied the federal definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher or if their child has been instructed for four or more weeks by a teacher who has not yet satisfied the definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher. Parent notification requirements apply to the entire school whether or not the teacher is paid in whole or in part by Title I funds or teaches within a target assistance program.

The New Jersey Model for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers – September 2003 provides the guidance to school districts for teachers to meet the highly qualified teacher requirements of NCLB. The Superintendent will ensure the school district completes its responsibilities in the implementation of the Highly Qualified Teacher requirement of No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, §1119

The New Jersey Model for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers, Department of Education,
August 2003

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2415.05 STUDENT SURVEYS, ANALYSIS EVALUATIONS EXAMINATIONS, TESTING, OR TREATMENT

The Protection of Student Rights Amendment (PPRA) (20 U.S.C. §1232h; 34 CFR Part 98) applies to school districts that receive funding from the United States Department of Education. PPRA requires written consent from parents or the student opportunity to opt out of participation in a survey, analysis, evaluation, examination, testing, or treatment funded in whole or in part by a program of the United States Department of Education that concerns one or more of the areas outlined in this Policy.

A. Definitions

“Instructional material” means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, including printed or representational materials, audiovisual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments. 20 USC §1232h(c)(6)(A).

“Invasive physical examination” means any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening. 20 USC §1232h(c)(6)(B).

“Prior consent” means prior consent of the student, if the student is an adult or emancipated minor or prior written consent of the parent, if the student is an unemancipated minor. 34 CFR §98.4(b).

“Psychiatric or psychological examination or test” means a method of obtaining information, including a group activity, that is not directly related to academic instruction and that is designed to elicit information about attitudes, habits, traits, opinions, beliefs, or feelings. 34 CFR §98.4(c)(1).

“Psychiatric or psychological treatment” means an activity involving the planned, systematic use of methods or techniques that are not directly related to academic instruction and that is designed to affect behavioral, emotional, or attitudinal characteristics of an individual or group. 34 CFR §98.4(c)(2).



“Research or experimentation program or project” means any program or project in any program that is funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government and is designed to explore or develop new or unproven teaching methods or techniques. 34 CFR §98.3(b).

- B. Parents’ or Emancipated Students’ Right to Inspection of Materials - 34 CFR §98.3 and 20 USC §1232(c)
1. All instructional material, including teachers’ manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary instructional material which will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any applicable program or any research or experimentation program or project shall be available for inspection by the parents of the children engaged in such program or project in accordance with 20 USC §1232h(a) and 34 CFR §98.3(a).
 - a. The district shall provide reasonable access to instructional material within a reasonable period of time after the request is received in accordance with 20 USC §1232h(c)(1)(C)(ii).
 2. The parent shall have the right, upon request, to inspect a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed to their student pursuant to 20 USC §1232h(c)(1)(A)(i).
 - a. The district shall provide reasonable access to such survey within a reasonable period of time after the request is received in accordance with 20 USC §1232h(c)(1)(A)(ii).
 3. The parent shall have the right, upon request, to inspect any instrument used in the collection of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose), before the instrument is administered or distributed to their student pursuant to 20 USC §1232h(c)(1)(F)(i).
 - a. The district shall provide reasonable access to such instrument within a reasonable period of time after the request is received in accordance with 20 USC §1232h(c)(1)(F)(ii).



- C. Protection of Students' Privacy in Examination, Testing, or Treatment with Prior Consent - 34 CFR §98.4
1. In accordance with 34 CFR §98.4(a) no student shall be required, as part of any program funded in whole or in part by a program of the USDOE, to submit without prior consent to psychiatric examination, testing, or treatment, or psychological examination, testing, or treatment, in which the primary purpose is to reveal information concerning one or more of the following:
 - a. Political affiliations;
 - b. Mental or psychological problems potentially to the student or student's family;
 - c. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 - d. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
 - e. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - f. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as with lawyers, physicians, and ministers or;
 - g. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program); ~~or~~
- D. Protections of Students' Rights for Surveys, Analysis, or Evaluation - 20 USC §1232h
1. In accordance with 20 USC §1232h(b) no student shall be required, as part of any applicable program, to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation, without prior consent, that reveals information concerning:



- a. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
 - b. Mental and psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
 - c. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 - d. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 - e. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
 - f. Legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
 - g. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
 - h. Income, (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under a program).
2. Parents' or Emancipated Students' Right to Out - 20 USC §1232h(c)(2)
- a. The district shall provide notice and offer an opportunity for parents to opt their student out or for emancipated students to opt out of participation in the following activities:
 - (1) Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose).
 - (2) The administration of any survey containing one or more of the items listed in D.1. above.
 - (3) Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is:



- (a) Required as a condition of attendance;
 - (b) Administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and
 - (c) Not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.
- b. The district shall directly notify parents at least annually at the beginning of the school year of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when activities described in D.2.a. above are scheduled or expected to be scheduled in accordance with 20 USC §1232h(c)(2)(B).
3. Exceptions – 20 USC §1232h(c)(4)
 - a. The provisions of 20 USC §1232h do not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions, such as the following:
 - (1) College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment in accordance with Policy 9713;
 - (2) Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products;
 - (3) Curriculum and instructional materials used by schools in the district;
 - (4) Tests and assessments used by schools in the district to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests



and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments;

- (5) The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; and
- (6) Student recognition programs.

b. The provisions of this Policy:

- (1) Shall not be construed to preempt applicable provisions of New Jersey law that require parental notification; and
- (2) Do not apply to any physical examination or screening that is permitted or required by an applicable New Jersey law, including physical examinations or screenings permitted without parental notification.

4. Policy Adoption or Revision – 20 USC §1232h(c)(2)(A)(i)

The district shall provide this Policy to parents and students at least annually at the beginning of the school year, and provide notice within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change is made to this Policy.

E. Student Privacy – 20 USC §1232h and 34 CFR §98

The district shall ensure a student's privacy is protected regarding any information collected in accordance with this Policy.

F. Violations of the PPRA – 20 USC §1232h and 34 CFR §98

Parents or students who believe their rights under PPRA may have been violated may file a complaint with the USDOE.

In addition to the provisions of 20 USC §1232h, 34 CFR §98, and this Policy, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure compliance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34 and Policy 9560 – Administration of School Surveys before students are required to participate in any academic or nonacademic survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM
2415.05/page 7 of 7
Student Surveys, Analysis Evaluations
Examinations, Testing, or Treatment

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)
20 USC §1232h
34 CFR Part 98
Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 USC 2701 et seq.) as
amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act
N.J.S.A 18A:36-34

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 21 July 2021
Revised: 18 October 2022



2415.20 EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT COMPLAINTS

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 (ESEA). A Board of Education shall adopt a policy and written procedures for resolving a written complaint presented by an individual or organization that alleges violations in the administration of the ESSA programs as identified by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

Policy and Regulation 2415.20 set forth the requirements for resolving complaints presented by any individual or organization that:

1. A school, school district, other agency authorized by the school district, or by the NJDOE violated the administration of education programs authorized by the ESEA as amended by the ESSA; and/or
2. The NJDOE violated the administration of education programs required by the ESEA as amended by ESSA.

Complaints regarding nonpublic school officials alleging school district noncompliance must pertain to at least one of the following three specific reasons:

1. The school district did not engage in consultation that was meaningful and timely;
2. The school district did not give due consideration to the views of the nonpublic school officials; or



3. The school district did not make a decision that treats the nonpublic school or its students equitable and in accordance with ESEA Section 1117 or Section 8501.

A complaint shall be written and must identify, at a minimum, the alleged ESEA violation; a description of previous steps taken to resolve the matter; the facts supporting the alleged violation as understood by the complainant at the time of submission; and any supporting documentation.

A complaint alleging a school in the district, school district, or other agency authorized by the school district, or the NJDOE violated the administration of a program must be submitted to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall submit a written report regarding the outcome of the investigation to the complainant.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation by the school district, the complainant must submit a written complaint to the Executive County Superintendent for the county where the school district is located. This process does not apply to alleged violations concerning participation of nonpublic school children.

The Executive County Superintendent will coordinate the investigation of a Complaint. When the investigation is complete, the Executive County Superintendent will notify the complainant in writing regarding the outcome of the investigation. If it is determined a violation has occurred, the Executive County Superintendent will identify and impose the appropriate consequences or corrective action in accordance with statute and/or regulation to resolve the complaint. If the complainant is not satisfied with the determination that is made by the Executive County Superintendent, the complainant may submit a written request for review of that determination to the Assistant Commissioner.

A complaint alleging the NJDOE violated the administration of a program must be submitted to the designated New Jersey Department of Education Assistant Commissioner. The appropriate NJDOE Office assigned by the Assistant Commissioner will coordinate the investigation of a complaint. When the investigation is



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM
2415.20/page 3 of 3
No Child Left Behind Complaints

complete, the Assistant Commissioner will notify the complainant in writing regarding the outcome of the investigation. If it is determined a violation has occurred, the Assistant Commissioner will identify and impose the appropriate consequences or corrective actions as required by statute and/or regulation to resolve the complaint.

If a complainant does not agree with the NJDOE's decision, the complainant may appeal to the Secretary of the United States Department of Education.

To initiate a complaint regarding participation of nonpublic school children, complainant must submit a written complaint to the NJDOE Nonpublic Ombudsman in accordance with NJDOE procedures.

New Jersey Department of Education Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
Complaint Policy and Procedure

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 21 July 2021



2415.30 TITLE I – EDUCATIONAL STABILITY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), initiated protections for children in foster care that further enhanced the requirements of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections Act). These provisions require school districts to work with child welfare agencies to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care. New Jersey statutes support and implement Federal legislation and require New Jersey's child welfare agencies and school districts to collaborate and to keep children placed in foster care in the same school when their living placements change if remaining in that school is in the child's best interest. The educational stability of children in foster care is the joint responsibility of both the educational and child welfare systems.

The Superintendent shall be designated as the Board of Education's point of contact person for all matters related to the educational stability for children in foster care. The point of contact person for the school district shall not be the same person designated as the school district liaison for the education of welfare systems.

For the purpose of this Policy, "child welfare agency" shall be the New Jersey Department of Children and Families.

For the purpose of this Policy, "foster care" means twenty-four hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions and pre-adoptive homes.

For the purpose of this Policy, "school of origin" is the school district in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care or the school district of residency as per N.J.S.A. 30:4C-26 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12.

A child in foster care shall remain in his/her school of origin if it is determined to be in the best interest of the child for the duration of time in foster care.



Title I – Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

If a student attending the school district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 et seq. is placed in foster care, the school district contact person will collaborate with child welfare agencies to determine whether it is in the child's best interest to remain in the school district taking into consideration all factors relating to the child's best interest. These factors shall include the appropriateness of the current educational setting and proximity of placement (ESEA Section 111(g)(1)(E)(i)). These factors may include, but are not limited to:

1. Preferences of the child;
2. Preferences of the child's parent(s) or educational decision maker(s);
3. The child's attachment to the school, including meaningful relationships with staff and peers;
4. The proximity of the resource family home to the child's present school;
5. The age and grade level of the child as it relates to the other best-interest factors;
6. The needs of the child, including social adjustment and well-being;
7. The child's performance, continuity of education, and engagement in the school the child presently attends;
8. The child's special education programming if the child is classified;
9. The point of time in the school year;
10. The child's permanency goal and likelihood of reunification;
11. The anticipated duration of the placement;
12. Placement of the child's sibling(s);
13. Influence of the school climate on the child, including safety;
14. The availability and quality of the services in the school to meet the child's educational and socioemotional needs;
15. History of school transfers and how they have impacted the child;



16. How the length of the commute would impact the child, based on the child's developmental stage;
17. Whether the child is a student with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) who is receiving special education and related services or a student with a disability under Section 504 who is receiving special education or related aids and services and, if so, the availability of those required services in a school other than the school of origin; and
18. Whether the child is an English language learner (ELL) and is receiving language services, and, if so, the availability of those required services in a school other than the school of origin consistent with Title VI and the Equal Education Opportunities Act of 1974 (EEOA).

The school district's point of contact person will discuss these factors and will make every effort to gather meaningful input and participation from the relevant parties, including appropriate school personnel, in the best-interest determination.

Eligible students with disabilities retain their right to receive a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. When making a best-interest determination regarding the educational placement of a student with a disability under IDEA and Section 504, the Board must ensure that all required special education and related services are provided in the least restrictive placement where the child's unique needs, as described in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan, can be met. The school district will identify and assess all potential ELL students and provide all ELL students, including ELL students in foster care, with a language assistance program that is educationally sound and proven successful. When a best-interest determination is made for an ELL student in foster care, the Board of Education will comply with its obligations under Title VI and EEOA.

To the extent feasible, a child shall remain in his/her school of origin until a final best-interest determination is made. The child welfare agency will notify the school district of origin of the child's school placement after collaboration with the Board of Education's point of contact person and after the child's best-interest determination has been made. If a change of school is recommended by the child welfare agency, the new school shall immediately contact the school of origin to obtain relevant academic and other records of the foster care child. The financial responsibility for the payment of tuition for a foster care child placed outside the school district of origin and attending school outside the school district of origin shall be determined by the Commissioner of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12 – Determination of District of Residence.



Title I – Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

A foster care child who has been placed in this district and exits foster care during the school year will not be permitted to continue in this school district for the remainder of the school year unless they are in the sixth grade.

In the event there is a disagreement regarding school placement for a child in foster care, the school district will comply with the legal requirements for resolving the dispute. A parent can appeal a best-interest determination whenever the child changes schools.

Children placed in foster care outside the school district or origin, attending a school in that district, will be provided transportation to and from school in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-6.1 et seq. and the Transportation Policy of that district. The district of origin is financially responsible for transportation costs to and from school.

Children placed in foster care outside the school district of origin, but remaining in a school within the school district or origin, shall receive transportation to and from school on a “cost-efficient” manner and in accordance with Section 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act for the duration of the time the child is in foster care. The district or origin is financially responsible for transportation costs to and from school.

The cost of transportation shall not be considered when determining the best interest of the child.

Section 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act provides guidance on “cost-effective” transportation as it relates to the cost of reasonable travel for foster care children placed outside the school district of origin to their school of origin indicating: the child may be dropped off at a bus stop just within the school district of origin to be transported to a school in the district of origin; the school district may offer a public transportation option; the foster care parents or other families may be willing to drive the child to school in the school district of origin; the school district may utilize pre-existing bus routes or stops close to the out-of-district foster care placement that cross school district boundaries; or the foster care child may be eligible for transportation under other Federal or State requirements.

In the event there is a disagreement regarding transportation for a child in foster care, the school district will comply with the New Jersey Department of Education requirements for resolving the dispute. The Board of Education shall provide or arrange for adequate and appropriate transportation for foster care children while any disputes are being resolved.

In all cases regarding student data and records, the Board of Education will comply with all statutory requirements to protect student privacy, including Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and all other privacy requirements under Federal laws, State statutes, and administrative codes.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM

2415.30/page 5 of 5

Title I – Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12

N.J.S.A. 30:4C-26

New Jersey Department of Education Memorandum dated October 4, 2016 – Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

United States Departments of Education and Health and Human Services – Non-Regulatory Guidance – Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care – June 23, 2016

Adopted: 26 April 2017



2417 STUDENT INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

The Board of Education directs the establishment and implementation in each school building in which general education students are served, a coordinated system for planning and delivering intervention and referral services designed to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties and to assist staff who have difficulties in addressing students' learning, behavior, or health needs in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.1 and 6A:16-8.21. The Board of Education shall choose the appropriate multidisciplinary team approach, such as the Response to Intervention (RTI) or Multi-Tiered System of support (MTSS) model for planning and delivering the services required under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.

Students who are experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties shall be referred to the school's Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) Team.

The intervention and referral services shall be provided to support ~~and~~ students in the general education program and may be provided for students who have been determined to [be in] need of special education programs and services pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.1(a). The intervention and referral services provided for students who have been determined to need of special education programs and services shall be coordinated with the student's Individualized Education Program Team, as appropriate. The Child Study Team members and, to the extent appropriate, specialists in the area of disability may participate on intervention and referral services teams, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.1(D)6.

The functions of the system of intervention and referral services in each school building which general education students are served shall be pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.2(a) and as outlined in Regulation 2417.

Records of all requests for assistance, all intervention and referral services action plans, and all related student information shall be maintained in accordance with Federal and State laws and regulations and New Jersey administrative code pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.2(a)9.

The I&RS Team in each school building shall review and assess the effectiveness of each intervention and referral services action plan in achieving the identified outcomes, and modify each action plan to achieve the outcomes, as appropriate;



At a minimum, the I&RS Team shall annually review the intervention and referral services action plans and the actions taken as a result of the building's system of intervention and referral services and make recommendations to the Principal for improving school programs and services, as appropriate.

At the end of the school year, the Principal shall, in consultation with the I&RS Team, develop a report on the concerns and issues identified by the I&RS Team and the effectiveness of the services provided in achieving the outcomes identified in the intervention and referral services action plans. This report shall be provided to the Superintendent of Schools.

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 24 February 2015
Revised: 15 August 2022



2418 SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 – STUDENTS

The Board will comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the purpose of which is to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Guarantee of Rights

The Board will provide a free appropriate public education to each student with a disability regardless of the nature or severity of the disability.

The Board will make reasonable accommodations to ensure that no student with a disability, solely on the basis of the disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored by this Board, including participation in non-academic and extracurricular services and activities.

The administration will undertake to identify and locate all students with disabilities between the ages of three and twenty-two, who are residing within the district, but not receiving a public school education. The administration will take steps to notify such student and their parents of the district's duty to provide accommodations for students with disabilities as well as procedures to determine eligibility for such accommodations.

Educational Setting

The Board will ensure that a student with a disability participates with nondisabled students in activities and services to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student with a disability.

The school administration will place a student with a disability in the regular educational environment within the district unless the district demonstrates that the education of the student with a disability in the regular environment with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Evaluation and Placement

The Board will establish standards and procedures for initial evaluations and periodic re-evaluations of student who need or are believed to need accommodations, special education, and/or related services because of a disability. Evaluations may include, but are not limited to, a review of work samples, direct observation, interviews and/or administration of assessment measures.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM
2418/page 2 of 2

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – Students

Enforcement

The Building Principals are designated by the Board as the District 504 Coordinators for matters dealing with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and can be contacted at the following address or telephone numbers:

Office Address:	Gould/Mountain School	Grandview School
	Mr. Chris Checchetto	Mr. Michael Stefanelli
	132 Gould Avenue	35 Hamilton Drive East
	North Caldwell, NJ 07006	North Caldwell, NJ 07006
	973-712-4400 X 1001	973-712-4400 X 1230

Procedural Safeguards

The district will establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards with respect to the identification, evaluation or provision of services under Section 504. This system includes notice, an opportunity for the parent to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with the opportunity for participation by the parent and representation by counsel, and a review procedure. These procedural safeguards shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14 et seq., Policy 2460, Regulation 2460.8, and/or the grievance procedures outlined in Regulation 2418.

Notice

The Board will notify members of the community that the Board does not discriminate on the basis of a disability in violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Policy and Regulation 2418 may be reprinted in part or in full and distributed as adequate notice.

State or Local Law

The obligation to comply with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is not obviated or alleviated by the existence of any State or local law or other requirement that, on the basis of disability, imposes prohibitions or limits upon the eligibility of a student with a disability to receive services.

29 U.S.C. 794 (Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973)

20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

42 U.S.C. 12101 (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended)

Adopted: 26 April 2017



2422 COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Board of Education requires all students to participate in a comprehensive, sequential, health and physical education program aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) that emphasizes the natural interdisciplinary connection between wellness and health and physical education. The primary focus of the NJSLS is the development of knowledge and skills that influence healthy behaviors within the context of self, family, school, and the local and global community.

The curriculum requirements listed below address the need for students to gain knowledge and skill in caring for themselves, interacting effectively with others, and analyzing the impact of choices and consequences. The primary focus of the curriculum listed below is to help students develop concepts and skills that promote and influence healthy behaviors.

The NJSLS incorporate New Jersey statutes related to health and well-being of students in New Jersey schools. The following statutes incorporated into the NJSLS include, but are not limited to, the following requirements:

1. Accident and fire Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-2) requires regular courses of instruction in accident and fire prevention.
2. Bullying Prevention Programs (N.J.S.A. 18A:37-17) requires the establishment of bullying prevention programs.
3. Cancer Awareness (N.J.S.A. 18A:40-33) requires the development of a school program on cancer awareness by the Commissioner of Education.
4. Domestic Violence Education (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.23) allows instruction on problems related to domestic violence and child abuse.
5. Gang Violence Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.26) requires instruction in gang violence prevention for elementary school students.
6. Health, Safety and Physical Education (N.J.S.A. 18A:35) requires that all students in grades one through twelve participate in at least two and one-half hours of health, safety and physical education each school week.
7. Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Controlled Dangerous Substances, and Anabolic Steroids (N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1) requires instructional programs on drugs, alcohol,



anabolic steroids, tobacco, and controlled dangerous substances and the development of curriculum guidelines for each grade Kindergarten through twelve.

PROGRAM
2422/page 2 of 3
Health and Physical Education

8. Lyme Disease Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5.1 through 5.3) requires the development of Lyme Disease curriculum guidelines and training to all teaching staff members who instruct students with Lyme Disease.
9. Sexual Assault Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.3) requires the development of a sexual assault prevention education program by the Commissioner of Education for utilization by school districts.
10. Stress Abstinence (N.J.S.A. 18a:35-4.19 THROUGH N.J.S.A. 18a:35-4.22), also known as the ‘AIDS Prevention Act of 1999,’ requires sex education programs to stress abstinence.
11. Suicide Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111 through 113) requires instruction in suicide prevention in public schools.
12. Sexually Explicit Images through Electronic Means (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.32 and 4.33) requires instruction, once during middle school, on the social, emotional and legal consequences of distributing and soliciting sexually explicit images through electronic means.
13. Other Statutory or Administrative codes. The Board will incorporate into its health and physical education curriculum any other requirements of the NJSLS in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.7, any student whose parent presents to the Principal a signed statement that any part of the instruction in health, family life education, or sex education is in conflict with his/her conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result.

The Board of Education must provide two and one-half (2 ½) hours of health, safety and physical education courses in each school week, or proportionately less when holidays fall within the week. Recess period(s) shall not be used to meet the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5, 7 and 8.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.31, the Board of Education shall provide a daily recess period of at least twenty (20) minutes for students in grades Kindergarten through five. A recess period is not required on a school day in which the day is substantially shortened due to a delayed opening or early dismissal. The recess period shall be outdoors, if feasible. A student shall not be denied recess for any reason, except as a consequence of a violation of the school district's Code of Student Conduct, including a

PROGRAM

2422/page 3 of 3

Health and Physical Education

harassment, intimidation or bullying (HIB) investigation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13 et seq. Students may not be denied recess more than twice per week for a violation of the Code of Student Conduct or HIB investigation and these students shall be provided restorative justice activities during the recess period. Restorative justice activities mean activities designed to improve the socioemotional and behavioral responses of students through the use of more appropriate and less punitive interventions thereby establishing a more supportive and inclusive school culture. The student's recess period should be scheduled in a manner that does not interfere with the implementation of a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). School staff may deny recess for a student on the advice of a medical professional, school nurse, or the provisions of a student's IEP and/or 504 Plan.

A copy of the NJSLs for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education and all related curriculum/course guides and instructional material shall be available for public inspection in each school.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.31; 18A:35-5; 18A:35-7; 18A:35-8

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 18 October 2016

Revised: April 30, 2019



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 26.

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.

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 program:

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:15-19. 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 languages 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:14-44.10(A)2., shall be assessed annually using an alternate ELP assessment.

ELLs enrolled in a 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 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(s) or legal guardian(s) may only remove the student at the end of each school year. If a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) wishes to remove the student prior to the end of each school year, the removal shall ~~must~~ 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(s) or legal guardian(s) 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 exited student's 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, Principal, who will provide a written explanation for the decision within seven (7) 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 parent of ELLs will be notified, in accordance with law N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.13, that their child has been identified as eligible for enrollment in a bilingual, or 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.

The district will notify the parent of ELLs by mail thirty (30) days ~~as~~ of the child's identification.

Parent shall receive progress reports of students enrolled in bilingual, ESL, or English language services programs in the same manner and frequency as those 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 school district that implements a bilingual education program shall establish a parent advisory committee on bilingual education of which the majority membership shall ~~will~~ be parent 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 instruction, ESL, and English language services program every three (3) 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:35-26.1~~25~~
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10; 6A:15-1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 16 August 2011
Revised: 19 July 2016
Revised: 7 March 2023



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 a school or the schools of the district are required to close for more than three consecutive school days 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 district's virtual or remote program of instruction shall be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

In the event the school district is required to close a school or the schools of the district for more than three consecutive school days 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 Commissioner of Education shall allow the district to apply to the 180-day requirement established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9, 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 Education.

The Superintendent of Schools shall submit, with Board approval, the school district's program of virtual or remote instruction to the Commissioner of Education by no later than October 29, 2021 and annually thereafter.

A day of virtual or remote instruction, if instituted under the district's Commissioner of Education's approved program of virtual or remote instruction, shall be considered the equivalent of a full day of school attendance for the purposes of meeting State and local graduation requirements, the awarding of course credit, and other such matters as determined by the Commissioner of Education.

Any district program of virtual or remote instruction implemented for the general education students shall provide the same educational opportunities to students with disabilities. Special education and related services, including speech language services, counseling services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and behavioral services, may be delivered to students with disabilities through the use of electronic communication or a virtual or online platform and as required by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), to the greatest extent practicable.



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 and this Policy 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.

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) 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), 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 workhours 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.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(4), 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 workhours 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 available on the school district's website.

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

Adopted: 15 March 2022



2428.1 STANDARDS-BASED INSTRUCTIONAL PRIORITIES

Standards-Based Instruction

The school district shall implement a coherent curriculum for all students, including English language learners (ELLs), gifted and talented students, and students with disabilities, that is content-rich and aligned to the Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS). The curriculum shall guide instruction to ensure every student masters the CCCS.

Instruction shall be designed to engage all students and modified based on student performance. The curriculum shall include: interdisciplinary connections throughout; integration of 21st century skills; a pacing guide; a list of instructional materials including various levels of text at each grade; benchmark assessments; and modifications for special education students, English language learners in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:15, and gifted students.

The school district shall collect and analyze student achievement data by subgroups (such as economically disadvantaged, race and ethnicity, students with disabilities, English language learners) and make educational decisions based on such data.

The school district shall:

1. Transmit required student, faculty, school, and school district data to New Jersey Standards Measurement and Resources for Teaching (NJ SMART), the New Jersey Department of Education's data warehouse, on a schedule and in a form specified by the Department of Education;
2. Use NJ SMART and its data query resources to track student progress year-to-year and school-to-school and to identify continuously enrolled students by school and school district;
3. Ensure teachers, school administrators, and central office supervisors receive training in NJ SMART and its data query resources;
4. Analyze assessments of student progress in relation to curricular benchmarks and the results of State and non-State year-end tests reported by subgroups (such as economically disadvantaged, race and ethnicity, students with disabilities, and English language learners).



The school district central office staff shall prepare data on comparative performance for all schools in the district and make them available to the schools. This analysis shall include the following comparisons using State assessment data:

1. Each grade level across all schools within the district;
2. Schools within the district;
3. Comparable districts by district factor groups; and
4. Data with State averages.

The school district shall ensure a free appropriate public education is available to all students with disabilities according to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

The school district shall provide English language learners with instructional services pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:15 and provide gifted and talented students with appropriate instructional services pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1.

The school district shall provide library-media services that are connected to classroom studies in each school building, including access to computers, district-approved instructional software, appropriate books including novels, anthologies and other reference materials, and supplemental materials that motivate students to read in and out of school and to conduct research. The school district will provide these library-media services under the direction of a certified school library media specialist.

N.J.A.C. 6A:13-2.1; 6A:13-2.2

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION

The Board of Education recognizes the value of a program of athletic competition for both boys and girls as an integral part of the total school experience. Game activities and practice sessions provide opportunities to learn the values of competition and good sportsmanship. Programs of athletic competition, both intrascholastic and interscholastic, offer students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that offered by the class or school or school district alone, and an opportunity for career and educational development.

For purpose of this policy, programs of athletic competition include all activities relating to competitive sports contests, games events or sports exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students when such events occur within or between schools within this district or with any schools outside this district. The programs of athletic competition shall include, but are not limited to, intramural athletic programs within a school or among schools in g\the district.

Eligibility Standards

A student who wishes to participate in a program of athletic competition must submit, on a form provided by the district, the signed consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The consent of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student who wishes to participate in a program of athletic competition must include an acknowledgement of the physical hazards that may be encountered in the activity.

Student participation in a program of athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

Health Requirements

Good physical condition, freedom from injury, and full recovery from illness are prerequisites to participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition. Information concerning a student's HIV/AIDS status shall not be required as a part of the medical examination or health history pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:5C-1 et seq.

Students enrolled in grade six to twelve must receive a medical examination prior to participation in school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural programs of athletic competition.



A medical examination is the assessment of an individual's health status. The examination shall be conducted within 365 days prior to the first practice session with examinations being conducted at the medical home of the student. The "medical home" is defined as a health care provider and that provider's practice site chosen by the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for the provision of health care. If a student does not have a medical home, the school district shall provide this examination at the school physician's office or other comparably equipped facility. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may choose either the school physician or their own private physician to provide this medical examination.

The findings of this examination shall be documented on a form that is approved by the Commissioner of Education and shall include: immunizations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 through 4.16; medical history including allergies, past serious illnesses, injuries, operations, medications and current health problems; health screenings including height, weight, hearing, blood pressure and vision; and physical examinations. A physical examination is the examination of the body by a professional licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy or an advanced practice nurse.

The medical examination shall also include a health history questionnaire completed and signed by the parent or legal guardian. A health history is a record of a person's past health events provided by the individual, a parent or legal guardian, or health care provider.

The report of health findings of the medical examination for participation shall be documented on the Athletic Preparticipation Physical Examination Form approved by the Commissioner of Education to determine whether the student had or currently has any of the health conditions outlines in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)1.ii(1) since their last physical. The medical examination shall be conducted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:-2.2 and Regulation 2431.2.

If the student's medical examination was completed more than sixty days prior to the first practice session, the student must provide a health history update of medical problems experienced since the last medical examination in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)1.iii.4. This health history update must be completed and signed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

The school district will provide written notification to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), signed by the school physician, stating approval of the student's participation based solely on the medical report, or the written reasons for the school physician's disapproval of the student's participation. The school physician's signature on the notification indicates the medical report complies with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)iv.

The health findings of this medical examination shall be maintained as part of the student's health records.



Athletic coaches shall be trained in first aid, to include sports-related concussion and head injuries, the use of a defibrillator, the identification of student athletes who are injured or disabled in the course of any athletic program or activity, and any other first aid procedures or other health related trainings required by law or the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall prepare and present to the Board for its approval procedures for the emergency treatment of injuries and disabilities that occur in the course of any athletic program or activity. Emergency procedures shall be reviewed not less than once in each school year and shall be disseminated to appropriate staff members.

The Board shall approve annually a program of interscholastic athletics and shall require that all facilities utilized in that program, whether or not the property of this Board, properly safeguard both players and spectators and are kept free from hazardous conditions.

The Board adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association as Board policy and shall review such rules on a regular basis to ascertain they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

N.J.S.A. 2C21-11

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7; 6A:16-1.4; 6A:16-2 et seq.

Adopted: 21 March 2013



2431.4 PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a direct or indirect blow to the head or body. In order to ensure the safety of students that participate in interscholastic athletics and cheerleading programs, it is imperative that student-athletes, cheerleaders, coaches, and parents are educated about the nature and treatment of sports-related concussions and other head injuries. Allowing a student-athlete or cheerleader to return to play before recovering from a concussion increases the chance of a more serious brain injury.

Every school district that participates in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading programs is required to adopt a policy concerning the prevention and treatment of sports-related concussions and other head injuries among student-athletes and cheerleaders in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41-1 et seq. For the purpose of this Policy, “interscholastic athletics” shall be Kindergarten through twelfth grade school-sponsored athletic programs where teams or individuals compete against teams or individuals from other schools or school districts. For the purpose of this Policy, “cheerleading program” shall be Kindergarten through twelfth grade school-sponsored cheerleading programs.

The school district will adopt an Interscholastic Athletic and Cheerleading Head Injury Training Program to be completed by the team or school physician licensed athletic trainer(s) involved in the interscholastic athletic program, all staff members that coach an interscholastic sport or cheerleading program, designated school nurses, and other appropriate school district personnel as designated by the Superintendent. This Training Program shall be in accordance with guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.2.

The Principal or designee shall distribute the New Jersey Department of Education Concussion and Head Injury Fact Sheet and Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement Form to every student-athlete who participates in interscholastic sports and every cheerleader who participates in a cheerleading program. The Principal or designee shall obtain a signed acknowledgement of the receipt of the Fact Sheet by the student-athlete or cheerleader’s parent and keep on file for future reference.

Prevention of a sports-related concussion and head injuries is an important component of the school district’s program. The school district may require pre-season baseline testing of all student-athletes and cheerleaders before the student begins participation in an interscholastic athletic or cheerleading program.



Any student-athlete or cheerleader who exhibits the signs or symptoms of a sports-related concussion or other head injury during practice or competition shall immediately be removed from play and may not return to play that day. Emergency medical assistance shall be contacted when symptoms get worse, loss of consciousness, direct neck pain associated with the injury, or any other sign the supervision school staff member determines emergency medical attention is needed. If available when the student-athlete or cheerleader is exhibiting signs or symptoms, the student will be evaluated by the school nurse. The Principal or designee shall contact the student's parents and inform the parent of the suspected sports-related concussion or other head injury.

Possible signs of a concussion can be observed by any school staff member or the school nurse. Any possible symptoms of a concussion can be reported by the student-athlete or cheerleader to: coaches; school nurse; and/or parent. The Principal or designee shall provide the student-athlete or cheerleader with Board of Education approved suggestions for management/medical checklist to provide to their parent and physician or other licensed healthcare professional trained in the evaluation and management of sports-related concussions and other head injuries.

A student-athlete or cheerleader who participates in interscholastic athletics or a cheerleading program and who sustains or is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury shall be required to have a medical examination conducted by their physician or licensed health care provider. The student's physician or licensed health care provider shall be trained in the evaluation and management of concussion to determine the presence or absence of a sports-related concussion or head injury.

The student's physician or licensed health care provider must provide to the school district a written medical release/clearance for the student indicating when the student is able to return to the activity. The medical release/clearance must indicate the student-athlete or cheerleader is asymptomatic at rest and either may return to the interscholastic athletic activity or cheerleading program because the injury was not a concussion or other head injury or may begin the district's graduated return to competition and practice protocol outlined in Regulation 2431.4. A medical release/clearance not in compliance with this Policy will not be accepted. The medical release/clearance must be reviewed and approved by the school nurse.

The school district shall provide a copy of this Policy and Regulation 2431.4 to all youth sports team organizations that operate on school grounds. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.5, the school district shall not be liable for the injury or death of a person due to the action or inaction of persons employed by, or under contract with, a youth sports team organization that operates on school grounds, if the youth sports team organization provides the



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM

2431.4/page 3 of 3

Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and
Head Injuries

school district proof of an insurance policy in the amount of not less than \$50,000 per person, per occurrence insuring the youth sports team organization against liability for any bodily injury suffered by a person and a statement of compliance with the school district's Policy and Regulation 2431.4 – Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injury.

For the purposes of this Policy a “youth sports team organization” means one or more sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit; or similar charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department.

This Policy and Regulation shall be reviewed and approved by the school physician and shall be reviewed annually, and updated as necessary, to ensure it reflects the most current information available on the prevention risk, and treatment of sports-related concussion and other head injuries.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.1; 18A:40-41.2; 18A:40-41.3; 18A:40-41.4; 18A:40-41.5

Adopted: March 27, 2012
Revised: November 13, 2012



2460 SPECIAL EDUCATION

The North Caldwell School Board of Education assures compliance with Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:14-1 et seq. Furthermore, the Board will have programs and procedures in effect to ensure the following:

1. All students with disabilities, who are in need of special education and related services, including students with disabilities attending nonpublic schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, are located, identified, and evaluated according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3.
2. Homeless students are located, identified, and evaluated according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3, and are provided special education and related services in accordance with the IDEA, including the appointment of a surrogate parent for unaccompanied homeless youths as defined in 42 U.S.C. §§11431 et seq.
3. Students with disabilities are evaluated according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.5 and 3.4.
4. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed, reviewed and as appropriate, revised according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.6 and 3.7.
5. To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities are educated in the least restrictive environment according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.2.
6. Students with disabilities are included in State-wide and district-wide assessment programs with appropriate accommodations, where necessary according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10. All students with disabilities will participate in State-wide assessments or the applicable alternative assessment in grades three, four, five, six, seven, eight, and high school in the applicable courses.
7. Students with disabilities are afforded procedural safeguards required by N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.1 et seq., including appointment of a surrogate parent as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.2 and Policy 2467, when appropriate.
8. The rules set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:14 ensure a free appropriate public education is available to all students with disabilities between the ages of three and twenty-one, including students with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school:



- a. The obligation to make a free, appropriate public education available to each eligible student begins no later than the student's third birthday and that an individualized education program (IEP) is in effect for the student by that date;
 - b. If a child's third birthday occurs during the summer, the child's IEP Team shall determine the date when services under the IEP will begin;
 - c. A free appropriate public education is available to any student with a disability who needs special education and related services, even though the student is advancing from grade to grade;
 - d. The services and placement needed by each student with a disability to receive a free, appropriate public education are based on the student's unique needs and not on the student's disability; and
 - e. The services and placement needed by each student with a disability to receive a free, appropriate public education are provided in appropriate educational settings as close to the student's home as possible and, when the IEP does not describe specific restrictions, the student is educated in the school he or she would attend if not a student with a disability.
9. Children with disabilities participating in early intervention programs assisted under IDEA Part C who will participate in preschool programs under N.J.A.C. 6A:14 will experience a smooth transition and have an IEP developed and implemented according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3(e) and N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7.
 10. Full educational opportunity to all students with disabilities is provided.
 11. The compilation, maintenance, access to, and confidentiality of student records are in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.
 12. Provision is made for the participation of students with disabilities who are placed by their parent(s) in nonpublic schools according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-6.1 and 6.2.
 13. Students with disabilities who are placed in private schools by the district Board are provided special education and related services at no cost to their parent(s) according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.1(d) and N.J.A.C. 6A:14-7.5(b)3.



14. All personnel serving students with disabilities are highly qualified and appropriately certified and licensed, where a license is required, in accordance with State and Federal law, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.2(b)13.
15. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.2(b)4, the in-service training needs for professional and paraprofessional staff who provide special education, general education or related services are identified, and that appropriate in-service training is provided. The district Board shall maintain information to demonstrate its efforts to:
 - a. Prepare general and special education personnel with content knowledge and collaborative skills needed to meet the needs of children with disabilities;
 - b. Enhance the ability of teachers and others to use strategies, such as behavioral interventions, to address the conduct of students with disabilities that impedes the learning of students with disabilities and others;
 - c. Acquire and disseminate to teachers, administrators, school Board members, and related services personnel, significant knowledge derived from educational research and other sources and how the district will, if appropriate, adopt promising practices, materials and technology;
 - d. Ensure that the in-service training is integrated to the maximum extent possible with other professional development activities; and
 - e. Provide for joint training activities of parent(s) and special education, related services and general education personnel.
16. Instructional material will be provided to blind or print-disabled students in a timely manner, consistent with a plan developed by the district.
17. For students with disabilities who are potentially eligible to receive services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities in the Department of Human Services the district will provide, pursuant to the Developmentally Disabled Uniform Application Act, N.J.S.A. 30:4-25.10 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.2(b)17, the necessary materials to the parent(s) to apply for such services.



18. The school district will not accept the use of electronic mail from the parent(s) to submit requests to a school official regarding referral, identification, evaluation, classification, and the provision of a free, appropriate public education.
19. The school district will provide teacher aides and the appropriate general or special education teaching staff time for consultation on a regular basis as specified in each student's IEP, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.5(d).
20. The school district has a plan in effect to establish stability in special education programming. The plan takes into account the consistency of the location, curriculum, and staffing in the provision of special education services as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7(c)4.
21. The school district screens students who have exhibited one or more potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.1 et seq. and Policy 5339.

The school district shall provide an Assurance Statement to the County Office of Education that the Board of Education has adopted the required special education policies and procedures/regulations and the district is complying with the mandated policies and procedures/regulations.

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1 et seq.
20 USC §1400 et seq.
34 C.F.R. §300 et seq.

Adopted: 20 April 2009
Revised: 26 April, 2017



2461 SPECIAL EDUCATION/RECEIVING SCHOOLS

To demonstrate compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Board adopts policies and regulations/procedures that are required. These policies and regulations/procedures will be submitted with a Special Education Assurance Statement for Receiving Schools for Policies and Procedures to the County Office of Education no later than February 28 for approval.

1. Students with disabilities who are placed in a receiving school by a district Board of Education must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in effect prior to the delivery of services.
 - a. Procedures regarding the student's IEP shall be developed and implemented to ensure that the receiving school determines whether the student's IEP can be implemented in that setting prior to accepting the student; and
 - b. The student's teacher and, if appropriate, the student and other representatives of the receiving school will participate in meetings according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.3(i)2.
2. The receiving school will collaborate with the sending district Board of Education in the provision of a free, appropriate public education for the population served including students with disabilities who are suspended.
 - a. Procedures regarding the provision of a free, appropriate public education to students with disabilities who are suspended will be developed and implemented to ensure that school officials responsible for implementing suspensions/expulsions in the receiving school are identified.
 - b. Each time a student with a disability is removed from his/her current placement for disciplinary reasons, notification of the removal is provided to the case manager of the sending district.
 - c. A system will be in place to track the number of days a student with disabilities has been removed for disciplinary reasons.
 - d. Suspension from transportation is counted as a day of removal if the student does not attend school.



- e. Removal for a portion of the school day is counted proportionately.
- f. If the receiving school has an in-school suspension program, participation in the program is not counted as a day of removal if the program provides the following:
 - (1) Opportunity for the student to progress in the general curriculum;
 - (2) Services and modifications specified in the student's IEP;
 - (3) Interaction with peers who are not disabled to the extent they would have interaction with in the current placement; and
 - (4) The student is counted as present for the time spent in the in-school suspension program.
- g. When a series of short-term removals will accumulate to more than ten school days in the year:
 - (1) School officials of the receiving school and the sending district case manager will consult to determine whether the removals create a change of placement according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.8(b)2;
 - (2) Written documentation of the consultation between school officials and the case manager of the sending district will be maintained;
 - (3) If it is determined there is no change in placement, school officials and, the case manager of the sending district and special education teacher will consult to determine the extent to which services are necessary to:
 - (a) Enable the student to progress appropriately in the general education curriculum; and
 - (b) Advance appropriately toward achieving the goals set out in the student's IEP.
 - (4) Written documentation of the consultation and services provided will be maintained.



- h. Steps will be in place to review the behavioral intervention plan and if necessary convene the IEP team as required according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14 Appendix D, 34 C.F.R. §300-520I(1) and (2).
3. The compilation, maintenance, access to and confidentiality of student records will be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:3-6.
 - a. The IEP will be accessible to each teacher or service provider in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7(a)2.
 - b. All student records will be returned to the sending district within fifteen calendar days of a student's last day of enrollment.
4. Students with disabilities, who are placed in receiving schools by a district Board of Education, will be provided special education and related services at no cost to their parents or legal guardian(s).
5. The programs and services provided by the receiving school will be in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.1 et seq.
 - a. If a change in the delivery of special education or related services is necessary due to a change in personnel or student need, the receiving school will contact the sending district to convene an IEP team meeting to review and, if appropriate, revise the IEP.
6. All personnel serving students with disabilities will be appropriately certified and licensed where a license is required as stated in N.J.A.C. 6:11.
7. The receiving school will terminate the placement of a student with disabilities according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-7.7(a) and (a)1.
8. The in-service training needs for professional and paraprofessional staff who provide special education, general education or related services will be identified and appropriate in-service training will be provided. The receiving school will maintain information to demonstrate its efforts to:
 - a. Prepare general and special education personnel with the content knowledge and collaborative skills needed to meet the needs of children with disabilities;



- b. Enhance the ability of teachers and others to use strategies, such as behavioral interventions, to address the conduct of students with disabilities that impedes the learning of students with disabilities and others;
- c. Acquire and disseminate to teachers, administrators, school Board members, and related services personnel, significant knowledge derived from educational research and other sources and how the district will, if appropriate, adopt promising practices, materials and technology;
- d. Insure that the in-service training is integrated to the maximum extent possible with other professional development activities;
- e. Provide for joint training activities of parents and special education, related services and general education personnel; and
- f. Procedures shall be developed and implemented to ensure that the training needs of paraprofessionals, professionals and parents of students with disabilities in the five specified areas are identified and met.

Adopted: 20 April 2009



2464 GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to identify gifted and talented students within the school district and to provide these students with appropriate instructional adaptations and services. To that end, the Board directs each such student in the school district be identified and offered an appropriate educational program and services.

For purposes of this Policy, “gifted and talented students” means students who possess or demonstrate high levels of ability in one or more content areas when compared to their chronological peers in the district and who require modification of their educational program if they are to achieve in accordance with their capabilities.

For the purpose of this Policy, “instructional adaptation” means an adjustment or modification to instruction enabling a student who is gifted and talented to participate in, benefit from, and demonstrate knowledge and application of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in one or more content areas at the instructional level of the student, not just the student’s grade level.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall ensure that the appropriate instructional adaptations are designed for students who are gifted and talented.

The Superintendent or designee will develop procedures for an ongoing Kindergarten through grade twelve identification process for gifted and talented students that includes multiple measures in order to identify student strengths in intellectual ability, creativity, or a specific academic area. The district shall ensure equal access to a continuum of gifted and talented education services. The identification process shall include consideration of all students, including those who are English language learners and those with Individualized Education Plans or 504 Plans.

The Superintendent or designee will develop and document appropriate curricular and instructional modifications used for gifted and talented students indicating content, process, products, and learning environments, and including, but not limited to, additional education activities such as academic competitions, guest speakers, and lessons with a specialist.



The Superintendent or designee will take into consideration the Gifted Programming Standards, Position Statements, and White Papers of the National Association for Gifted Children in identifying and serving gifted and talented students.

The district will provide the time and resources to develop, review, and enhance instructional tools with modifications for helping gifted and talented students acquire and demonstrate mastery of the required knowledge and skills specified by the standards at the instructional level of the student.

The district will actively assist and support professional development for teachers, educational services staff, and school leaders in the area of gifted and talented instruction.

The district shall file with the New Jersey Department of Education Coordinator for Gifted and Talented Services a report by October 1, 2020 and thereafter on a schedule that coincides with the school district's New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) review pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-11. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the gifted and talented continuum of services, policies, and procedures implemented in the school district; the total number of students receiving gifted and talented services in each grade level Kindergarten through grade twelve disaggregated by race, gender, special education designation, and English language learner designation; the professional development opportunities provided for teachers, educational services staff, and school leaders about gifted and talented students, their needs, and educational development; and the number of staff employed by the school district whose job responsibilities include identification of and providing services to gifted and talented students. Programs for gifted and talented students will be periodically evaluated for their continuing efficacy and adjusted accordingly.

The parent of any student identified as gifted or talented shall be consulted regarding any program designed to address the student's particular needs.

An individual who believes the district has not complied with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-34 et seq. may file a complaint with the Board of Education. This policy for filing a complaint shall be linked to the homepage of the Board's Internet website. The Board shall issue a decision, in writing, to affirm, reject, or modify the district's action in the matter. The individual may then file a petition of appeal of the Board's written decision to the Commissioner of Education through the Office of Controversies and Disputes in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and the procedures set forth in State Board of Education regulations.



The district shall make detailed information available on its website regarding the policies and procedures used to identify students as gifted and talented and the continuum of services offered to gifted and talented students. The information shall include the criteria used for consideration for eligibility for the gifted and talented services, including the multiple measures used in the identification process to match a student's needs with services, and any applicable timelines in the identification process.

N.J.S.A. 18A:61A-2; 18A:35-4.16; 18A:35-34 through 39

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.3; 6A:8-3.1(a)5

P.L. 108-382, Sec. 10201 et seq.

Adopted: 20 April 2009

Revised: 19 September 2017

Revised: 24 November 2020



2466 NEEDLESS PUBLIC LABELING OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board of Education guarantees the privacy provided by law that no student with a disability be labeled publicly. Therefore, any reference to a student with a disability brought to the attention of the Board and/or any other potential public reference to a student with a disability will be through the use of a district-developed method of coding that would ensure a student's name or other labeling would not identify the student as a student with a disability. Examples where public labeling of students with disabilities shall be avoided include, but are not limited to, Board meeting agenda information, public address announcements, building/classroom signs, public school documents, and/or any other school publication identifying a student with a disability or class/program of students with disabilities.

Special education classes shall be referred to publicly by the name of the teacher. This applies to schedules, class lists, transportation lists, public address announcements, and any other form of communication that has any potential for any exposure other than for the use by appropriately authorized school staff.

Exceptions to the prohibition of public labeling of students with disabilities may be made upon consent of the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

All student records shall be maintained strictly in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.1 et seq.

Adopted: 20 April 2009



2467 SURROGATE PARENTS AND RESOURCE FAMILY PARENTS

Federal and State laws require the Board ensure the rights of a student are protected through the provision of an individual to act as surrogate for the parent(s) and assume all parental rights under N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.2 when:

1. The parent cannot be identified;
2. The parent cannot be located after reasonable efforts;
3. An agency of the State of New Jersey has guardianship of the student or the student is determined a ward of the State and, if the student is placed with a resource family parent, the resource family parent declines to serve as the student's parents; or
4. The student is an unaccompanied ~~homeless~~ youth as that term is defined in section 725(6) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC §11434.(a)6) and N.J.A.C. 6A:17-1.2

Qualifications and Selection

The district shall make reasonable efforts to appoint a surrogate parent within thirty days of the its determination that a surrogate parent is needed for a student. If the district fails to appoint a surrogate parent for a ward of the State, a judge may appoint a surrogate parent if the judge determines a surrogate parent is necessary for such a student.

The district shall establish a method for selecting and training surrogate parents.

The person serving as a surrogate parent shall:

1. Have no interest that conflicts with the interest of the student they represents;
2. Possess the knowledge and skills that ensure adequate representation of the student;



3. Not be replaced without cause;
4. Be at least eighteen years of age; and
5. Complete a criminal history review pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 if the person serving as the surrogate parent.

The person(s) serving as a surrogate parent may not be an employee of the New Jersey Department of Education, this district, or a public or nonpublic agency that is involved in the education or care of the child.

The Superintendent shall serve as Surrogate Parent Coordinator and will: determine whether there is a need for a surrogate parent for a student: contact any State agency that is involved with the student to determine whether the State has a surrogate parent appointed for the student: and make reasonable efforts to appoint a surrogate parent for the student within thirty days of determining that there is a need for a surrogate parent for the student.

When a student who is or may be a student with a disability is in the care of a resource family parent, and the resource family parent is not the parent of the student, the district where the resource family parent resides shall contact the student's case manager at the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) in the Department of Children and Families to determine whether the parent retains the right to make educational decisions and to determine the whereabouts of the parent.

If the parent retains the right to make educational decisions and the parent's whereabouts are known to the school district, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain all required consent from and provide written notices to the parent.

If the district cannot ascertain the whereabouts of the parent, the resource family parent, shall serve as the parent unless that person is unwilling to do so. If there is no resource family parent, or if the resource family parent is unwilling to serve as the student's parent, the Surrogate Parent Coordinator shall consult with the student's case manager at DCP&P to assist in identifying an individual to serve as a surrogate parent appointing a surrogate parent and obtaining all required consent from and providing written notices to the surrogate parent.

N.J.A.C 6A:14-2.2(d) requires the district train surrogate parents so they have the knowledge and skills that ensure adequate representation of the student. The Surrogate Parent Coordinator shall coordinate the training for surrogate parents. The training will include, but not be limited to:



1. Providing the surrogate parent a copy of:
 - a. Parental Rights in Special Education booklet;
 - b. N.J.A.C. 6A:14;
 - c. The Special Education Process;
 - d. Administrative Code Training Materials from the Department of Education website; and
 - e. Other relevant materials.
2. Providing the surrogate parent an opportunity to meet with the Surrogate Parent Coordinator to discuss the rights of the surrogate parent and the applicable statutes, administrative codes, and Federal laws. The Surrogate Parent Coordinator shall provide the surrogate parent the opportunity to review and to become familiar with the State and Federal requirements for assessment, individualized educational program development, and parental rights with respect to the referral and placement process, including their rights with respect to seeking a due process hearing if they disagree with the local procedure or decisions;
3. Providing the surrogate parent adequate time to become familiar with the student and the nature of the student's disability through a review of the student's record;
4. Providing the surrogate parent an opportunity to confer with the student's case manager to discuss the student; and
5. Other information and resources to provide the surrogate parent the knowledge and skills to ensure adequate representation of the student.

Rights of the Surrogate Parent

A surrogate parent appointed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.2 shall assume all parental rights under N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.2

Adopted: 20 April 2009

Revised: 26 April 2017

Revised: 15 March 2022



PROGRAM
2468/page 1 of 3
Independent Educational Evaluations

2468 INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATIONS

Special education law permits a parent to request an independent educational evaluation (IEE) for their child if there is disagreement with any evaluation provided by the Board of Education. An “independent educational evaluation” is an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not an employee of the public school district responsible for the education of the child in question. Such IEEs shall be provided at no cost to the parent unless the school district initiates a due process hearing in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.7 et seq. to show that its evaluation is appropriate and a final determination to that effect is made following the hearing. If it is determined the school district’s evaluation is appropriate, the parent still has the right to an IEE, but not at the school district’s expense.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Upon receipt of a parental request for an IEE, the school district shall provide the parent with information about where an IEE may be obtained and the criteria for IEEs according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.5(c)3 and (c)4 and the additional criteria outlined below in this Policy:

1. Any IEE paid for with public funds shall:
 - a. Be conducted according to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4; and
 - b. Be obtained from another public school district, educational services commission, jointure commission, a clinic or agency approved under N.J.A.C. 6A:14-5, or private practitioner, who is appropriately certified and/or licensed, where a license is required.
2. An independent medical evaluation may be obtained according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-5.1(e).

Additional criteria for an IEE shall be as follows:

1. The Board will not pay for an IEE unless it complies with the following criteria unless the parent can show that unique circumstances warrant deviation from same:
 - a. The independent evaluator must be appropriately certified and/or licensed in the State of New Jersey. In instances where no applicable

PROGRAM
2468/page 2 of 3
Independent Educational Evaluations

certification/license exists, the evaluator must provide the Board with documentation of extensive and recent training and experience related to the assessment of the known or suspected disability;

- b. The independent evaluator may only charge fees for educational evaluation services that, in the judgment of the Board, are reasonable in accordance with 2. below;
- c. The independent evaluator must be free from any conflict of interest;



- d. The independent evaluator and members of the Child Study Team must be permitted to directly communicate and share information with each other. The independent evaluator must also agree to release the assessment information, results, and report(s) to the school district prior to receipt of payment for services;
 - e. For any independent evaluation, whether paid for with public or private funds, the school district shall permit the evaluator to observe the pupil in the classroom or other educational setting, as applicable; and
 - f. The independent evaluator shall make at least one contact with the pupil's case manager for the purpose of determining how the pupil is progressing in his/her current programming.
2. The maximum allowable cost for an independent evaluation will be limited to the reasonable and customary rate. This rate shall be in the range of what it would cost the Board to provide the same type of assessment through either another public school district, educational services commission, jointure commission, a clinic or agency approved under N.J.A.C. 6A:14-5, or private practitioner, who is appropriately certified and/or licensed, where a license is required. The Board shall not be responsible for any costs beyond the IEE, such as transportation, lodging, food, etc.

PROGRAM
2468/page 3 of 3
Independent Educational Evaluations

- a. The parent may provide documentation to the Board demonstrating unique circumstances to justify an IEE that exceeds the reasonable and customary rate. If, in the Board's judgment, there is no justification for the excess cost, the Board may agree to fund the IEE up to the school district's maximum allowable cost with the parent responsible for any remaining costs. In the alternative, the Board may request a due process hearing to enforce its established maximum allowable cost.

Upon receipt of a parental request for an IEE, the school district shall take steps to ensure the IEE is provided without undue delay or not later than twenty calendar days after receipt of the parental



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

request, the school district shall request a due process hearing in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.7 et seq. to show that its evaluation is appropriate.

If a parent requests an IEE, the school district may ask the parent to explain why he or she objects to the school district's evaluation. However, the school district shall not require such an explanation and shall not delay either providing the IEE or initiating a due process hearing to defend the school district's evaluation.

Any IEE submitted to the district, including an IEE obtained by the parent at private expense, shall be considered in making decisions regarding special education and related services.

If an Administrative Law Judge orders that an IEE be conducted, the IEE shall be obtained by the district in accordance with the decision or Order of the Administrative Law Judge, and the Board of Education shall pay the cost of the IEE in accordance with the provisions of this Policy.

A parent is entitled to only one IEE paid for by the Board each time the school district conducts an evaluation with which the parent disagrees.

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.5; 6A:14-2.7
CFR Section 300.502

Adopted: 15 June 2021



2481 HOME OR OUT-OF-SCHOOL INSTRUCTION FOR A GENERAL
EDUCATION STUDENT FOR REASONS OTHER THAN A
TEMPORARY OR CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION

The Board of Education shall provide instructional services to an enrolled general education student at the student's home or other suitable out-of-school setting under the following conditions:

- A. The student is mandated by State law and rule for placement in an alternative education program but placement is not immediately available;
- B. The student is placed on short-term or long-term suspension from participation in the general education program; or
- C. A court order requires the student receive instructional services in the home or other out-of-school setting.

The school district in which a student resides shall be responsible for the costs of providing instruction in the home or out-of-school setting either directly, or through online services, including any needed equipment, or through contract with another Board of Education, Educational Services Commission, Jointure Commission or approved clinic or agency. The district shall provide services no later than five school days after the student has left the general education program.

The services to be provided shall meet the minimum standards as required in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.2(d).

The teacher(s) providing instruction shall be a certified teacher. The teacher shall provide one-on-one instruction for no fewer than ten hours per week on three separate days of the week and no fewer than ten hours per week of additional guided learning experiences that may include the use of technology to provide audio and visual connections to the student's classroom.

The instruction shall meet the Core Curriculum Content Standards and the Board of Education's requirements for promotion and graduation.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM

2481/page 2 of 2

Home or Out-of-School Instruction for a General
Education Student for Reasons Other Than a
Temporary or Chronic Health Condition

If instruction is delivered in the student's home, a parent or other adult twenty-one (21) years of age or older who has been designated by the parent shall be present during all periods of home instruction.

N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 through 18A:38-25
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.2

Adopted: 3 November 2000

Revised: 24 February 2015



2510 ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS

The Board of Education shall approve all textbooks used in the educational program of this district. "Textbook" means the principal source of instructional material for any given course of study, in whatever form the material may be presented, which is available or distributed to every student enrolled in the course of study.

The Board shall consider for approval only those textbooks that have been selected and recommended by the Superintendent.

In considering the approval of any proposed textbooks, the Board will weigh its value as a learning tool; its suitability for the maturity level and educational accomplishment of the students who will be using the book; its freedom from bias; its relationship to a course of study adopted by the Board; its relationship to a continuous multigrade program; its impact on community standards of taste; the manner by which it was selected; and its cost, appearance, and durability.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the selection of textbooks that include effective consultation with professional staff members at all appropriate levels.

Textbooks currently in use shall be periodically evaluated for their continuing usefulness and relevance and shall be replaced or updated with new editions as often as necessary to meet the needs of students and the curriculum.

A list of all approved textbooks shall be maintained and revised annually by the Superintendent and made available for the use of the professional staff and for the information of members of the Board and the public.

N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1; 18A:34-2

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2520 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES

The Board of Education shall supply each teaching staff member with the supplies, materials, and equipment necessary for the implementation of the approved program and each student 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 by the Board 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 his or her financial inability to bear the cost of such clothing, equipment, or materials.

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

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

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2530 RESOURCE MATERIALS

The Board of Education shall provide resource materials to implement district and school educational goals and objectives as student needs dictate and district resources permit. Such materials include reference books, other supplementary titles, maps, library print and non-print materials, and other sources of information for use by students that are not designated as textbooks.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the selection and maintenance of all resource materials, in accordance with the following standards:

1. Material will be suited to the varied interests, abilities, reading levels, and maturation levels of the students to be served;
2. Wherever possible, materials will provide major opposing views on controversial issues so that students may develop under guidance the practice of critical reading and thinking;
3. Wherever possible, materials will represent the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contribution to American heritage;
4. Materials will be factually accurate and of genuine literary or artistic value;
5. Materials will be of a quality and durability appropriate to their intended uses and longevity;
6. Materials will relate to, support, and enrich the courses of study adopted by the Board.

The Superintendent will develop regulations for the selection of resource materials that provide for the effective consultation of teaching staff members at all appropriate levels; ensure that the Board's budgetary allotment for resource materials is efficiently spent and wisely distributed throughout the instructional program and the district; and ensure an inventory of resource materials that is well balanced and well rounded in coverage of subject, types of materials, and variety of content.

The Superintendent will evaluate the continuing effectiveness and utility of resource materials and recommend to the Board the removal of those materials that no longer meet the standards set forth in this policy. Any request for the removal of resource materials will be governed by Policy No. 9130 on public complaints.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2531 USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS

The Board of Education encourages teaching staff members to make judicious use of appropriate printed materials, sound recording, televised programs, and computer software in the curriculum but recognizes that federal law, applicable to public school districts, protects the originators of those materials from the unauthorized use of their copyrighted works. The Board expressly forbids the use of school equipment for the illegal reproduction of copyrighted materials.

In order to define the fair and reasonable use that teaching staff members may make of copyrighted works for educational purposes without the permission of the copyright owner and to reduce the risk of copyright infringement, the Board directs the Superintendent to promulgate regulations regarding the copying and distribution of copyrighted materials for instructional purposes.

Computer software may be reproduced only for archival purposes or when copying is an essential step in the utilization of the program. Computer software should be purchased in sufficient quantity to permit its classroom use without simultaneous loading. Where appropriate, the Superintendent shall seek a licensing agreement with the software publisher that permits the reproduction of software, the simultaneous use of software, and the purchase of multiple copies of software at discount prices.

Students and staff members shall be instructed that copyright infringement is a form of theft. A student or staff member who reproduces or uses copyrighted material in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline.

17 U.S.C. 101 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2551 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The Board of Education will purchase and maintain a supply of musical instruments for students enrolled in the instrumental music program to use during scheduled Instrumental class period.

In general, students are encouraged to purchase their own musical instruments. District-owned instruments will be available to those students for whom the purchase of a musical instrument would impose a difficult financial burden.

District-owned instruments will be available to students, in the order in which requests are made, until the supply is exhausted. If necessary, instruments will be redistributed among schools to satisfy the demand.

Instruments will be loaned only to those students whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) has agreed in writing to assure the safe return of the instrument and to bear the cost of necessary repairs.

No fee will be charged for the loan of district-owned musical instruments.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2560 LIVE ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

The Board of Education recognizes that the appropriate use of live animals as instructional resources can enrich the educational program. The observation and nurture of live animals can help children learn specific biological and behavioral principles and gain respect for all living things.

A staff member who uses live animals shall observe proper precautions for the safety of students and the animals. The Principal must approve the use of any animal in a course of instruction or the establishment of an animal habitat in a classroom.

Any animal used in school must have been lawfully acquired in accordance with applicable state law and local ordinance. An animal susceptible to rabies must have been vaccinated against rabies. No animal shall be permitted in any area of the school where a student who is allergic to the animal might be exposed to the animal.

A teacher or other qualified adult must assume primary responsibility for the animal, its nourishment, and its sanitary living conditions. The staff member in charge must make proper arrangements for the animal's care and feeding over weekends, holidays, and school vacation periods.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2610 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM EVALUATION

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent to develop and implement a systematic plan for the continuous evaluation of the educational program against the educational goals established by this Board. The Superintendent shall employ such tests and methods that will ensure decision making is data driven and a variety of sources of data are used to analyze and monitor student achievement and progress, as well as evaluate school programs. Wherever possible, the assessment program shall follow evaluation procedures set forth in the course guides.

The Superintendent shall maintain a calendar of assessment activities and shall make periodic evaluation reports to the Board that evaluate the progress of students and the effectiveness of staff members. The Superintendent shall use multiple (more than two) sources of data to monitor student achievement and the progress of students. The Superintendent shall also use multiple (more than two) sources of data to evaluate the effectiveness of programs, initiatives and strategies.

The Board will annually make available to the public the collective progress of students toward the goals of the district. The Board will annually, prior to the end of the school year and in conjunction with appropriate members of the administrative staff, conduct a review of the educational progress of the district, assess district and student needs, and establish long range and short range objectives for the educational program. The Board's annual report will be submitted to the Commissioner of Education as required.

The Superintendent shall annually recommend improvements in the educational program based on the Board's evaluation of the district's program. The Board reserves the right to employ experts from outside the school district to serve in the evaluation process.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-11

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 19 July 2016

Revised: 30 April 2019



2622 STUDENT ASSESSMENT

State assessments provide parents with important information about their child's progress; detailed diagnostic information about each individual student's performance that educators, parents, and students can utilize to enhance foundational knowledge and student achievement; and include item analysis which will clarify a student's level of knowledge and understanding of a particular subject or area of a subject. The data derived from State assessments are utilized by teachers and administrators to pinpoint areas of difficulty and customize instruction accordingly. Such data can be accessed and utilized as a student progresses to successive school levels.

The Commissioner of Education, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 et seq. and 18A:7E-2 and 3, may implement assessments of student achievement in any grade(s) and by such assessments as the Commissioner deems appropriate. The system and related schedule of Statewide assessments shall be approved by the New Jersey State Board of Education. The school district shall, according to a schedule prescribed by the Commissioner, administer the applicable Statewide assessments pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(c) and (d).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(c), all students at grade levels three through twelve, and at any other grade(s) designated by the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(a), shall take all appropriate Statewide assessments as scheduled. The school district will provide accommodations or modifications to the Statewide assessment system in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d).

Students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 shall participate in Statewide assessments in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10. The school district shall administer the alternative State assessment for students with disabilities in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d)3.

The school district shall implement alternative ways for students to demonstrate graduation proficiency in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6, (f), (g), (h), or (i), as applicable.



The school district shall maintain an accurate record of each student's performance on Statewide assessments and maintain for every student a ninth grade through graduation transcript in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2(d). The Superintendent shall report assessment results to the public and provide educators, parents, and students with assessment results in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.3.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 et seq.; 18A:7E-2; 18A:7E-3

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 et seq.; 6A:8-5.1; 6A:14-1.1 et seq.; 6A:14-3.7; 6A:14-4.10

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 13 November 2012
Revised: 14 July 2015
Revised: 19 July 2016
Revised: 19 September 2017
Revised: 15 March 2022
Revised: 18 October 2022



2624 GRADING SYSTEM

The Board of Education recognizes that a system of measuring, recording, and reporting the achievements of individual students is important to the continuing process of learning. The Board, therefore, directs the instructional program of this school district include a system of grading that measures progress toward the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and the educational goals of the district.

Students shall be informed at the outset of any course of study of the behaviors and achievements that are expected of them and shall be kept informed of their progress during the course of study. As a rule, grading should reward students for positive efforts and minimize failure, and students should be encouraged to evaluate their own achievements.

The Superintendent shall develop and continually review in consultation with teaching staff members, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and students, a grading program appropriate to the course of study and maturity of students. The final decision on any contested grade will be the responsibility of the Principal. A student classified as disabled will be graded in accordance with his/her Individualized Educational Program (IEP) or the Section 504 Plan.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2631 NEW JERSEY QUALITY SINGLE ACCOUNTABILITY CONTINUUM (QSAC)

The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools will work with the New Jersey Department of Education to comply with the requirements of the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) system in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq. QSAC is the New Jersey Department of Education monitoring and evaluating system for public school districts. Public school districts in New Jersey are evaluated in five key component areas of school effectiveness – instruction and program, personnel, fiscal management, operations, and governance – to determine the extent to which the school district is providing a thorough and efficient education.

Weighted quality performance indicators established by the Department of Education shall be used by the Commissioner of Education to assess school district performance and capacity during the comprehensive reviews pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.1 through 3.4, the in-depth evaluation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.3, and monitoring of an approved QSAC district improvement plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.6. The weighted quality performance indicators shall also be used by the Commissioner in determining whether to initiate intervention activities pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-6.2, withdrawal from intervention pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.1, and initial placement of Level II, Level III, and State-Operated School Districts on the performance continuum pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-8.3.

The Commissioner shall conduct a comprehensive review of each public school district every three years. In the intervening years, the Commissioner shall assess the school district's performance to determine whether conditions exist in the school district that significantly and negatively impact the educational program or operations of the school district.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for completing the District Performance Review in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2. The District Performance Review and a Statement of Assurance prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2(e) shall be approved by the Board of Education by resolution and submitted to the County Superintendent of Schools in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2(f) and (g). The district's District Performance Review and the Statement of Assurance will be reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.3. The Commissioner shall issue a final determination of the school district's performance and initial placement on the performance continuum in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-4.1.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM
2631/page 2 of 2

New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum
(QSAC)

The district will be required to commence improvement activities as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.3 through 5.7 in the event it satisfies less than eighty percent of the weighted quality performance indicators in one or more key components of school district effectiveness. Where appropriate, pursuant to the factors as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:30-6.2, the Commissioner may seek forms of partial or full intervention in a school district as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:30-6.1 et seq. Withdrawal from partial or full State intervention shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7 et seq.

No provision of N.J.A.C. 6A:30 – Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts, shall limit the ability of the Department to monitor public school districts’ practices by, among other things, conducting on-site visits to observe instructional practices and school facilities or take other such action as in the judgment of the Commissioner or his/her designee that may be warranted to ensure the satisfaction of any statutory or constitutional obligation.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-3 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



2700 SERVICES TO NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Board of Education shall provide, in accordance with law and to the limit of State aid available for such purposes, services to students enrolled in nonpublic schools located within this school district in which a child may legally fulfill compulsory school attendance requirements and which complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Textbooks N.J.S.A. 18A:58-37.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:23-6.1 et seq.

The Board shall, on individual request, purchase and loan, without charge, textbooks to students attending a nonpublic school located in this district, provided the student is a New Jersey resident and the student's tuition is not paid by a district Board of Education. Such loan of textbooks will be indicated in each book by a label. Any textbook so loaned will remain the property of this Board. Textbooks loaned to nonpublic school students shall be returned at the end of the school year or the district may enter into agreements with the nonpublic schools to store the textbooks without cost to this Board.

A request for the loan of textbooks shall be signed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of nonpublic school students and submitted in writing directly to this Board or may be forwarded collectively by the nonpublic school. Requests must be received by the Board by March 1 of the preceding school year.

Textbooks shall be purchased in the same manner as are textbooks purchased for use in this district. Nonpublic school students shall be subject to the rules and sanctions for the care of textbooks set forth in Policy No. 5513, Care of School Property, in the same manner as are students of this district.

Remedial Services N.J.S.A. 18A:46-19.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.1 et seq.

The Board shall provide services for the identification, referral, evaluation, and determination of eligibility for special education and/or related services, the development of individualized education programs, and speech correction for articulation disorders.

The eligibility of students in nonpublic schools for such services shall be determined by the criteria established by rules of the State Board and used to determine the eligibility of students enrolled in this district for the same services. Services shall be provided only upon the written consent of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student and shall include procedural



safeguards provided to students of this district under N.J.A.C. 6A:14.2 et seq. and Policy No. 2460.

Remedial services will be supplied by appropriately certified personnel who are not employees of the nonpublic school, except that speech correction may be provided by employees of the nonpublic school. Such services shall be provided only upon consent of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student. Services may also be provided under contract with a public or private agency approved by the Commissioner for the provision of remedial services. The location in which services are provided will be determined by the Board, and will comply with rules of the State Board.

Auxiliary Services N.J.S.A. 18A:46A-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.1 et seq.

The Board shall provide supportive services for acquiring communication proficiency in the English language for children of limited English speaking ability, supplementary instruction services, and home instruction services. Auxiliary services will be provided only upon the written consent of the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Auxiliary services may be provided by appropriately certified personnel who are employees of this district or of the nonpublic school. Services may also be provided under contract with a public or private agency approved by the Commissioner for the provision of auxiliary services. The location in which services are provided will be determined by the Board, and will comply with rules of the State Board.

Nursing and Emergency Services N.J.S.A. 18A:40-23 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4 et seq.

The Board shall provide basic nursing services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4 et seq. within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for this purpose according to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-23. Nursing services shall include the extension of emergency care for students enrolled full time in the nonpublic school who are injured or become ill at school, or during participation on a school team or squad pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4(a)1.

The Superintendent and the administrator of the nonpublic school shall meet annually to review funding, to agree on basic nursing services and additional medical services to be provided based on funding, and to assure the nonpublic school has a copy of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-23 to 31. If agreement cannot be reached between the district and the nonpublic school, the County Office of Education shall be consulted for clarification. The district may provide additional nursing services when all basic nursing services have been provided, or will be provided, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for this purpose according to N.J.S.A.



18A:40-23. The nursing services provided to a nonpublic school shall not include instructional services.

Funds spent on services delivered under this policy in any one nonpublic school shall not exceed the amount allocated to that school on a per student basis, less the cost to this district of administrative services directly attributable to the provision of such services or six percent of the funds allocated for each participating nonpublic school, whichever is less.

Nursing services shall include assistance with medical examinations and dental screening, screening of hearing examinations, maintenance of student health records, notification of local and county health officials of any student who has not been properly immunized, and the conduct of scoliosis examinations. If the Board and the nonpublic school agree, emergency care shall be provided to nonpublic school students who become ill or are injured in school or during participation on a school athletic team or squad in the same manner such services are provided to students of this district.

Nursing and health care services shall be provided by a professional registered nurse licensed in New Jersey who is an employee of this district, an employee of a third party contractor, or an independent contractor. The location of the services will be determined by the Board and will comply with the rules of the State Board.

The Board may purchase equipment and supplies for the provision of services under this policy, within the allocation of funds, and may lend any such equipment to a nonpublic school without charge provided it is understood that such equipment remains the property of the Board.

A nonpublic school student whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) objects in writing to the receipt of nursing services shall not be compelled to receive such services; except for a physical examination to determine whether the student is ill or infected with a communicable disease.

The Superintendent or designee will retain a written statement verifying the annual meeting was held with the nonpublic school. The Superintendent or designee will also retain a copy of the contract document; Board meeting minutes approving the contract that describes the methods by which nursing services to the nonpublic students will be provided for the ensuing school year; a rationale for the distribution of funds; and a description of the type and number of services which were provided during the previous year to nonpublic students will be recorded on a form provided by the Commissioner of Education as required in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4(a).

Delivery of Services

The Board shall provide any transportation necessitated by the provision of services under this policy.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM
2700/page 4 of 4
Services to Nonpublic School Students

Records regarding individual students receiving services under this policy shall be kept in accordance with State Board rules and Policy No. 8330 on Student Records.

The Board shall, file with the Commissioner a report on the number of nonpublic school students identified as eligible to receive services at a time and in a form required by the New Jersey Department of Education.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-23 et seq.; 18A:40A-17I;
18A:46-19.1 et seq.; 18A:46A-1 et seq.;
18A:58-37.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.1 et seq.; 6A:16-2.4 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3111 CREATING POSITIONS

The Board of Education recognizes its authority to create and fill teaching staff member positions to implement a thorough and efficient system of free public schools.

The Board shall create new positions as they are required, approve job titles, and specify the number of positions required to staff adequately each employment category. Job descriptions shall be prepared in accordance with Policy No. 1400. The Board shall, on a careful review of the position, establish the background experiences and personal qualities, if any, to be required of candidates or preferred among applicants for a particular position. Any such local qualifications shall be flexibly applied.

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board such new positions or additions to existing employment categories as may be required by the specific instructional needs of students of the district and each school within the district.

Positions shall, to the maximum extent possible, conform to certification regulations of the State Board of Education. When district organization requires the creation of a nonconforming, unrecognized position, the approval of the county Superintendent shall be sought before the position is filled.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1; 18A:28-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.1; 6A:9-5.5
P.L. 1995 Chapter 125

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3112 ABOLISHING POSITIONS

The Board of Education will provide the professional staff necessary for the economical and efficient implementation of the educational program of the district. The Board reserves the right to abolish positions and reduce district staff commensurately whenever reasons of economy, reorganization of the school district, reduction in the number of students, or other good cause so warrant. The Superintendent shall continually review the efficiency and effectiveness of the district organization and recommend to the Board the abolishment of positions and the reallocation of duties and positions.

N.J.S.A. 18A:28-1; 18A:28-9 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3124 EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

The Board of Education requires that every nontenured teaching staff member employed by this district annually sign an employment contract for a term of not more than one year.

The employment contract shall include the specific title of the position to which the teaching staff member is appointed; the term for which employment is contracted, including beginning and ending dates; a full description of the certification held by the teaching staff member; the salary at which the teaching staff member will be employed; the intervals at which the salary will be paid; and a provision for the termination of the contract on sixty days notice duly given by either party.

In the event that the salary entered on the written contract differs from that approved by the Board in a resolution duly adopted, the salary approved by the Board shall be the salary paid.

N.J.S.A. 18A:27-2 et seq.; 18A:28-8
N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.1; 6A:9-5.2

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3125 EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

The Board of Education believes it is vital to the successful operation of the school district that teaching staff member positions be filled with highly qualified and competent professionals.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1, the Board shall appoint, transfer, remove, or renew a certificated or non-certificated officer or employee only upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and by a recorded roll call majority vote of the full membership of the Board. The Board shall not withhold its approval for arbitrary and capricious reasons. The Board shall approve the employment, fix the compensation and establish the terms of employment for every teaching staff member employed by this district.

No teaching staff member shall be employed unless he/she is a holder of a valid certificate in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Education and applicable statutes and administrative codes. The Superintendent shall require proof of any candidate's certification or pending application for certification.

The Board will employ substitutes for absent teachers in order to ensure continuity in the instructional program and will annually approve a list of substitutes and rate of pay. The Superintendent or designee shall select substitutes from the list approved by the Board to serve in the place of an absent teaching staff member.

The Board may use a private contractor to secure a substitute teacher in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9 et seq.

The Board shall approve the employment, fix the compensation and set the term of employment for each person employed in a summer school program. The Board will employ only those candidates recommended by the Superintendent. Service as a summer school teacher will not count toward the accrual of tenure or seniority.

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board the employment of qualified coaches for the district's interscholastic and/or intramural athletic programs. The Board will employ as athletic coaches only those persons who have experience in and knowledge of the specific sport, are properly certified and possess the personal characteristics that qualify them to serve as role models to students.

Any teaching staff member in the employ of the Board of Education shall be permitted to organize public school students for purposes of coaching or for conducting games, events, or contests in physical education or athletics. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.18(b) the Superintendent may recommend to the Board the employment of a qualified



candidate for an interscholastic athletic coaching position who is a holder of either a New Jersey teaching certificate or a substitute credential, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-6.5, to work in the interscholastic athletic program provided the position has been advertised. The twenty (20) day limitation noted in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-6.5(b) shall not apply to coaching situations.

An athletic coach employed by this district who is not a regular employee of this district shall be employed only for the duration of the specific sport season. He/she shall be paid the stipend and no out-of-district athletic coach shall be eligible for tenure or for employment benefits.

An athletic trainer shall possess an educational services certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.4 and 18A:26-2.5.

The Board of Education shall not employ for pay or contract for the paid services of any teaching staff member or any other person serving in a position which involves regular contact with students unless the Board has first determined, consistent with the requirements and standards of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq., that no criminal history record information exists on file in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Identification Division, or the State bureau of Identification which would disqualify the individual from being employed or utilized in such capacity or position.

An individual employed by the Board in any substitute capacity or position shall be required to undergo a criminal history record check in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1b.

Criminal history record checks will be required pursuant to New Jersey Department of Education regulations and procedures. Any person to be employed by the district, other than a school bus driver, must undergo a criminal history background check. School bus drivers are subject to criminal history record checks in accordance with New Jersey and Federal licensing requirements. All contracted employees having regular student contact must undergo a criminal record history check. Approval letters will be valid only for the district or contract service provider through which the person to be employed made application for employment.

A permanent employee hired prior to October 8, 1986, who applies for and is selected for a different position in the district is “grandfathered” and not required to undergo a criminal history background check. An employee hired after October 8, 1986 for a position without regular student contact and later receives a position with student contact, must undergo a criminal history background check at the time of transfer to the new position.

Individuals who provide volunteer services are not subject to this criminal history record information requirement. The Board reserves the right to require criminal history review of any volunteer. Student teachers are subject to this criminal history record information requirement.



An individual shall be permanently disqualified from employment or service in the school district if the criminal history record check reveals a record of conviction for crimes as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.

Substitute employees, who are rehired annually by the Board, are required to undergo a criminal history record check upon initial employment, provided the substitute continues in the employ of at least one of the districts at which the substitute was employed within one year of the approval of the criminal history record check. A substitute employee later selected for a permanent position within the district does not need to undergo a new criminal history background check provided there is no break in service in the substitute employment. A break in service is when the employee is no longer approved by the employing Board of Education. An employee who has been laid off (dismissed because of employee reduction) and is asked to be re-employed by the district and/or contractor must submit to a new criminal history background check.

The Board or contracted service provider may employ an applicant on an emergent basis for a period not to exceed three months, pending completion of a criminal history records check if the Board or contractor demonstrates to the Commissioner of Education that special circumstances exist which justify the emergent employment as prescribed in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.lc. In the event the criminal background check is not completed for an emergent hired employee within three months, the Board or contractor may petition the Commissioner for an extension of time, not to exceed two months, in order to retain the employee.

No criminal history record check shall be furnished unless the applicant provided written consent to the check. The applicant shall bear the cost for the check, including all costs for administering and processing the check. The district will deny employment to an applicant if the applicant is required and refuses to submit to a criminal history background check.

The Board of Education prohibits any relative of a Board member or Superintendent of Schools from being employed in an office or position in the school district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2 and Board Policy 0142.1 – Nepotism.

A teaching staff member's misstatement of fact material to his/her qualifications for employment or the determination of his/her salary will be considered by the Board to constitute grounds for dismissal.

All new employees will be required, within three days of the first day of hire, to complete the federal Form I-9 and supply the documentation necessary to demonstrate the employee's identity and employment eligibility under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Completed Forms I-9 will be retained for three years or until one year after the end of the employee's separation, whichever is longer.



Part-time Teaching Staff Members

A “part-time teaching staff member” is a member employed less than full-time. “Full-time” is employment for a full school day and a full school week; a full school day is defined by the worksite, and a full school week is five days, Monday through Friday.

Substitute Teachers

The Board will employ substitutes for absent teachers in order to ensure continuity in the instructional program and will annually approve a list of substitutes and the rate of pay.

The Superintendent may select substitutes from the list approved by the Board to serve in the place of an absent teacher who retains an entitlement to a regular position. The Superintendent may employ, subject to ratification by the Board at the next meeting of the Board, substitutes who have not received the prior approval of the Board when no approved substitute is available.

Preference will be given to substitutes who are fully certified in the area for which they are engaged. A substitute who holds a county substitute certificate or a regular certificate without appropriate endorsements shall serve no more than twenty consecutive days in the same position.

A substitute teacher shall follow the daily lesson plan provided by the regular teacher and, when that plan is exhausted or unavailable, the instructions of the Principal. A substitute may not plan or direct an instructional program except as expressly permitted by the Superintendent.

Summer School Teachers

The Board shall approve the employment, fix the compensation, and set the term of employment for each person employed in the summer school program established for this district. The Board will employ only those candidates recommended by the Superintendent.

Primary consideration will be given to candidates for summer school employment who are employed in this district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-5 18A:6-6;18A:6-7.1; 18A:6-7.1b; 18A:6-7.1c; 18A:6-7.2;18A:16-1; et seq.;
18A:26-1 et seq.; 18A:27-1 et seq.; 18A:27-4.1;18A:27-7; 18A:27-8

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

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.18; 6A:9-5.19

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 15 July 2014



3125.2 EMPLOYMENT OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The Board of Education will employ substitutes in order to ensure continuity in the instructional program and will approve a list of substitutes on an annual basis and additional approved substitutes will be added to the approved list throughout the school year. Substitute teachers will be employed from the substitute list recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board. The Board shall also approve the substitute rate of pay.

All substitute teachers must possess a substitute credential issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:9-6.5. All substitute teachers are required to undergo a criminal history record check in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq. and New Jersey Department of Education regulations and procedures for criminal history record check. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1b., a substitute teacher who is rehired annually by the Board shall only be required to undergo a criminal history check as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et. seq. upon initial employment, provided the substitute continues in the employ of at least one of the districts at which the substitute was employed within one year of the approval of the criminal history record check.

A substitute teacher shall follow the daily lesson plan provided by the regular teacher and, when that plan is exhausted or unavailable, the instructions of the Principal. A substitute teacher may not plan or direct an instructional program except as expressly permitted by the Superintendent.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1b., a vacant teacher position shall not be filled in any school year by one or more individuals employed as substitute teachers and holding a certificate of eligibility or a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners and working in an area authorized by their credentials for the total amount of time exceeding sixty school days. The Executive County Superintendent of Schools may grant an extension upon written application from the school district demonstrating the district's inability to hire an appropriately certified teacher for the vacant position within the original sixty-day time limit. In the event that one individual employed pursuant to this provision is employed in the same position for more than sixty days, the substitute shall be compensated by the school district on a pro-rata basis consistent with the salary provided to the teacher with similar credentials in the school district.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1c., a vacant teaching position shall not be filled in any school year by one or more individuals employed as substitute teachers and holding a certificate of eligibility or a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners and working in an area not authorized by their credentials for a total amount of time exceeding twenty school days. The Executive County



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3125.2/page 2 of 2
Employment of Substitute Teachers
May 11

Superintendent of Schools may grant an extension of up to an additional twenty days upon written application from the school district demonstrating the district's inability to hire an appropriately certified teacher for the vacant position within the original twenty-day time limit.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1d., a vacant teaching position shall not be filled in any school year by one or more individuals employed as substitute teachers and holding a standard instructional certificate issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners and working in an area not authorized by their credentials for a total amount of time exceeding forty school days.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1a., a vacant teaching position shall not be filled in any school year by one or more individuals holding a substitute credential issued by the New Jersey State Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-38 for a total amount of time exceeding twenty school days. The Commissioner of Education may grant an extension of up to an additional twenty school days upon written application from the school district demonstrating the district's inability to hire an appropriately certified teacher for the vacant position within the original twenty-day time limit.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.; 18A:16-1.1a.; 18A:16-1.1b.;
18A:16-1.1c.; 18A:16-1.1d.

Adopted: 16 August 2011



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3126/page 1 of 2

District Mentoring Program

May 17

3126 DISTRICT MENTORING PROGRAM

The Board of Education shall develop a district mentoring program to provide nontenured teachers, including novice professional teachers who hold a certificate of eligibility (CE) or certificate of eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS) with an induction to the teaching profession and to the school community through differentiated supports based on the teachers' individual needs and to help them become effective professionals.

The goals of the district mentoring program shall be to enhance teacher knowledge of, and strategies related to, the New Jersey Student Learning Standards to facilitate student achievement and growth; identify exemplary teaching skills and educational practices necessary to acquire and maintain excellence in teaching; and assist first-year teachers in performing their duties and adjusting to the challenges of teaching. The Board of Education shall determine how each nontenured teacher in his or her first year of employment shall be provided with supports as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.1(c). The Board shall provide an individual mentor to work one-on-one with a novice provisional teacher in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.1(d). The Superintendent shall oversee the mentor selection process and ensure the individual mentor meets the minimum requirements required in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.2(a).

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.4, an approved agency and its designated staff shall be authorized to provide the services, evaluations, and recommendations specified within N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.6, 8.7 and 8.9 for provisional Teachers of Supplemental Instruction in Reading and mathematics, Grades K-8 in their employ.

The district's local mentoring plan shall be in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.1 et seq.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall develop the district mentoring plan in accordance with the requirements outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.3 as part of the school district's professional development plan (PDP) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C4.4. The district mentoring plan shall include logistics for its implementation and describe the school district's responsibilities pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.1 et seq.

The Board of Education shall budget State funds appropriated for the novice teacher mentoring program in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-5.1(f). The Board shall ensure that State funds appropriated for this program shall supplement, and not supplant, any Federal, State or local funds already devoted to planning and implementing a novice teacher mentor



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3126/page 2 of 2
District Mentoring Program

program. The Board of Education shall ensure that State funds shall be used for one or more of the following: stipends for mentor teachers; the costs associated with release time; substitutes for mentor teachers and novice teachers; and professional development and training activities related to the program.

Evaluations for a provisional teacher shall be completed in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.6.

N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2; 18A:26-2a

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.4; 6A:9B-8.5; 6A:9B-8.6; 6A:9C-5.1

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-75 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6:11-5.1 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 2 January 2018



3134 ASSIGNMENT OF EXTRA DUTIES

The professional responsibilities of teaching staff members include such extra duties as may be assigned by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee will, in accordance with the Board of Education's managerial prerogative, assign teaching staff members to extra duties that are in accordance with applicable law and any collective bargaining agreement.

All aspects of assignment to, retention in, dismissal from, and any terms and conditions of employment concerning extra-curricular activities shall be deemed mandatory subjects for collective negotiations in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:13A-23.

Performance in any extra duties may be considered in a teaching staff member's evaluation

N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4
N.J.S.A. 34:13A-23

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 16 November 2021



3141 RESIGNATION

The Board of Education will enter a contract with each nontenured teaching staff member providing, in part, for the termination of employment by either party on proper notice in accordance with Policy No. 3124.

An employee's resignation must be tendered to the Board through the Superintendent who may accept the resignation on behalf of the Board. Any such acceptance of a resignation will be ratified by the Board at its next meeting.

A member who offers insufficient notice of resignation will be paid only through the last day of service. In addition, the Board may notify the Commissioner of Education of any tenured teaching staff member who terminates his/her position without having given sixty days notice to the Board and without the express permission of the Board. The certificate of any such member may be suspended.

N.J.S.A. 18A:26-10; 18A:28-8
N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.9

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3142 NONRENEWAL OF NONTENURED TEACHING STAFF MEMBER

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation to employ only those staff members best trained and equipped to meet the educational needs of the students of this district. The Board will discharge that obligation by retaining in service only those nontenured teaching staff members who meet those standards. The Board shall renew the employment contract of a nontenured teaching staff member only upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and by a recorded roll call majority vote of the full membership of the Board. The Board shall not withhold its approval for arbitrary and capricious reasons. A nontenured teaching staff member who is not recommended for renewal by the Superintendent is deemed nonrenewed.

When the nontenured teaching staff member's performance does not meet the standards of the school district, the Superintendent shall recommend not to renew the teaching staff member's contract. Prior to notifying the nontenured teaching staff member of the nonrenewal, the Superintendent will notify the Board of the recommendation not to renew the nontenured teaching staff member's contract and the reasons for the recommendation. The Superintendent may notify the Board in a written notice or in executive session at a full Board Meeting. In the event the Board is notified in executive session, the Superintendent will comply with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and provide reasonable notice to the nontenured teaching staff member their employment will be discussed in executive session in order for the nontenured teaching staff member to exercise their statutory right to request a public discussion.

On or before May 15 of each year, each nontenured teaching staff member continuously employed by a Board of Education since the preceding September 30 shall receive a written notice from the Superintendent that such employment will not be offered if the Superintendent recommends the nontenured teaching staff member not be renewed. Any nontenured teaching staff member receiving notice that a teaching contract for the succeeding school year will not be offered may, within fifteen calendar days thereafter, request in writing a statement of the reasons for such non-employment which shall be given to the nontenured staff member in writing within thirty calendar days after the receipt of such request.

Whenever the nontenured teaching staff member has requested in writing and received a written statement of reasons for non-reemployment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.2, the nontenured teaching staff member may request in writing an informal appearance before the Board. The written request shall be submitted to the Board within ten calendar



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3142/page 2 of 2

Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teaching Staff Member

days of nontenured teaching staff member's receipt of the Board's Statement of reasons. The informal appearance shall be scheduled within thirty calendar days from the nontenured teaching staff member's receipt of the Board's statement of reasons.

The Board is not required to offer reemployment or vote on reemployment after an informal appearance with a nontenured teaching staff member who was not recommended for reemployment by the Superintendent. The Board may, with a majority vote of its full membership in public session and without the recommendation of the Superintendent, offer the nontenured teaching staff member reemployment after the informal appearance before the Board. Within three working days following the informal appearance, the Board shall notify the affected nontenured teaching staff member, in writing, of its final determination.

N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1, 18A:27-3.2; 18A:27-4.1; 18A:27-10 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:10-8.1

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 29 April 2014
Revised: 16 November 2021



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3143/page 1 of 1
Dismissal

3143 DISMISSAL

The Board of Education will enter a contract with each nontenured teaching staff member providing, in part, for the termination of employment by either party on proper notice in accordance with Board Policy No. 3124.

The Board may dismiss a nontenured teaching staff member when dismissal is in the best interest of the school district. Termination notice will be duly given in writing and will state the reason therefore.

However, the Board reserves the right to terminate a nontenured employee without notice when sufficient cause warrants.

The Board will determine whether to permit an employee to continue to perform services during the period between the giving of notice and the date of termination.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-30; 18A:6-30.1; 18A:27-9

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3144 CERTIFICATION OF TENURE CHARGES

Tenure charges may be instituted against a tenured staff member of the district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:3-5.1 et seq. In all instances of the filing and certification of tenure charges, except charges filed against a teacher, Principal, Assistant Principal or Vice Principal for reasons of inefficiency pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-17.3, the procedures and timelines outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:3-5.1(b) shall be observed. In the event the tenure charges are charge of inefficiency pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-17.3, except in the case of Principals, Assistant Principals and Vice Principals in school districts under full State intervention, where procedures are governed by the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-45 and such rules as may be promulgated to implement it, the procedures and timelines outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:3-5.1(c) shall be observed.

Filing and service of petition of appeal as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.3, shall not apply in a case of charges filed with the Commissioner of Education against an employee of a Board of Education or of a school district under full State intervention. In place of the usual petition, the Board of Education or the State District Superintendent shall file written charges and the required certificate of determination with the Commissioner together with the name of the attorney who is anticipated for administrative purposes will be representing the Board of Education or State District Superintendent and proof of service upon the employee and the employee's representative, if known. Such service shall be at the same time and in the same manner as the filing of charges with the Commissioner.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 34:13A-24, fines and suspensions imposed as minor discipline shall not constitute a reduction in compensation pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10 where the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education and the majority representative of the employees in the appropriate collective bargaining unit provides for such discipline. In these cases, tenure charges shall not be filed to impose minor discipline on a person serving under tenure.

The Board of Education or the State District Superintendent shall determine whether there is probable cause to credit the evidence in support of the charges and whether such charges, if credited, are sufficient to warrant a dismissal or reduction of salary. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-11, all deliberations and actions of the Board of Education with respect to such charges shall take place at a closed/executive session meeting. In the even the Board of Education or the State District superintendent finds probable cause exists and that the charges, if credited, are sufficient to warrant a dismissal or reduction of salary, then the Board or the State District Superintendent shall file, within fifteen (15) days written charges with the Commissioner. The charge(s) shall be stated with specificity as to the action or behavior underlying the charges or the nature of the alleged inefficiency and shall be accompanied by the required certificate of determination



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3144/page 2 of 2
Certification of Tenure Charges

together with the name of the attorney who is anticipated for administrative purposes will be representing the Board of Education or State district Superintendent and proof of service upon the employee and the employee's representative, if known. Such service shall be at the same time and in the same manner as the filing of charges with the Commissioner.

The certificate of determination that accompanies the written charges shall contain a certification by the Board Secretary or the State District Superintendent including that a determination was made of the charges and the evidence in support of the charges are sufficient, if true in fact, to warrant dismissal or a reduction in salary; of the date, place, and time of the meeting at which such determination was made and whether or not the employee was suspended and, if so, whether such suspension was with or without pay; that such determination was made by a majority vote of the whole number of members of the Board of Education or by the State District superintendent in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-39.

An individual against whom tenure charges are certified shall file a written response to the charges in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:3-5.3 et seq. The Commissioner shall determine whether such charge(s) are sufficient, if true, to warrant dismissal or reduction in salary in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:3-5.5. Any withdrawal, settlement, or mooting of tenure charges shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:3-5.6.

Certification of tenure charges for Charter School employees shall be governed by N.J.A.C. 6A:11-6.1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.3; 18A:6-10; 18A:6-11; 18A:6-13; 18A:6-14; 18A:6-16; 18A:25-6; 18A:25-7

N.J.A.C. 6A:3-5.1; 6A:3-5.2; 6A:3-5.3; 6A:3-5.6; 6A:9-17.4; 6A:9-17.5

Adopted: April 29, 2014



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3144.12/page 1 of 1

Certification of Tenure Charges – Inefficiency

Aug 13

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3144.12 CERTIFICATION OF TENURE CHARGES – INEFFICIENCY

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-17.3 and notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-11 or any other section of law to the contrary, in the case of a teacher, Principal, Assistant Principal and Vice Principal, the Superintendent shall promptly file with the Secretary of the Board of Education a charge of inefficiency whenever the employee is rated ineffective or partially effective in an annual summative evaluation and the following year is rated ineffective in the annual summative evaluation.

If the teacher, Principal, Assistant Principal or vice Principal is rated partially effective in two (2) consecutive annual summative evaluations or is rated ineffective in an annual summative evaluation and the following year is rated partially effective in the annual summative evaluation, the Superintendent shall promptly file with the Secretary of the Board of Education a charge of inefficiency, except that the Superintendent upon a written finding of exceptional circumstances may defer the filing of tenure charges until after the next annual summative evaluation. If the employee is not rated effective or highly effective on this next annual summative evaluation, the Superintendent shall promptly file a charge of inefficiency.

Within thirty (30) days of the filing, the Board of Education shall forward a written charge to the Commissioner of Education, unless the Board of Education determines the evaluation process has not been followed.

Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-16 or any other section of law to the contrary, upon receipt of a charge pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-17.3.a, and this Policy, the Commissioner of Education shall examine the charge. The individual against whom the charges are filed shall have ten (10) days to submit a written response to the charges to the Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner of Education shall, within five (5) days immediately following the period provided for a written response to the charges, refer the case to an arbitrator and appoint an arbitrator to hear the case, unless the Commissioner determines the evaluation process has not been followed.

The only evaluations which may be used for purposes of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-17.3 are those evaluations conducted in accordance with the rubric adopted by the Board of Education and approved by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to P.L. 2012, c.26-N.J.S.A. 18A:6-117 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-11; 18A:6-17.3

Adopted: December 17, 2013



3144.3 SUSPENSION UPON CERTIFICATION OF TENURE CHARGES

Upon certification of any tenure charge to the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education may suspend the person against whom such charge is made, with or without pay. However, if the determination of the tenure charge by the arbitrator is not made within one hundred twenty calendar days after certification of the tenure charges, excluding all delays which are granted at the request of such person, then the full salary (except for said one hundred and twenty days) of such person shall be paid beginning on the one hundred twenty-first day until such determination is made.

Should the tenure charge be dismissed at any stage of the process, the person shall be reinstated immediately with full pay from the first day of such suspension. Should the tenure charge be dismissed at any stage of the process and the suspension be continued during an appeal, then the full pay or salary of such person shall continue until the determination of the appeal. However, the Board of Education shall deduct from said full pay or salary any sums received by such employee or officers by way of pay or salary from any substituted employment assumed during such period of suspension.

Should the charge be sustained on the original hearing or an appeal, and should such person appeal from the same, then the suspension may be continued unless and until such determination is reversed, in which event the employee or officer shall be reinstated immediately with full pay from the date of such suspension.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-14

Adopted: December 17, 2013



3146 CONDUCT OF REDUCTION IN FORCE

When teaching staff member positions have been abolished, in accordance with Board Policy No. 3112, the Board of Education will transfer and/or dismiss affected teaching staff members as required by law.

No tenured teaching staff member will be transferred or dismissed in a reduction in force affecting a category of employment in which a nontenured teaching staff member is employed. When two or more nontenured teaching staff members are employed within the category affected by a reduction in force, the nontenured teaching staff member(s) shall be retained in that category who has demonstrated greater competence.

Tenure and seniority entitlements will govern the transfer and dismissal of tenured teaching staff members affected by a reduction in force, except that, when two or more tenured teaching staff members within the same employment category affected by a reduction in force possess an identical seniority entitlement to that category, the teaching staff member(s) shall be retained in that category who has demonstrated greater competence.

The Superintendent shall collect and maintain the information requisite to the calculation of each tenured teaching staff member's seniority status. The Superintendent shall develop and maintain district seniority lists and shall recommend dismissals and transfers in a reduction in force in accordance with those lists. No seniority list shall be a public document or published in the absence of a reduction in force or reemployment from a preferred eligible list.

Teaching staff members affected by a reduction in force will be informed of their seniority status and of the effect of the reduction in force on their employment, as promptly as possible after the Board's action to abolish positions. Wherever possible, the Board will give sixty days notice of a pending dismissal. If notice cannot be given a full sixty days before the end of the employee's service, salary in lieu of notice will be given for the remaining notice period beyond the end of service.

N.J.S.A. 18A:28-1; 18A:28-9 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-5.1

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3150 DISCIPLINE

The Board of Education directs all teaching staff members to observe statutes of the State of New Jersey, rules of the State Board of Education, policies of this Board, and duly promulgated administrative rules and regulations governing staff conduct. Violations of those statutes, rules, policies and regulations will be subject to discipline.

The Superintendent shall deal with disciplinary matters on a case by case basis. Discipline measures will include verbal and written warnings as appropriate and will provide, wherever possible, for progressive penalties for repeated violations. Penalties may include suspension, withholding one or more increments, and dismissal.

In the event disciplinary action is contemplated, notice will be given to the teaching staff member in ordinary and concise language of the specific acts and omissions upon which the disciplinary action is based; the text of the statute, policy, or rule that the member is alleged to have violated; a date when the member may be heard and the administrator who will hear the matter; and the penalty that may be imposed.

N.J.S.A. 18A:25-7; 18A:27-4
N.J.S.A. 34:13A-1 et seq.; 34:19-1

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3152 WITHHOLDING AN INCREMENT

Advancements on the salary guide, including annual employment and adjustment increments, are not automatically granted and must be earned by satisfactory performance. Advancements require favorable evaluations of the employee's performance of assigned duties, a satisfactory attendance record, and adherence to the rules of this district and high standards of professional conduct.

The Board of Education may determine, by recorded roll call majority vote of the full membership and at any time prior to the commencement of the school year or contract year in which the employee's salary will vest, to withhold any or all of the increments indicated by the salary guide or by Board policy. In no case will the Board withhold a portion of an increment.

The Board shall, within ten days of its formal action to withhold an increment, give written notice to the affected employee of both the action and the reason or reasons for which it was taken.

The purpose of the Board in withholding increments is to improve the educational program and encourage the highest possible professional performance of its employees. Accordingly, all reasonable efforts will be made to inform employees of any deficiencies that may result in the withholding of an increment and to assist them in the correction of those deficiencies.

An increment withheld may be restored only by action of the Board. Nothing in this policy shall limit the right of a successor Board to restore an employee from whom an increment or increments have been withheld to that place on the salary guide he/she would have achieved had the increment or increments not been withheld.

N.J.S.A. 18A:25-7; 18A:29-14

N.J.A.C. 6A:3-4.1

Adopted: 3 November 2009



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3159/page 1 of 2

Teaching Staff Member/School District

Reporting Responsibilities

Aug 19

3159 TEACHING STAFF MEMBER/SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Education and all certificate holders shall adhere to the reporting requirements outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3 and N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.3. For the purpose of this Policy, “certificate holders” shall include all individuals who hold certificates, credentials, certificates of eligibility (CEs), and certificates of eligibility with advance standing (CEAs) issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners. For purposes of this Policy, the term “certificate” shall include all standard, emergency and provisional certificates, all credentials, and all CEAs and CEASs issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners.

All certificate holders shall report an arrest or indictment for any crime or offense to the Superintendent within fourteen (14) calendar days of their arrest or indictment in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3. The report submitted to the Superintendent shall include the date of arrest or indictment in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3. The report submitted to the Superintendent shall include the date of arrest or indictment and charge(s) lodged against the certificate holder. Such certificate holders shall also report to the Superintendent the disposition of any charge within seven (7) calendar days of the disposition. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements may be deemed “just cause” for revocation or suspension of certification pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.4. The school district shall make these reporting requirements known to all new employees upon initial employment and to all employees on an annual basis.

The Superintendent shall notify the New Jersey State Board of Examiners when:

1. Tenured teaching staff members who are accused of criminal offenses or unbecoming conduct resign or retire from their positions;
2. Nontenured teaching staff members, including substitute teachers, who are accused of criminal offenses or unbecoming conduct resign, retire, or are removed from their positions.
3. A certificate holder fails to maintain any license, certificate or authorization that is mandated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B for the holder to serve in a position;



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3159/page 2 of 2

Teaching Staff Member/School District

Reporting Responsibilities

Aug 19

4. The Superintendent becomes aware that a certificate holder has been convicted of a crime or criminal offense while in the district's employ; or
5. The Superintendent has received a report from the Department of Children and Families substantiating allegations of abuse or neglect, or establishing "concerns" regarding a certificated teaching staff member.

The school district shall cooperate with the New Jersey State Board of Examiners in any proceeding arising from an order to show cause issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners and based on information about the certificate holder that the school district provided.

The Superintendent shall also notify the New Jersey State Board of Examiners, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.3, whenever a nontenured, certificated employee is dismissed prior to the end of the school year for just cause as a result of misconduct in office. This notification requirement shall not apply in instances where the employee's contract is not renewed. The Superintendent will comply with the additional notice requirements to the new Jersey State Board of Examiners in the event it is subsequently determined by a disciplinary grievance arbitration, a court, or an administrative tribunal of competent jurisdiction that the basis for the dismissal did not constitute misconduct in office. In addition, whenever the Superintendent notifies the New Jersey State Board of Examiners of an employee's dismissal for reasons of misconduct in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.3, the employee shall receive a simultaneous copy of the notifying correspondence.

In the event the Board of Education determines, pursuant to a tenure charge finding under N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10 or a disorderly person conviction under N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.14, that a teaching staff member has failed to report an allegation of child abuse in accordance with State law or regulations, the Board shall submit a report to the New Jersey State Board of Examiners that outlines its findings. The New Jersey State Board of Examiners shall review the certification of the teaching staff member to determine if the teaching staff member's failure to report warrants the revocation or suspension of his/her certificate. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.14, any person failing to report an act of child abuse, having reasonable cause to believe that an act of child abuse has been committed, may be deemed a disorderly person.

N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.14; 18A:6-10; 18A:6-38.5; 18A:16-1.3

N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3; 6A:9B-4.4

Adopted: 7 January 2020



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3160/page 1 of 2

Physical Examination

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3160 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The Board of Education requires each candidate for employment who receives a conditional offer of employment to undergo a physical examination(s) to determine whether the candidate is able to perform with reasonable accommodation job-related functions pursuant to P.L. 101-336, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

If upon completing an examination(s) it is determined a candidate for employment who received a conditional offer of employment is unable to perform with reasonable accommodation job-related functions pursuant to the provisions of the ADA, the conditional offer of employment will be rescinded either by the Superintendent of Schools, if the Board has not yet approved the appointment, or by the Board, if the Board had approved the appointment at a Board meeting.

The physical examination shall include, but is not limited to, a health history to include past serious illnesses and injuries; current health problems; allergies; and a record of immunizations. The physical examination shall also include a health screening to include, but not limited to: height and weight; blood pressure; pulse and respiratory rate; vision screening; and hearing screening.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:16-3, the Board shall bear the cost of physical examinations required by this policy performed by a physician or institution designated by the Board. However, the candidate shall bear the cost if the examination is performed by a physician or institution designated by the candidate with approval of the Board. In the event the Board approves the physician or institution designated by the candidate to complete an examination required by this Policy, the candidate will be provided with the detailed requirements of the examination.

School employee physicals, examination, and/or annual medical updates do not require screening or disclosure of HIV status.

A Mantoux tuberculosis test shall be given to all student teachers, school bus drivers on contract with the district and contractors or volunteers who have contact with students.

All staff members' medical and health records, including computerized records, will be secured and will be stored and maintained separately from other personnel files. The information contained in medical records will be kept confidential. Only the staff member, the Superintendent, and the school medical inspector shall have access to medical information regarding an individual employee. Health records may be shared only with authorized individuals in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-5. The staff member may provide health status information, including medications that may be of value to medical personnel in the event of an emergency requiring treatment. In such instances, the staff member may also choose to share



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3160/page 2 of 2
Physical Examination

with the staff member's Building Principal and, if desired, with the certified school nurse, information regarding current health status to assure ready access in a medical emergency.

Additional individual psychiatric or physical examinations of any staff member may be required by the Board whenever, in the judgment of the Board, a staff member shows evidence of deviation from normal physical or mental health. Any additional individual examinations will be pursuant to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3. Additional examinations and/or certifications may be required to verify fitness in accordance with Policy 3161 or disability in accordance with Policies Nos. 3425 and 3435.

42 U.S.C.A. 12101

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.1; 6A:32-6.2; 6A:32-6.3

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 19 September 2017



3161 EXAMINATION FOR CAUSE

The Board of Education may require the physical and/or psychiatric examination of any teaching staff member who shows evidence of deviation from normal physical or mental health in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3(b).

The Superintendent shall require a physical and/or psychiatric examination on a teaching staff member whenever, in the judgment of the Superintendent, a teaching staff member shows evidence of deviation from normal physical or mental health, to determine the teaching staff member's physical and mental fitness to perform with reasonable accommodation the position the teaching staff member currently holds, or to detect any health risks to students and other employees.

A teaching staff member that is required to undergo a physical and/or psychiatric examination shall be provided a written statement of reasons for the required examination(s) and notice the teaching staff member has the right to request a hearing with the Board. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:25-7 and will offer the teaching staff member the opportunity to appear before the Board to refute the reasons for the required examination(s), provided any such hearing is requested by the teaching staff member in writing within five working days of the teaching staff member's receipt of the written statement of reasons. A teaching staff member shall be ordered to submit to the appropriate examination(s) by the physician or institution designated by the Board if the teaching staff member failed to timely request a hearing before the Board or failed to persuade the Board at the hearing that the teaching staff member should not be required to submit to the appropriate examination(s). The Board's determination at the conclusion of such a hearing is appealable to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:4 – Appeals pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3(b)2.

The Board shall bear the cost of the examination if the examination is performed by a physician or institution designated by the Board. The examination may be performed by a physician or institution of the teaching staff member's own choosing, approved by the Board, and at the teaching staff member's own expense in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-3 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3161/page 2 of 2

Examination for Cause

If the teaching staff member submits names of physicians or institutions to the Board for consideration to complete the appropriate examination(s) the Board is not required to designate the physician or institution submitted for consideration by the teaching staff member, but shall not act unreasonably in withholding its approval of the physician or institution. The Board shall require the teaching staff member to authorize the release of the examination results to the Superintendent.

If the results of any such examination indicate mental abnormality or communicable disease, the teaching staff member shall be ineligible for further service until proof of recovery, satisfactory to the Board, is furnished, but if the teaching staff member is under contract or has tenure, they may be granted sick leave with compensation as provided by law and shall, upon satisfactory recovery, be permitted to complete the term of their contract, if they are under contract, or be reemployed with the same tenure as they possessed at the time their services were discontinued, if they have tenure, unless their absence shall exceed a period of two years in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-4.

In order to return to work, the teaching staff member must submit to an appropriate examination and submit the results of the examination to the Superintendent. The examination must be conducted by a physician or institution upon which the Board and teaching staff member confer and agree. If the physician or institution conducting the examination is conducted by the Board's choice, the cost shall be borne by the Board; if the physician or institution conducting the examination is conducted by the teaching staff member's choice, the cost shall be borne by the teaching staff member.

A teaching staff member who refuses to submit to the examination required by this Policy and has exhausted the hearing procedures established by law and this Policy shall be subject to discipline, which may include, but not limited to, termination or certification of tenure charges to the Commissioner of Education, as applicable.

42 U.S.C.A. 12101

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10; 18A:16-2; 18A:16-3; 18A:16-4; 18A:25-7;

18A:28-5; 18A:30-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.2; 6A:32-6.3

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 15 August 2022



3211 CODE OF ETHICS

The Board of Education endorses the code of ethics for professional educators published by the National Education Association.

Preamble

The educator, believing in the worth and dignity of each human being, recognizes the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, and the nature of democratic principles. Essential to these goals is the protection of freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. The educator accepts the responsibility to adhere to the highest ethical standards.

The educator recognizes the magnitude of the responsibility inherent in the teaching process. The desire for the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and of the members of the community provides the incentive to attain and maintain the highest possible degree of ethical conduct. The Code of Ethics of the Education Profession indicates the aspiration of all educators and provides standards by which to judge conduct.

The remedies specified by the NEA and/or its affiliates for the violation of any provision of this Code shall be exclusive and no such provision shall be enforceable in any form other than one specifically designated by the NEA or its affiliates.

Principle I – Commitment to the Student

The educator strives to help each student realize his/her potential as a worthy and effective member of society. The educator therefore works to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the educator–

1. Shall not unreasonably restrain the student from independent action in the pursuit of learning.
2. Shall not unreasonably deny the student access to varying points of view.
3. Shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter relevant to the student's progress.
4. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety.



5. Shall not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment or disparagement.
6. Shall not on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, family, social or cultural background, or sexual orientation, unfairly–
 - a. Exclude any student from participation in any program
 - b. Deny benefits to any student
 - c. Grant any advantage to any student
7. Shall not use professional relationships with students for private advantage.
8. Shall not disclose information about students obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.

Principle II – Commitment to the Profession

The education profession is vested by the public with a trust and responsibility requiring the highest ideals of professional service.

In the belief that the quality of the services of the education profession directly influences the nation and its citizens, the educator shall exert every effort to raise professional standards to promote a climate that encourages the exercise of professional judgment, to achieve conditions which attract persons worthy of the trust to careers in education, and to assist in preventing the practice of the profession by unqualified persons.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the profession, the educator–

1. Shall not in an application for a professional position deliberately make a false statement or fail to disclose a material fact related to competency and qualifications.
2. Shall not misrepresent his/her professional qualifications.
3. Shall not assist entry into the profession of a person known to be unqualified in respect to character, education, or other relevant attribute.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3211/page 3 of 3
Code of Ethics

4. Shall not knowingly make a false statement concerning the qualifications of a candidate for a professional position.
5. Shall not assist a non educator in the unauthorized practice of teaching.
6. Shall not disclose information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.
7. Shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about a colleague.
8. Shall not accept any gratuity, gift, or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decisions or actions.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3211.3 CONSULTING OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT

The Board of Education recognizes that teaching staff members will have expertise and knowledge in areas that other school districts, agencies, and other entities may desire. Recognizing that the school district will request the expertise from teaching staff members from other school districts, agencies and other entities, the Board supports sharing of its teaching staff members with other school districts, agencies, and other entities to the extent it does not interfere with the efficient operation of the school district.

The Superintendent may recommend to the Board a teaching staff member's attendance in another school district, agency or other entity without additional remuneration to the teaching staff member or school district, upon a written request from the agency or from the teaching staff member.

The Board of Education recognizes teaching staff members will have expertise and knowledge in areas that other school districts, public and private agencies, and private business organizations may desire to compensate as a paid consultant. When a teaching staff member serves as a paid consultant, the teaching staff member is not permitted to use normal work hours for any paid consulting activities. The teaching staff member must complete any paid consulting activities on their own time to include vacation days, evenings, weekends, and/or school holidays.

The teaching staff member must comply with the New Jersey School Ethics Act N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq. and, if required, must comply with financial disclosure requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24 and 12-25.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3212 ATTENDANCE

The regular and prompt attendance of teaching staff members is an essential element in the efficient operation of the school district and the effective conduct of the educational program. Staff member absenteeism disrupts the educational program, and the Board of Education considers attendance an important component of a staff member's job performance.

A teaching staff member who fails to give prompt notice of an absence, misuses sick leave, fails to verify an absence in accordance with Board policy, falsifies the reason for an absence, is absent without authorization, is repeatedly tardy, or accumulates an excessive number of absences may be subject to appropriate consequences, which may include the withholding of a salary increments, dismissal, and/or certification of tenure charges.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1, sick leave is defined to mean the absence from work because of a personal disability due to injury or illness or because the staff member has been excluded from school by the school medical authorities on account of contagious disease or of being quarantined for such a disease in the staff member's immediate household. No teaching staff member will be discouraged from the prudent, necessary use of sick leave and any other leave provided for in the collective bargaining agreement negotiated with the member's majority representative, in an individual employment contract, or provided in the policies of the Board. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:30-4, the Superintendent or Board of Education may require a physician's certificate to be filed with the Secretary of the Board in order to obtain sick leave.

The Superintendent, in consultation with administrative staff members, will review the rate of absence among the staff members. The review and improvement plan shall require will include the collection and analysis of attendance data, the training of teaching staff members in their attendance responsibilities, and the counseling of teaching staff members for whom regular and prompt attendance is a problem.

N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4; 18A:28-5; 18A:30-1 et. seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 14 July 2015



3214 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No teaching staff member of the Board of Education shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity which is in conflict with the proper discharge of the teaching staff member's duties.

No teaching staff member shall use or attempt to use his/her position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages.

No teaching staff member of the Board shall act in his/her official capacity in any matter wherein he/she has a direct or indirect personal financial interest.

No teaching staff member of the Board shall accept any gift, favor, service or other thing of value under circumstances from which it might be reasonably inferred that such gift, service or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing the teaching staff member in the discharge of his/her duties.

Teaching staff members may receive gifts of only nominal value from students or their parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8; 18A:11-1

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3216 DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board of Education believes that the appearance and dress of teaching staff members is an important component of the educational program of this school district. The attitude of teaching staff members about their professional responsibilities and the importance of education in the lives of their students are reflected in their dress and appearance. Accordingly, in order to create an atmosphere of respect for teaching staff members and an environment conducive to discipline and learning, the Board establishes the following rules for the dress of teaching staff members in the performance of their professional duties:

1. Acceptable attire for teaching staff members shall include, but not be limited to, dresses, skirts, blouses, suits, sweaters, pants, and dress shirts with or without a tie;
2. Inappropriate attire within regular school day includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Jeans (unless approved by the Principal or designee for a special activity or event);
 - b. T-shirts (unless approved by the Principal or designee for a special activity or event);
 - c. Strapless shirts and dresses;
 - d. Sweatshirts, shorts, sweatpants, workout attire unless approved by the Principal or designee;
 - e. Beachwear; and
 - f. Hats and/or head coverings unless approved by the Principal or designee for medical or religious reasons.



3. The clothing and appearance of all teaching staff members shall be clean and neat;
4. No clothing may be worn that constitutes a danger to health or safety to the wearer or to others, and no clothing may be worn that interferes with the instructional program;
5. A teaching staff member may request a waiver of this dress code for the performance of particular duties.; Such waivers may be granted by the Principal or Superintendent;
6. The Building Principal or the teaching staff member's supervisor, as appropriate, shall determine whether a violation of this dress code has occurred and shall discuss the violation with the teaching staff member concerned. Where a single violation so warrants or violations recur, the Principal or supervisor may enter a reprimand in the teaching staff member's file and may recommend other appropriate disciplinary measures.

N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 18 October 2022



3217 USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The Board of Education cannot condone an employee's resort to force or fear in the treatment of students, even those students whose conduct appears to be open defiance of authority. Each student is protected by law from bodily harm and from offensive bodily touching.

Teaching staff members shall not use physical force or the threat of physical force to maintain discipline or compel obedience except as permitted by law, but may remove students from the classroom or school by the lawful procedures established for the suspension and expulsion of students.

A teaching staff member who:

1. Uses force or fear to discipline a student except as such force or fear may be necessary to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others, to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person or within the control of a student, to act in self-defense, or to protect persons or property;
2. Touches a student in an offensive way even though no physical harm is intended;
3. Permits students to harm one another by fighting; or
4. Punishes students by means that are cruel or unusual;

will be subject to discipline by this Board and may be dismissed.

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

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3218 USE, POSSESSION, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SUBSTANCES

The Board of Education recognizes a teaching staff member who reports to work under the influence of a substance poses a significant threat to their health, safety and welfare and the health, safety and welfare of others, including students and other staff members. The Board has an obligation and the right to maintain a safe and healthy work environment and adopts this Policy as an important component toward maintaining a safe environment in the school district.

For purposes of this policy, “substance” or “substances” as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(a) means alcoholic beverages; any controlled dangerous substances, including anabolic steroids as defined in N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2; or any chemical or chemical compound which releases vapors or fumes causing a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system including, but not limited to, glue containing a solvent having the property of releasing toxic vapors or fumes as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10.4 and over-the-counter and prescription medications that are improperly used to cause intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction or dulling of the brain or nervous system.

A teaching staff member shall be required to submit to an immediate medical examination to include a substance test if the Principal or designee has reasonable suspicion to believe a teaching staff member is under the influence of a substance during work hours or at a school-sponsored function where the teaching staff member has been assigned job responsibilities. Refusal by a teaching staff member to consent to the medical examination including a substance test will be deemed a positive test result for substances. In the event the results of the medical examination and substance test are not provided to the Superintendent, within twenty-four hours or as soon as the test results are available, it will be deemed a positive test result for substances and the teaching staff member shall be subject to appropriate discipline. Any required medical examination and testing shall be paid for by the Board.

In the event the Board physician determines the teaching staff member was under the influence of a substance, the determination shall be reported to the Superintendent and the teaching staff member will be subject to appropriate discipline. Appropriate discipline may include, but not be limited to, withholding an increment, terminating a non-tenured teaching staff member, and/or filing tenure charges for a tenured teaching staff member in accordance with law. The teaching staff member will be afforded the opportunity to have positive test results confirmed using acceptable confirmation test practices. This confirmation test shall be paid for by the teaching staff member.



In the event a teaching staff member's medical examination and substance test results are negative for a substance or if the Board physician determines the teaching staff member was not under the influence of a substance, the results or determination shall be reported to the Superintendent and the teaching staff member shall be returned to their position unless the Superintendent has a reason the teaching staff member should not be returned to their position.

In accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(a), any staff member who, in the course of their employment, has reason to believe a staff member has unlawfully possessed or in any way been involved in the distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, or drug paraphernalia shall report the matter as soon as possible to the Principal, or in the absence of the Principal, the Principal's designee responsible at the time of the alleged violation. Either the Principal or the staff member shall notify the Superintendent who shall notify, as soon as possible, the County Prosecutor or other law enforcement official designated by the County Prosecutor to receive such information. The Superintendent or designee shall provide to the County Prosecutor or designee all known information concerning the matter, including the identity of the staff member involved.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(a)3, the Superintendent or designee shall not disclose the identity of a staff member who has voluntarily sought and participated in an appropriate treatment or counseling program for an alcohol or drug abuse problem, provided the teaching staff member is not reasonably believed to be involved or implicated in drug distribution activities. An admission by a staff member in response to questioning initiated by the Principal or designee or following the discovery by the Principal or designee of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, or drug paraphernalia, shall not constitute a voluntary, self-initiated request for counseling and treatment.

A staff member who unlawfully possessed or in any way has been involved in the distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids or drug paraphernalia, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3, shall be subject to appropriate discipline which may include, but not be limited to, termination of a non-tenured teaching staff member or the filing of tenure charges for a tenured teaching staff member in accordance with law.

42 CFR part 2

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-3; 18A:40A-0

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1; 6A:6.3; 6A:16-6.5

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 14 July 2015

Revised: 7 January 2020



3221 EVALUATION OF TEACHERS

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of teacher effectiveness to further the development of a professional corps of educators and to increase student achievement. The Board of Education adopts Policy and Regulation 3221 for the evaluation of teachers consistent with the Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey Act (TEACHNJ) and the AchieveNJ administrative codes. This Policy and Regulation provides the provisions and requirements for teacher evaluations consistent with TEACHNJ and AchieveNJ.

For the purposes of Policy and Regulation 3221, “teacher” means a teaching staff member who holds the appropriate standard, provisional or emergency instructional certificate issued by the Board of Examiners and is assigned a class roster of students for at least one particular course.

No collective bargaining agreement entered into after July 1, 2013, shall conflict with the educator evaluation system established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. or any other specific statute or regulation, nor shall topics subject to bargaining involve matters of educational policy or managerial prerogatives. All information contained in annual performance reports and all information collected, compiled and/or maintained by employees for the purpose of conducting the educator evaluation process pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq., including, but not limited to, digital records, shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

The Board shall annually adopt evaluation rubrics for all teachers which shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education by August 1 for approval by August 15 of each year. The evaluation rubrics shall have four (4) defined annual ratings; ineffective, partially effective, effective and highly effective. The Board shall meet the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(a) for the annual evaluation of teachers and shall ensure the training procedures as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(b) are followed when implementing the evaluation rubrics for all teachers. A District Evaluation Advisory Committee shall be established in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3.

The minimum requirements for the evaluation procedures for teachers as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 shall be followed. For each teacher rated ineffective or partially effective on the annual summative evaluation rating, as measured by the evaluation rubrics, a corrective action plan shall be developed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5. A School



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3221/page 2 of 2
Evaluation of Teachers

Improvement Panel shall be established in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.1 and with the responsibilities outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.2.

The components of the teacher evaluation rubrics as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.1 shall apply to teachers. Measures of student achievement, as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.2, shall be used to determine impact on student learning. Teacher observations shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.4 and N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1. Observers shall conduct the observations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-123.b.(8) and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5 and 3.2, and they shall be trained pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(b).

The teacher practice instrument approved by the Department of Education shall meet the criteria as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-6.2.

The Superintendent shall annually notify all teachers of the adopted evaluation policies and procedures/regulations no later than October 1. If a teacher is hired after October 1, the Superintendent shall notify the teacher of the policies and procedures/regulations at the beginning of his or her employment. All teachers shall be notified of amendments to the policy and procedures/regulations within ten (10) teacher working days of adoption.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-117 et seq. ; N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 through 1.4; 6A:10-2.1 through 2.5
N.J.A.C. 6A:10-3.1 and 3.2; N.J.A.C. 6A:10-4.1 through 4.4
N.J.A.C. 6A:10-7.1 and 7.2

Adopted: April 29, 2014
Revised: March 15, 2016
Revised: January 2, 2018
Revised:



3222 EVALUATION OF TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS, EXCLUDING TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of teaching staff member effectiveness to further the development of a professional corps of educators and to increase student achievement. The Board of Education adopts Policy and Regulation 3222 for the evaluation of teaching staff members consistent with the Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey Act (TEACHNJ) and the AchieveNJ administrative codes. This Policy and Regulation provides the provisions and requirements for teaching staff member evaluations consistent with TEACHNJ and AchieveNJ.

For the purpose of Policy and Regulations 3222 “teaching staff member” includes, but is not limited to, educational services staff members, guidance counselors, school nurses, library/media specialists, occupational therapists and other teaching staff members working under an educational services certificate. For the purposes of Policy and Regulation 3222, “teaching staff member” does not include teachers, Principals, Vice Principals, Assistant Principals and administrators, including, but not limited to, directors and/or supervisors.

No collective bargaining agreement entered into after July 1, 2013, shall conflict with the educator evaluation system established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. or any other specific statute or regulation, not shall topics subject to bargaining involve matters of educational policy or managerial prerogatives. All information contained in annual performance reports and all information collected, compiled, and/or maintained by employees for the purpose of conducting the educator ~~of the~~ evaluation process pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq., including, but not limited to, digital records, shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

The Board shall annually adopt evaluation rubrics for all teaching staff members which shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education by August 1 for approval by August 15-of each year. The evaluation rubrics shall have four defined annual ratings: ineffective, partially effective, effective and highly effective. The Board shall meet the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(a) for the annual evaluation of teaching staff members and shall ensure the training procedures as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(b) are followed when implementing the



evaluation rubrics for all teaching staff members. A District Evaluation Advisory Committee shall be established in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3.

The minimum requirements for the evaluation procedures for teaching staff members as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 shall be followed. For each teaching staff member rated ineffective or partially effective on the annual summative evaluation rating, as measured by the evaluation rubrics, a corrective action plan shall be developed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5.

Observations and evaluations for nontenured teaching staff members shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-6.2. Evaluations for nontenured teaching staff members shall take place before April 30 each year be completed prior to the May 15 notice requirement date for continued employment. Evaluations for tenured teaching staff members shall be completed prior to June 30.

The Superintendent shall annually notify all teaching staff members of the adopted evaluation policies and procedures/regulations no later than October 1. If a teaching staff member is hired after October 1, the Superintendent shall notify the teaching staff member of the policies and procedures/regulations at the beginning of his or her employment. All teaching staff members shall be notified of amendments to the policy and procedures/regulations within ten (10) teaching staff member working days of adoption.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-117 et seq.; N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1

N.J.S.C. 6A:10-1.1 through 1.4; 6A:10-2.1 through 2.5; 6A:10-6.2

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 29 April 2014
Revised: 15 March 2016
Revised: 2 January 2018
Revised: 16 November 2021



3223 EVALUATION OF ADMINISTRATORS EXCLUDING PRINCIPALS,
VICE PRINCIPALS, AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of administrator effectiveness to further the development of a professional corps of educators and to increase student achievement. The Board of Education adopts Policy and Regulation 3223 for the evaluation of administrators consistent with the Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey Act (TEACHNJ) and the AchieveNJ administrative codes. This Policy and Regulation provides the provisions and requirements for administrator evaluations consistent with TEACHNJ and AchieveNJ.

For the purposes of Policy and Regulation 3223, “administrator” means an appropriately certified staff member, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A-1.1, employed in the school district in an administrative and/or supervisory role and capacity, and holding a valid and effective standard, provisional, or emergency administrative certificate. An “administrator” may be a director, supervisor, or any other administrative or supervisory position in the district. For the purposes of Policy and Regulation 3223 and N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq., “administrator” is not a Principal, Vice Principal or Assistant Principal.

No collective bargaining agreement entered into after July 1, 2013, shall conflict with the educator evaluation system established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. or any other specific statute or regulation, nor shall topics subject to bargaining involve matters of educational policy or managerial prerogatives. All information contained in annual performance reports and all information collected, compiled, and/or maintained by employees for the purpose of conducting the educator evaluation process pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq., including, but not limited to, digital records, shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

The Board shall annually adopt evaluation rubrics for all administrators which shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education by August 1 for approval by August 15 of each year. The evaluation rubrics shall have four (4) defined annual ratings: ineffective, partially effective, effective, and highly effective. The Board shall meet the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(a) for the annual evaluation of administrators. A District



Evaluation Advisory Committee may be established in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3.

The minimum requirements for the evaluation procedures for administrators as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 shall be followed. For each administrator rated ineffective or partially effective on the annual summative evaluation rating, as measured by the evaluation rubrics, a corrective action plan shall be developed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5

Observations and evaluations for nontenured administrators shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1. Evaluations for nontenured administrators shall take place before April 30 each year prior to the May 15 notice requirement date for continued employment. Evaluations for tenured administrators shall be completed prior to June 30.

The Superintendent annually shall notify all administrators of the adopted evaluation policies and procedures/regulations no later than October 1. If an administrator is hired after October 1, the Superintendent shall notify the administrator of the policies and procedures/regulations at the beginning of his or her employment. All administrators shall be notified of amendments to the policy and procedures/regulations within ten (10) administrator working days of adoption.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-117 et seq.; N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 through 1.4; 6A:10-2.1 through 2.5

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 29 April 2014
Revised: 15 March 2016
Revised: 2 January 2018
Revised: 16 November 2021



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3224/page 1 of 2

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals,
And Assistant Principals

Oct 13

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3224 EVALUATION OF PRINCIPALS, VICE PRINCIPALS AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of Principal, Vice Principal and Assistant Principal effectiveness to further the development of a professional corps of educators and to increase student achievement. The Board of Education adopts Policy and Regulation 3224 for the evaluation of Principals. Vice Principals and Assistant Principals consistent with the Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey Act (TEACHNJ) and the AchieveNJ administrative codes. This Policy and Regulation provides the provisions and requirements for Principal, Vice Principal and Assistant Principal evaluations consistent with TEACHNJ and AchieveNJ.

No collective bargaining agreement entered into after July 1, 2013, shall conflict with the educator evaluation system established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq. or any other specific statute or regulation, nor shall topics subject to bargaining involve matters of educational policy or managerial prerogatives. All information contained in annual performance reports and all information collected, compiled, and/or maintained by employees for the purpose of conducting the educator evaluation process pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 et seq., including, but not limited to, digital records, shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

The Board shall annually adopt evaluation rubrics for all Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals which shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education by August 1 for approval by August 15 of each year. The evaluation rubrics shall have four defined annual ratings: ineffective, partially effective, effective and highly effective. The Board shall meet the requirements as outlined as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(a) for the annual evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Principals and shall ensure the training procedures as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(b) are followed when implementing the evaluation rubrics for all Principals, Vice Principals or Assistance Principals. A District Evaluation Advisory Committee may ~~shall~~ be established in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.3.

The minimum requirements for the evaluation procedures for Principals, Vice Principals, and Assistant Principals as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.4 shall be followed. For each Principal,



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3224/page 2 of 2

Evaluation of Principals, Vice Principals,
And Assistant Principals

Vice Principal or Assistant Principal rated ineffective or partially effective on the annual summative evaluation rating, as measured by the evaluation rubrics, a corrective action plan shall be developed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.5.

The components of the principal evaluation rubrics as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.1 shall apply to Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Principals. Measures of student achievement, as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.2, shall be used to determine impact on student learning. Principal, Vice Principal and Assistant Principal observations shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.4. The Superintendent or designated supervisor shall conduct observations for the evaluation of Principals pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-121 and he or she shall be trained pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.2(b). A Principal, or the Superintendent or designated supervisor, shall conduct observations for the evaluation of Vice Principals and Assistant Principals pursuant to N.J.A.A. 18A:6-121.

The Principal practice instrument approved by the Department of Education shall meet the criteria as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:10-7.3.

The Superintendent annually shall notify all Principals, Vice Principals or Assistant Principals of the adopted evaluation policies and procedures/regulations no later than October 1. If a Principal, Vice Principal or Assistant Principal is hired after October 1, the Superintendent shall notify the Principal, Vice Principal or Assistant Principal of the policies and procedures/regulations at the beginning of his or her employment. All Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Principals shall be notified of amendments to the policy and procedures/regulations within ten (10) working days of adoption.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-117 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:10-1.1 through 1.4; 6A:10-2.1 through 2.5

N.J.A.C. 6A:10-5.1 through 5.4

N.J.A.C. 6A:10-7.1 and 6.3

Adopted: 29 April 2014
Revised: 15 March 2016
Revised: 2 January 2018
Revised: 16 November 2021



3230 OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education recognizes that teaching staff members enjoy a private life outside their job responsibilities in the school district. The Board believes the role of the teaching profession is such that teachers exert a continuing influence away from the school district. Accordingly, the Board reserves the right to determine if activities outside the teaching staff member's job responsibilities interfere with their professional performance and the discharge of the member's responsibilities to the students of this district.

1. Teaching staff members shall not devote time during their work day to an outside private enterprise, business, or business organization. They shall not solicit or accept customers for private enterprise, business, and/or business organization on school grounds during their work day without the express permission of the Superintendent;
2. The Board does not endorse, support, or assume liability in any way for any staff member of this district who takes students on trips not approved by the Board or Superintendent, and shall not be liable for the welfare of students who travel on such trips. Any staff member who takes students of this district on a trip not approved by the Board or Superintendent shall clearly and concisely inform he parent(s) of any student solicited and/or attending such a trip that the trip is not endorsed, approved, or authorized by the Board of Education. A staff member shall not solicit students on school grounds.
3. The Board does not endorse, support, or assume liability in any way for any teaching staff member of this district who conducts a private activity in which students or employees of this district participate;
4. Teaching staff members shall not send campaign literature home with students or request, direct, or have students distribute campaign literature on behalf of any candidate for local, state, or national office or for any bond issue, proposal, or any public question submitted at any general, municipal, or school election. No student shall be requested or directed by any teaching staff member to engage in any activity which tends to promote, favor, or oppose any such candidacy, bond issue, proposal or public question;
5. Teaching staff members shall not privately tutor students for compensation that are currently enrolled in their classes, and



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3230/page 2 of 2
Outside Activities

6. Copyrights and patents to materials or equipment developed, written, prepared, processed, or tested by teaching staff members in the performance of their professional duties reside with and may be claimed by the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4
N.J.S.A. 19:1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 21 March 2013
Revised: 15 July 2014



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3231/page 1 of 1
Outside Employment as Athletic Coach

3231 OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT AS ATHLETIC COACH

The Board of Education will permit, in accordance with this Policy, staff members of this school district to serve as an athletic coach in another school district providing the responsibilities in the other district do not interfere with the performance of the staff member's professional responsibilities in this district.

A staff member who wishes to accept employment as an athletic coach in another school district must request and receive permission to do so from the Superintendent of this district if the staff member may need to request any special accommodation(s) from this school district to fulfill their coaching responsibilities in another school district. A special accommodation may be consideration for a requested duty assignment(s), a temporary work schedule adjustment and/or other considerations. A special accommodation will not be considered if it would violate any provisions of any collective bargaining agreement within the district. The staff member's request to the Superintendent must be in writing and must indicate with specificity the accommodation(s) that may be required. The Superintendent, in consultation with the staff member's Building Principal and/or immediate supervisor, will evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.19

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3232 TUTORING SERVICES

School staff members routinely provide time beyond their assigned responsibilities to students who need additional help in their academic programs. This additional help is provided by a staff member on school grounds during their free time during their workday or immediately before or after school hours. The time a staff member provides additional help to a student is an extension of their assigned school district responsibilities and a staff member may not charge a fee for providing this additional help to students.

However, the Board of Education recognizes a school staff member may be privately contracted to provide tutoring services to a student in addition to any additional help a student receives before, during and/or after the school day. These tutoring services shall be provided to a student under a private agreement between the staff member and the parent and/or student. Private tutoring shall not take place on school grounds.

The Board of Education assumes no responsibility, liability or obligations for the selection of the private tutor or the quality of the private tutoring services. School staff members shall not provide private tutoring services for a fee or any compensation to any student that is currently enrolled in their classes, unless an exception is approved by the Superintendent. An exception may be approved by the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis if the student's learning needs require a specialized program delivered by a teacher who has specialized training and/or knowledge in the subject area.

Adopted: 24 February 2015



3233 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education recognizes and encourages the right of all citizens, including teaching staff members, to engage in political activity. However, the Board prohibits the use of school grounds and school time for partisan political purposes.

The Board establishes the following guidelines to govern teaching staff members in their political activities:

1. A teaching staff member shall not engage in political activity on school ground unless permitted in accordance with Board Policy No. 7510 – Use of School Facilities and/or applicable Federal and State laws;
2. A teaching staff member shall not post political circulars or petitions on school grounds nor distribute such circulars or petitions to students nor solicit campaign funds or campaign workers on school grounds;
3. A teaching staff member shall not display any material that would tend to promote any candidate for office on an election day on school grounds that are used as a polling place;
4. A teaching staff member shall not engage in any activity in the presence of students while on school grounds, which activity is intended and/or designed to promote, further or assert a position(s) on labor relations issues.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.1., a staff member employed by this district who is a member of the Senate or General Assembly of the State of New Jersey shall be entitled to time off from school district duties, without loss of pay, during the periods of the teaching staff member's attendance at regular or special sessions of the legislature and hearings or meetings of any legislative committee or commission.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.2., a staff member employed by this district who is a member of the Board of County Commissioners of any county of New Jersey shall be entitled to time off from the teaching staff member's duties, without pay, during the periods of the teaching staff member's attendance at regular or special meetings of the Board of County Commissioners and of any committee thereof and at such other times as the teaching staff member shall be engaged in performing the necessary functions and duties of the teaching staff member's office as a member of the Board of County Commissioners.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3233/page 2 of 2
Political Activities

No other teaching staff member who holds elective or appointive office is so entitled to time off, except as such time off may be provided for by Board policy or negotiated agreement.

The provisions of this Policy do not apply to the discussion and study of politics and political issues appropriate to the curriculum, the conduct of student elections, or the conduct of employee representative elections.

Nothing in this Policy shall be interpreted to impose a burden on the constitutionally protected speech or conduct of a teaching staff member or student.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.1; 18A:6-8.2; 18A:6-8.4; 18A:42-4

N.J.S.A. 19:34-42

Green Township v. Rowe, Superior Court of New Jersey – Appellate Division A-2528-98T5

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 18 October 2022



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3240/page 1 of 2
Professional Development for Teachers
And School Leaders
Apr 14
M

3240 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS

The Board of Education encourages all teaching staff members to pursue a program of continuing professional development by course work or matriculation in institutions of higher learning, participation in workshops and conferences, membership in professional organizations, and/or independent scholarship.

Teaching staff members may be permitted to: visit other schools and classrooms; attend local, regional, or national conferences; participate in committees, workshops and panels, both within and outside the district. Requests for participation in such professional development activities must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent or designee for approval. In addition, the Board of Education must approve all travel expenditures in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12 and the State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Office of Management and Budget Circulars 08-19-OMB and 06-14-OMB (OMB Circulars) and any superseding circulars and any additional requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 et seq.

A teaching staff member who has been granted time off and/or approved to be reimbursed for a professional development activity shall submit to the Building Principal with a copy forwarded to the Superintendent and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, within ten (10) working days a brief written report that includes the primary purpose of the travel, the key issues addressed at the event, and their relevance to improving instruction or the operations of the school district.

All active teachers, defined as staff whose positions require possession of the instructional or educational services certificates in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8, 10, 11 and 13 and all active school leaders serving on a permanent or interim basis whose positions require possession of the Chief School Administrator, Principal or Supervisor endorsement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-12 shall comply with the professional development requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.1 et seq.

To meet the professional development requirement, each teacher shall be guided by an individual Professional development Plan (PDP), which shall include at least twenty (20) hours per year of qualifying activities as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.4. The PDP shall be developed by each teacher's supervisor in consultation with the teacher and shall align with the Professional Standards for Teachers in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3.3 and the Standards for Professional Learning in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-3.3.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3240/page 2 of 2
Professional Development for Teachers
And School Leaders
Apr 14

The PDP shall be updated annually in accordance with N.J.A.C. 9C-4.4(c) and modified during the year as outlined in N.J.A.C. 9C-4.4(d).

District-level and school-level professional development planning and implementation shall be in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.2.

Implementation of the professional development requirement for school leaders shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.3.

The Board of Education shall comply with the monitoring and assistance requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.4.

The Board shall monitor and enforce the professional development requirements for teachers and school leaders set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:9C-4.1 et seq. and shall actively assist and support the provision of opportunities and resources, and the efforts by teachers and school leaders to meet the professional development requirements.

N.J.S.A. 18A:31-2; 18A:6-111

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3.3; 6A:13-2.1; 6A:9B-8 through 13; 6A:9C3.3; 6A:9C-4.1 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 15 July 2014

Revised: 2 January 2018



3244 IN-SERVICE TRAINING

The Board of Education believes that the continuing improvement of the professional skills of teaching staff members is essential to the provision of a thorough and efficient system of education. The Board accepts the responsibility for providing training for staff members in order to encourage and foster their professional growth and improve the instructional and support services of this district. Staff training shall include district-wide and school-wide programs as well as individual personal improvement programs.

The Superintendent shall plan and present to the Board a program of in-service training that is consistent with the assessed needs and goals of the district. The in-service training program will be developed in consultation with appropriate teaching staff members and shall include the demonstrable results by which the effectiveness of the program will be evaluated.

The Superintendent shall report periodically to the Board on the conduct of the in-service training program and the results of its evaluation.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.1 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3245 RESEARCH PROJECTS BY STAFF MEMBERS

The Board of Education encourages the participation of teaching staff members in research projects that are soundly designed and professionally conducted.

Teaching staff members may seek funding from local, state, and federal sources, public and private, for locally conducted research projects. Any research project involving students must be approved by the Board; all other research projects involving district personnel, facilities, and/or resources may be approved by the Superintendent.

An application for approval of a proposed research project must set forth the purpose of the project; a detailed description of the project; the degree to which, if any, the project will interrupt or displace the regular instructional program; a projection of the number of students, if any, and staff members who will be involved, the period of time that will be devoted to the project, and the project costs; the source of funding; any background information necessary to an understanding of the project; the means by which the project will be evaluated; and an assessment of the contribution the project will make to the educational program of this district.

A written report must be made to the Superintendent when a research project is terminated, either completed or incomplete. The Superintendent may also require progress reports during the course of any research project and may notify appropriate administrators of the conduct of any research project.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3270 PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Education will establish and enforce rules for the assignment of specific duties to teaching staff members and for the conduct of teaching staff members during the work day.

Teaching staff members assigned specific instructional responsibilities and as designated by Superintendent shall prepare regular lesson plans. Teachers shall also be responsible for providing adequate direction and guidance to substitutes. Lesson plans shall be subject to review by the teaching staff member's Principal and/or immediate supervisor as assigned by the Superintendent. A teaching staff member who is excused from attending a faculty meeting must meet with the Building Principal the following day to review the topics covered at the meeting;

During the work day, teaching staff members may be assigned extra or alternative duties by the Principal or designee in accordance with Policy 3134. Teaching staff members are to attend every faculty meeting unless expressly excused by the Principal or designee.

N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-3.3

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 18 October 2022



3280 LIABILITY FOR STUDENT WELFARE

Teaching staff members are responsible for supervision of students and must discharge that responsibility with the highest levels of care and prudent conduct. All teaching staff members of this district shall be governed by the following rules in order to protect the well-being of students and to avoid any assignment of liability to this Board of Education or to a staff member personally in the event a student is injured.

The Superintendent shall prepare such regulations as may be required to enforce the following rules:

1. Each teaching staff member must maintain a standard of care for supervision, control, and protection of students commensurate with the member's assigned duties and responsibilities;
2. A teaching staff member should not voluntarily assume responsibility for duties he/she cannot reasonably perform. Such assumed responsibilities carry the same potential for liability as do assigned responsibilities;
3. A teaching staff member must provide proper instruction in safety wherever course guides so provide;
4. A teaching staff member must report immediately to the Building Principal any accident or safety hazard the member detects;
5. A teaching staff member must not send students on personal errands;
6. A teaching staff member must never transport students in a personal vehicle;
7. A teaching staff member must not require a student to perform tasks that may be detrimental to the health or well-being of the student or other students;
8. A teaching staff member will refrain from the use of personal furnishings and equipment in the classroom without the express permission of the Principal;
9. A teaching staff member must immediately report any instance of substance abuse, violence, vandalism, accidents, or suspected child abuse in accordance with Policy Nos. 8442, 8461, and 8462.

N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.8 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2
N.J.S.A. 59:1-1 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3281 INAPPROPRIATE STAFF CONDUCT

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of all students within this school district. Furthermore, the Board recognizes there exists a professional responsibility for all school staff to protect a student's health, safety and welfare. The Board strongly believes that school staff members have the public's trust and confidence to protect the well-being of all students attending the school district.

In support of this Board's strong commitment to the public's trust and confidence of school staff, the Board of Education holds all school staff to the highest level of professional responsibility in their conduct with all students. Inappropriate conduct and conduct unbecoming a school staff member will not be tolerated in this school district.

The Board recognizes and appreciates the staff-student professional relationship that exists in a school district's educational environment. This Policy has been developed and adopted by this Board to provide guidance and direction to avoid actual and/or the appearance of inappropriate staff conduct and conduct unbecoming a school staff member toward students.

School staff's conduct in completing their professional responsibilities shall be appropriate at all times. School staff shall not make inappropriate comments to students or about students and shall not engage in inappropriate language or expression in the presence of students. School staff shall not engage in inappropriate conduct toward or with students. School staff shall not engage or seek to be in the presence of a student beyond the staff member's professional responsibilities. School staff shall not provide transportation to a student in their private vehicle or permit a student into their private vehicle unless there is an emergency or a special circumstance that has been approved in advance by the Building Principal/immediate supervisor and the parent/legal guardian.

Inappropriate conduct by a school staff member outside his/her professional responsibilities may be considered conduct unbecoming a staff member. Therefore, school staff members are advised to be concerned with such conduct which may include, but is not limited to, communications and/or publications using e-mails, text-messaging, social networking sites, or any other medium that is directed and/or available to students or for public display.

A school staff member is always expected to maintain a professional relationship with students and protect the health, safety and welfare of school students. A staff member's conduct will be held to the professional standards established by the New Jersey State Board of Education and the New Jersey Commissioner of Education. Inappropriate conduct or conduct unbecoming a staff member may also include conduct not specifically listed in this Policy, but conduct



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3281/page 2 of 2
Inappropriate Staff Conduct

determined by the New Jersey State Board of Education, the New Jersey Commissioner of Education, an arbitration process, and/or appropriate courts to be inappropriate or conduct unbecoming a school staff member.

School personnel, compensated and uncompensated (volunteers), are required to report to the Building Principal any possible violations of this Policy. In the event the report alleges conduct by the Building Principal the school staff member may report directly to the Superintendent. In addition, school personnel having reasonable cause to believe a student has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or acts of child abuse or neglect as defined under N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10 are required to immediately report to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1 and inform the Building Principal after making such report. However, notice to the Building Principal or designee need not be given when the school staff member believes such notice would likely endanger the referrer or child(ren) involved or when the staff member believes that such disclosure would likely result in retaliation against the child or in discrimination against the referrer with respect to his/her employment.

Reports may be made in writing or with verbal notification. The Building Principal will notify the Superintendent of all reports, including anonymous reports. The Principal will investigate all reports with a final report to the Superintendent of Schools. The Principal or the Superintendent, may at any time after receiving a report, take such appropriate action as necessary and as provided for in the law. This may include, but is not limited to, notifying law enforcement, notifying the New Jersey Department of Children and Families in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1 and/or any other measure provided for in the law.

This Policy will be distributed to all school staff and provided to staff members at anytime, upon request.

N.J.S.A. 18A:28-5 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 21 March 2013



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3282/page 1 of 3

Use of Social Networking Sites

June 12

3282 USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

The Board of Education has a strong commitment to quality education and the well-being of all students, as well as the preservation of the school district's reputation. The Board believes staff members must establish and maintain public trust and confidence and be committed to protecting all students attending the school district. In support of the Board's strong commitment to the public's trust and confidence, the Board holds all staff members to the highest level of professional responsibility.

The Commissioner of Education has determined inappropriate conduct outside a staff member's professional responsibilities may determine them as unfit to discharge the duties and functions of their position. Staff members should be advised communications publications, photographs, and other information appearing on social networking sites deemed inappropriate by the Board could be cause for dismissal of a non-tenured staff member or to certify tenure charges against a tenured staff member to the Commissioner of Education.

Staff members are advised to be concerned and aware such conduct deemed inappropriate may include, but is not limited to, communications and/or publications using e-mails, text-messaging, social networking sites, or any other form of electronic communication that is directed and/or available to students or for public display or publication.

While the Board respects the right of staff members to use social networking sites, staff members should recognize they are held to a higher standard than the general public with regard to standards of conduct and ethics. It is important that a staff member's use of these sites does not damage the reputation of the school district, employees, students, or their families. Staff members who utilize, post or publish images, photographs, or comments on social networking sites, blogs, or other forms of electronic communication outside their professional responsibilities shall ensure their use, postings, or publications are done with an appropriate level of professionalism and are appropriate conduct for a school staff member. Staff members should exercise care in setting appropriate boundaries between their personal and public online behavior, understanding that what is private in the digital world often has the possibility of becoming public even without their knowledge or consent.

The school district strongly encourages all staff members to carefully review the privacy setting on social networking sites they use and exercise care and good judgment when posting content and information on such sites. Staff members should adhere to the following guidelines, which are consistent with the district's workplace standards on harassment, student relationships, conduct, professional communication and confidentiality.



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3282/page 2 of 3

Inappropriate Staff Conduct

When using personal social networking sites, school staff members:

1. Should not make statements that would violate any of the district's policies, including its policies concerning discrimination or harassment;
2. Must uphold the district's value of respect for the individual and avoid making defamatory statements about the school district, employees, students or their families;
3. May not disclose any confidential information about the school district or confidential information obtained during the course of his/her employment, about any individual(s) or organization, including students and/or their families;
4. Shall not use social networking sites to post any materials of a sexually graphic nature;
5. Shall not use social networking sites to post any materials which promote violence;
6. Shall not use social networking sites which would be detrimental to the mission and function of the district;
7. Are prohibited from using their school district title as well as adding references to the district in any correspondence including, but not limited to, e-mails, postings, social networking sites unless the communication is of an official nature and is serving the mission of the district. This prohibition also includes signature lines and personal e-mail accounts;
8. Shall not post updates to their status on any social networking sites during normal working hours including posting of statements or comments on the social networking sites of others during school time unless it involves a school project. Employees must seek approval from the Superintendent of Schools for such use; and
9. Shall not post or publish any information the Commissioner of Education would deem to be inappropriate conduct by a school staff member.

The policy of this district is to maintain a level of professionalism both during and after the school day. Any publication through any means of electronic communication which is potentially adverse to the operation, morale or efficiency of the district, will be deemed a



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3282/page 3 of 3

Inappropriate Staff Conduct

violation of this Policy. If the Board or Superintendent believes that a staff member's activity on any social networking site violates the district's policies, the Board or Superintendent may request that the employee cease such activity. Depending on the severity of the incident, the staff member may be subject to disciplinary action.

This Policy has been developed and adopted by this Board to provide guidance and direction to staff members on how to avoid actual and/or the appearance of inappropriate conduct toward students and/or the community while using social networking sites.

Adopted: November 13, 2012



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3283/page 1 of 5

Electronic Communications Between Teaching Staff
Members and Students

June 14

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3283 ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes electronic communications and the use of social media outlets create new options for extending and enhancing the educational program of the school district. Electronic communications and the use of social media can help students and teaching staff members communicate regarding: questions during non-school hours regarding homework or other assignments; scheduling issues for school-related co-curricular and interscholastic athletic activities; school work to be completed during a student's extended absence; distance learning opportunities; and other professional communications that can enhance teaching and learning opportunities between teaching staff members and students. However, the Board of Education recognizes teaching staff members can be vulnerable in electronic communications with students.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-40, the Board of Education adopts this Policy to provide guidance and direction to teaching staff members to prevent improper electronic communications between teaching staff members and students.

The Commissioner of Education and arbitrators, appointed by the Commissioner, have determined inappropriate conduct may determine a teaching staff member unfit to discharge the duties and functions of their position. Improper electronic communications by teaching staff members may be determined to be inappropriate conduct.

For the purposes of this Policy, "electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular telephone, computer, computer network, personal data assistant or pager. "Electronic communications" include, but are not limited to, e-mails, text messages, instant messages and communications made by means of an Internet website, including social media and social networking websites.

For the purposes of this Policy, "professional responsibility" means a teaching staff member's responsibilities regarding co-curricular, athletic coaching and any other instructional or non-instructional responsibilities assigned to the teaching staff member by the administration or Board of Education.

For the purposes of the Policy, "improper electronic communications" means an electronic communication between a teaching staff member and any student of the school district when:



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3283/page 2 of 5

Electronic Communications Between Teaching Staff
Members and Students

June 14

1. The content of the communication is inappropriate as defined in this Policy; and/or
2. The manner in which the electronic communication is made is not in accordance with acceptable protocols for electronic communications between a teaching staff member and a student as defined in this Policy.

Inappropriate content of an electronic communication between a teaching staff member and a student includes, but is not limited to:

1. Communications of a sexual nature, sexually oriented humor or language, sexual advances or content with a sexual overtone;
2. Communications involving the use, encouraging the use, or promoting or advocating the use of alcohol or tobacco, the illegal use of prescription drugs or controlled dangerous substances, illegal gambling or other illegal activities;
3. Communications regarding the teaching staff member's or student's past or current romantic relationships;
4. Communications which include the use of profanities, obscene language, lewd comments or pornography;
5. Communications that are harassing, intimidating or bullying;
6. Communications requesting or trying to establish a personal relationship with a student beyond the teaching staff member's professional responsibilities;
7. Communications related to personal or confidential information regarding another school staff member or student; and
8. Communications between the teaching staff member and a student that the Commissioner of Education or an arbitrator would determine to be inappropriate in determining the teaching staff member is unfit to discharge the duties and functions of their position.

The following acceptable protocols for all electronic communications between a teaching staff member and a student shall be followed:



1. E-mail Electronic Communications Between a Teaching Staff Member and a Student
 - a. All e-mails between a teaching staff member and a student must be sent or received through the school district's e-mail system. The content of all e-mails between a teaching staff member and a student shall be limited to the staff member's professional responsibilities regarding the student.
 - b. A teaching staff member shall not provide their personal e-mail address to any student. If a student sends an e-mail to a teaching staff member's personal e-mail address, the staff member shall respond to the e-mail through the school district e-mail system and inform the student his/her personal e-mail address shall not be used for any electronic communication between the teaching staff member and the student.
 - c. A teaching staff member's school district e-mail account is subject to review by authorized school district officials. Therefore, a teaching staff member shall have no expectation of privacy on the school district's e-mail system.
2. Cellular Telephone Electronic Communications Between a Teaching Staff Member and a Student
 - a. Communications between a teaching staff member and a student via a personal cellular telephone shall be prohibited.
 - (1) However, a teaching staff member may, with prior approval of the Principal or designee, communicate with a student using their personal cellular telephone if the need to communicate is directly related to the teaching staff member's professional responsibilities for a specific purpose such as a field trip, athletic event, co-curricular activity, etc. Any such approval for cellular telephone communications shall not extend beyond the specific field trip athletic event, co-curricular activity, etc. approved by the Principal or designee.
3. Text Messaging Electronic Communications Between Teaching Staff Members and Students
 - a. Text messaging communications between a teaching staff member and an individual student are prohibited.



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3283/page 4 of 5

Electronic Communications Between Teaching Staff
Members and Students

June 14

- (1) However, a teaching staff member may, with prior approval of the Principal or designee, text message students provided the need to text message is directly related to the teaching staff member's professional responsibilities with a class or co-curricular activity. Any such text message must be sent to every student in the class or every member of the co-curricular activity. Any such approval for text messaging shall not extend beyond the class or activity approved by the Principal or designee.
4. Social Networking Websites and other Internet-Based Social Media Electronic Communications Between Teaching Staff Members and a Student
 - a. A teaching staff member is prohibited from communicating with any student through the teaching staff member's personal social networking website or other Internet-based website. Communications on personal websites are not acceptable between a teaching staff member and a student.
 - b. A teaching staff member shall not accept "friend" requests from any student on their personal social networking website or other Internet-based social media website. Any communication sent by a student to a teaching staff member's personal social networking website or other Internet-based social media website shall not be responded to by the teaching staff member and shall be reported to the Principal or designee by the teaching staff member.
 - c. If a teaching staff member has a student(s) as a "friend" on their personal social networking website or other Internet-based social media website they must permanently remove them from their list of contacts upon Board adoption of this Policy.
 - d. Communication between a teaching staff member and a student through social networking websites or other Internet-based social media websites is only permitted provided the website has been approved the Principal or designee and all communications or publications using such websites are available to: every student in the class; every member of the co-curricular activity and their parents; and the Principal or designee.



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3283/page 5 of 5

Electronic Communications Between Teaching Staff
Members and Students

June 14

Reporting Responsibilities

In the event a student sends an improper electronic communication, as defined in this Policy, to a teaching staff member, the teaching staff member shall report the improper communication to the Principal or designee by the next school day. The Principal or designee will take appropriate action to have the student discontinue such improper electronic communications. Improper electronic communications by a teaching staff member or a student may result in appropriate disciplinary action.

The provisions of this Policy shall be applicable at all times while the teaching staff member is employed in the school district and at all times the student is enrolled in the school district, including holiday and summer breaks.

A copy of this Policy will be made available on an annual basis, to all parents, students and school employees either electronically or in school handbooks.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-40

Adopted: 5 May 2015



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3310/page 1 of 1

Academic Freedom

3310 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The curriculum adopted by the Board of Education is designed to address the educational goals established for this school district and to meet the needs of students. The course guides prepared for each course of study describe the material to be covered in each course and, in general, the approach to be employed by the teaching staff member responsible for the course.

The Board recognizes that some deviation from the course guide is necessary to the free exchange of ideas within the classroom. Exposure to a wide range of ideas encourages the spirit of inquiry that is essential to the learning process; the thorough examination of those ideas aids students in developing powers of reasoning and in acquiring habits of academic discipline.

The Board directs that the discussion of any issue not specifically covered by the course guide be conducted in an unprejudiced and dispassionate manner. The Board will not condone classroom discussion that is unrelated to the educational goals of this district or to the subject of the course of study, disrupts the educational process, does not match the maturity level of the students, neglects to inform students of various responsible points of view on the subject under discussion, or fails to take into account the sensibilities of the community.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3321/page 1 of 3

Acceptable Use of Computer Network(s)/Computers and
Resources by Teaching Staff Members

3321 ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTER NETWORK(S)/COMPUTERS AND RESOURCES BY TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

The Board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the manner in which information is accessed, communicated and transferred that those changes will alter the nature of teaching and learning. Access to telecommunications will allow teaching staff members to explore databases, libraries, Internet sites, bulletin boards and the like while exchanging information with individuals throughout the world. The Board supports access by teaching staff members to information sources but reserves the right to limit in-school use to materials appropriate to educational purposes. The Board directs the Superintendent to effect training of teaching staff members in skills appropriate to analyzing and evaluating such resources as to appropriateness for educational purposes.

The Board also recognizes that telecommunications will allow teaching staff members access to information sources that have not been pre-screened using Board approved standards. The Board therefore adopts the following standards of conduct for the use of computer network(s) and declares unethical, unacceptable, inappropriate or illegal behavior as just cause for taking disciplinary action, limiting or revoking network access privileges, instituting legal action or taking any other appropriate action as deemed necessary.

The Board provides access to computer network(s)/computers for administrative and educational purposes only. The Board retains the right to restrict or terminate teaching staff member's access to the computer network(s)/computers at any time, for any reason. The Board retains the right to have the Superintendent or designee monitor network activity, in any form necessary, to maintain the integrity of the network(s) and ensure its proper use.

Standards for Use of Computer Network(s)

Any individual engaging in the following actions declared unethical, unacceptable or illegal when using computer network(s)/computers shall be subject to discipline or legal action:

1. Using the computer network(s)/computers for illegal, inappropriate or obscene purposes, or in support of such activities. Illegal activities are defined as activities which violate federal, state, local laws and regulations. Inappropriate activities are defined as those that violate the intended use of the network(s). Obscene activities shall be defined as a violation of generally accepted social standards for use of publicly owned and operated communication vehicles.



Acceptable Use of Computer Network(s)/Computers and
Resources by Teaching Staff Members

2. Using the computer network(s)/computers to violate copyrights, institutional or third party copyrights, license agreements or other contracts.
3. Using the computer network(s) in a manner that:
 - a. Intentionally disrupts network traffic or crashes the network;
 - b. Degrades or disrupts equipment or system performance;
 - c. Uses the computing resources of the school district for commercial purposes, financial gain or fraud;
 - d. Steals data or other intellectual property;
 - e. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to the files of others or vandalizes the data of another user;
 - f. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to resources or entities;
 - g. Forges electronic mail messages or uses an account owned by others;
 - h. Invades privacy of others;
 - i. Posts anonymous messages;
 - j. Possesses any data which is a violation of this policy; and/or
 - k. Engages in other activities that do not advance the educational purposes for which computer network(s)/computers are provided.

Violations

Individuals violating this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions as defined by Policy No. 3150, Discipline which includes but are not limited to:

1. Use of the network(s)/computers only under direct supervision;
2. Suspension of network privileges;
3. Revocation of network privileges;



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3321/page 3 of 3

Acceptable Use of Computer Network(s)/Computers and
Resources by Teaching Staff Members

4. Suspension of computer privileges;
5. Revocation of computer privileges;
6. Suspension;
7. Dismissal;
8. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities; and/or
9. Any appropriate action that may be deemed necessary as determined by the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Education.

N.J.S.A. 2A:38A-3

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 16 November 2021



3322 STAFF MEMBER'S USE OF PERSONAL CELLULAR TELEPHONES/
OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The North Caldwell Board of Education recognizes a teaching staff member may need to electronically communicate on a non-school related, personal matter using a personal cellular telephone or other personal communication device during their workday. Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: voice conversations, text-messaging, accessing social networking or other internet sites, or any other type of electronic communication.

In the event the teaching staff member needs to electronically communicate on a non-school related, personal matter using a personal cellular telephone or other personal communication device during their workday, the teaching staff member may do so provided: the communication is made during the teaching staff member's duty free lunch or break periods and is made outside the presence of students.

A teaching staff member's personal cellular telephone or other personal communication device shall be secured by the teaching staff member and outside the view of others when the teaching staff member is performing assigned school district responsibilities.

An electronic communication by a teaching staff member on a non-school related, personal matter using a personal cellular telephone or other personal communication device shall not be made while the teaching staff member is performing assigned school district responsibilities.

In the event the teaching staff member has an emergency requiring immediate attention that requires such a communication while performing assigned school district responsibilities the teaching staff member shall inform their Principal or immediate supervisor before or immediately after the communication, depending on the nature of the emergency. The Board of Education is not responsible if a teaching staff member's personal cellular telephone or other communication device is lost, stolen or missing.

Adopted: 3 November 2009

Revised: 20 October 2015



3324 RIGHT OF PRIVACY

The Board of Education will provide facilities and school district-owned property to assist staff members in their job responsibilities or for the staff members' convenience. These facilities or district-owned property may include, but are not limited to, an office, a storage closet, a filing cabinet, a locker and/or a desk. The Principal or designee may provide a staff member with exclusive use and access to such facilities or school district-owned property or may require the facility or school district-owned property be shared with other staff members. The staff member may be provided a lock or key by the school district or may secure the facility or school district-owned property using their own locking device with permission from the Principal or designee.

School staff members should be aware their expectation of privacy in these facilities and/or the school district-owned property provided by the Board of Education is reduced by virtue of actual office practices and procedures, for searches conducted pursuant to an investigation of work-related employee misconduct, or by legitimate school district policies or regulations. In addition, staff members shall have a reduced expectation of privacy in these facilities and school district-owned property if there is reasonable suspicion the staff member is violating a law or school policy. School staff members shall be on notice this reduced expectation of privacy may result in such facilities and/or school district-owned property being searched without a search warrant. In order to avoid exposing personal belongings to such a search, school staff members are discouraged from storing personal papers and effects in these facilities or school district-owned property.

Adopted: March 27, 2012



3340 GRIEVANCE

The Board of Education shall develop and practice reasonable and effective means for the resolution of disputes that may arise in the employment of teaching staff members not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement.

The Board directs that any grievance not provided for by negotiated agreement be resolved by submission to the following grievance procedure, which is designed to promote proper and equitable settlement of grievances at the lowest appropriate level and to facilitate an orderly process for the resolution of grievances.

For the purposes of this policy, “grievance” means an unresolved problem concerning the application or interpretation by an officer or employee of this district of law, regulations of the State Board of Education, the bylaws or policies of the Board, or the administrative regulations of the Superintendent; “grievant” is a district employee who alleges a grievance or the employee’s representative; “party” means the grievant or any person named in the grievance as allegedly having violated a law, bylaw, policy, or regulation; and “day” means a school day.

If the same or substantially the same alleged grievance is made by more than one employee, a single grievant may process the grievance through the grievance procedure on behalf of all grievants. The names of all the grievants will appear on all documents related to the settlement of the grievance.

Level One

Within thirty calendar days of the occurrence of the act or omission giving rise to the grievance, the grievant must present his/her grievance in writing to the grievant’s immediate supervisor. The written document will be a clear, concise statement of the grievance and will include the law, rule, policy, or regulation that the grievant alleges to have been violated; the factual circumstances on which the grievance is based; the person or persons involved; the decision, if any, rendered at the private conference; and the remedy sought.

Within ten working days the supervisor shall present a decision to the grievant in writing. If the supervisor does not respond during the time permitted, the grievant may appeal to the next level.

Level Two

A grievant not satisfied with a decision at Level One may appeal that decision in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within ten working days after receipt of the decision or the expiration of the time during which the decision must be rendered. The written appeal will include a copy of the original grievance; the decision rendered, if any; the name of the grievant’s



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3340/page 2 of 2
Grievance

representative, if any; and a clear, concise statement of the reasons for the appeal of the decision.

The Superintendent of School shall present a decision to the grievant within ten working days. If no decision is rendered within that time limit, the grievant may appeal to the next level.

Level Three

A grievant not satisfied with a decision at Level Two may appeal that decision in writing to the Board of Education within ten working days after receipt of the decision or the expiration of the time during which the decision must be rendered. The written appeal to the Board will include copies of the original grievance, the appeal of that grievance at Level Two, and the decision, if any, rendered at Level Two. Within thirty working days after the delivery of the appeal, the Board shall investigate the grievance, giving all persons who participate in Levels One and Two a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

The Board shall schedule the grievance for hearing and may require the presence of a party to the grievance.

The decision of the Board shall be final.

N.J.S.A. 34:13A-5.3

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3362 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Board of Education recognizes that an employee's right to freedom from employment discrimination includes the opportunity to work in an environment untainted by sexual harassment. Sexually offensive speech and conduct are wholly inappropriate to the harmonious employment relationships necessary to the operation of the school district and intolerable in a workplace to which the children of this district are exposed.

Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and verbal or physical contacts of a sexual nature that would not have happened but for the employee's gender. Whenever submission to such conduct is made a condition of employment or a basis for an employment decision, or when such conduct is severe and pervasive and has the purpose or effect of unreasonably altering or interfering with work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment, the employee shall have cause for complaint.

The sexual harassment of any employee of this district is strictly forbidden. Any employee or agent of this Board who is found to have sexually harassed an employee of this district will be subject to discipline which may include termination of employment. Any employee who has been exposed to sexual harassment by any employee or agent of this Board is encouraged to report the harassment to an appropriate supervisor. An employee may complain of any failure of the Board to take corrective action by recourse to the procedure by which a discrimination complaint is processed. The employee may appeal the Board's action or inaction to the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights. Complaints regarding sexual harassment shall be submitted following the procedures outlined in Regulation No. 1530, Equal Employment Opportunity.

The Affirmative Action Officer shall instruct all employees and agents of this Board to recognize and correct speech and behavior patterns that may be sexually offensive with or without the intent to offend.

29 C.F.R. 1604.11

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3370 TEACHING STAFF MEMBER TENURE

The Board of Education recognizes that the benefit of tenure is conferred by law on teaching staff members who have completed the requisite period of probationary service in this school district. The Board also recognizes that certain service does not qualify the teaching staff member who performs that service for the grant of tenure.

Tenure in any administrative or supervisory position as listed in N.J.S.A. 18A:28-5 shall accrue only by employment in that administrative or supervisory position. Tenure so accrued will not extend to any other administrative or supervisory position and nothing shall limit or restrict tenure rights which were or may be acquired pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:28-6.

The Board specifically directs that service in the following positions will not accrue toward the tenure status and will be performed only under contract renewable at the discretion of the Board:

1. Substitute teacher acting in the absence of another employee;
2. Summer school teacher;
3. Co-curricular advisor;
4. Athletic coach; and
5. Department chairperson other than a supervisor.

Nothing in this policy will be deemed to confer tenure on any employee who serves in a position not listed above and for whom tenure is not provided by law.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1.1; 18A:28-3 et seq.; 18A:28-5 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3372/page 1 of 2

Teaching Staff Member Tenure Acquisition

August 13

3372 TEACHING STAFF MEMBER TENURE ACQUISITION

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:28-5.a, teaching staff members employed prior to August 6, 2012 (the effective date of P.L.2012, c.26 – N.J.S.A. 18A:6-117 et seq.) in the positions of teacher, Principal, other than Administrative Principal, Assistant Principal, Vice Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and all school nurses including school nurse supervisors, head school nurses, chief school nurses, school nurse coordinators, and any other nurse performing school nursing services, school athletic trainer and such other employees as are in positions which require them to hold appropriate certificates issued by the Board of Examiners, serving in any school district or under any Board of Education, except those who are not the holders of proper certificates in full force and effect and School Business Administrators shared by two or more school districts, shall be under tenure during good behavior and efficiency and they shall not be dismissed or reduced in compensation except for inefficiency, incapacity, or conduct unbecoming such a teaching staff member or other just cause and then only in the manner prescribed by Subarticle B of Article 2 of Chapter 6 of N.J.S.A. 18A, after employment in the district or by the Board of Education for:

1. Three (3) consecutive calendar years, or any shorter period which may be fixed by the employing Board for such purpose; or
2. Three consecutive academic years, together with employment at the beginning of the next succeeding academic year; or
3. The equivalent of more than three (3) academic years within a period of any four consecutive academic years.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:28-5.b, teaching staff members employed on or after August 6, 2012 (the effective date of P.L. 2012, c.26 – N.J.S.A. 18A:6-117 et seq.) in the position of teacher, Principal, other than Administrative Principal, Assistant Principal, Vice Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and all school nurses, including school nurse supervisors, head school nurses, chief school nurses, school nurse coordinators, and any other nurse performing school nursing services, school athletic trainer and such other employees as are in positions which require them to hold appropriate certificates issued by the Board of Examiners, serving in any school district or under any Board of Education, excepting those who are not the holders of proper certificates in full force and effect, and School Business Administrators shared by two (2) or more school districts, shall be under tenure during good behavior and efficiency and they shall not be dismissed or reduced in compensation except for inefficiency, incapacity or conduct unbecoming such a teaching staff member or other just cause and then only in the manner prescribed by Subarticle B of Article 2 of Chapter 6 of N.J.S.A. 18A, after employment in the district or by the Board of Education for:



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3372/page 2 of 2

Teaching Staff Member Tenure Acquisition

August 13

1. Four (4) consecutive calendar years; or
2. Four (4) consecutive academic years, together with employment at the beginning of the next succeeding academic year; or
3. The equivalent of more than four (4) academic years within a period of any five (5) consecutive academic years.

In order to achieve tenure pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:28-5.b, a teacher shall also complete a district mentorship program during the initial year of employment and receive a rating of effective or highly effective in two (2) annual summative evaluations within the first three (3) years of employment after the initial year of employment in which the teacher completes the district mentorship program.

In order to achieve tenure pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:28-5.b, a Principal, Assistant Principal and Vice Principal shall also receive a rating of effective or highly effective in two (2) annual summative evaluations within the first three (3) years of employment with the first effective rating being received on or after the completion of the second year of employment.

“Effective” or “highly effective” means the employee has received an annual summative evaluation rating of “effective” or “highly effective” based on the performance standards for his/her position established through the evaluation rubric adopted by the Board of Education and approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Tenure in any of the administrative or supervisory positions enumerated in N.J.S.A. 18A:28-5 et seq. shall accrue only by employment in that administrative or supervisory position. Tenure so accrued shall not extend to any other administrative or supervisory position and nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:28-5 shall limit or restrict tenure rights which were or may be acquired, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:28-6 – Tenure Upon Transfer or Promotion, in a position in which the individual actually served.

N.J.S.A. 18A:28-5

Adopted: December 17, 2013



3373 TENURE UPON TRANSFER OR PROMOTION

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:28-6.a, any such teaching staff member under tenure or eligible to obtain tenure under N.J.S.A. 18A:28-1 et seq. who is transferred or promoted with his/her consent to another position covered by N.J.S.A. 18A:28-1 et seq. on or after July 1, 1962, shall not obtain tenure in the new position until after:

1. The expiration of a period of employment of two (2) consecutive calendar years in the new position unless a shorter period is fixed by the employing Board of Education for such purpose; or
2. Employment for two (2) academic years in the new position together with employment in the new position at the beginning of the next succeeding academic year; or
3. Employment in the new position within a period of any three (3) consecutive academic years, for the equivalent of more than two (2) academic years;

provided that the period of employment in such new position shall be included in determining the tenure and seniority rights in the former position held by such teaching staff member, and in the event the employment in such new position is terminated before tenure is obtained therein, if he/she then has tenure in the district or under the Board of Education, such teaching staff member shall be returned to his/her former position at the salary which he/she would have received had the transfer or promotion not occurred together with any increase to which he/she would have been entitled during the period of such transfer or promotion.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:28-6.b, any such teaching staff member under tenure or eligible to obtain tenure under N.J.S.A. 18A:28-1 et seq., who is transferred or promoted with his/her consent to another position covered by N.J.S.A. 18A:28-1 et seq. on or after August 6, 2012 (the effective date of P.L. 2012, c.26 – N.J.S.A. 18A:6-117 et seq), shall not obtain tenure in the new position until after:

1. The expiration of a period of employment of two (2) consecutive calendar years in the new position; or
2. Employment for two (2) academic years in the new position together with employment in the new position at the beginning of the next succeeding academic year; or
3. Employment in the new position within a period of any three (3) consecutive academic years, for the equivalent of more than two (2) academic years;



TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

3373/page 2 of 2

Tenure Upon Transfer or Promotion

August 13

providing that the period of employment in such new position shall be included in determining the tenure and seniority rights in the former position held by such teaching staff member, and in the event the employment in such new position is terminated before tenure is obtained therein, if he/she then has tenure in the district or under the Board of Education, such teaching staff member shall be returned to his/her former position at the salary which he/she would have received had the transfer or promotion not occurred together with any increase to which he/she would have been entitled during the period of such transfer or promotion. In order to receive tenure pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:28-6.b, a teacher, Principal, Assistant Principal and Vice Principal shall be evaluated as effective or highly effective in two annual summative evaluations within the first three years of employment in the new position. For purposes of N.J.S.A. 18A:28-6.b, "effective" or "highly effective" means the employee has received an annual summative evaluation rating of "effective" or "highly effective" based on the performance standards for his/her position established through the evaluation rubric adopted by the Board of Education and approved by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education.

N.J.S.A. 18A:28-6

Adopted: December 17, 2013



3381 PROTECTION AGAINST RETALIATION

The Board of Education will take no retaliatory action, by discharge, demotion, suspension, or any other adverse action, against an employee because that employee has conscientiously:

1. Disclosed or threatened to disclose to a supervisor or public body an activity, policy, or practice of this Board or any district officer that the employee reasonably believes to be in violation of law or rule;
2. Provided information to a public body conducting an investigation, hearing, or inquiry into any alleged violation of law by the Board or an officer of this district; or
3. Objected to or refused to participate in an activity, policy, or practice of this district that the employee reasonably believes to be in violation of law or rule, fraudulent, criminal, or incompatible with a clear mandate of public policy concerning the public health, safety, or welfare or protection of the environment.

An employee who has reason to believe that the Board has engaged in an illegal activity or an activity contrary to public policy must report that belief in writing to the Superintendent before notice is given to a supervisor or a public body. The Superintendent shall promptly report the same to the Board and institute an investigation of the reported activity. The findings of the investigation will be reported in writing to the Board and to the employee.

The protection of law and this policy apply only to employees who have given notice in accordance with this policy and have afforded the Board a reasonable period of time to take any corrective action that may be required or have acted in circumstances that the employee believes in good faith constitute an emergency.

The Superintendent shall post notice of this policy and inform employees of their rights under the New Jersey Conscientious Employee Protection Act.

N.J.S.A. 34:19-1

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3410 COMPENSATION

The Board of Education will establish the compensation for teaching staff members not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement or in an individual contract with the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-6; 18A:16-11; 18A:27-4; 18A:29-2

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3420 BENEFITS

The Board of Education will establish benefits for teaching staff members not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement or in an individual contract with the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-6; 18A:16-12 et seq.; 18A:27-4

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3425 WORK RELATED DISABILITY PAY

The Board of Education will permit, in accordance with law, the absence without loss of pay or of annual or accumulated sick leave benefits of a teaching staff member disabled by accident or injury arising out of and in the course of employment. Any such employee shall seek the workers' compensation benefits to which he/she is entitled by law.

An employee whose disability has qualified for the receipt of workers' compensation benefits shall be presumed eligible for work related disability pay under this policy. When an employee's disability is so brief as to preclude the employee's application for workers' compensation benefits, the employee may request and the Board may grant work related disability pay.

Any employee who qualifies for work related disability pay under this policy will be entitled to receive full pay during the period he/she is on disability leave of absence, for up to twelve consecutive months.

As a condition of receiving full salary, an employee who receives workers' compensation benefits for his/her work-related disability must endorse and deliver to the Board all workers' compensation temporary disability checks received for the period covered by this policy.

N.J.S.A 18A:30-2.1; 18A:66-32.1
N.J.S.A 34:15-38

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3425.1 MODIFIED DUTY EARLY RETURN TO WORK PROGRAM – TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

New Jersey's workers' compensation laws provide lost wages and pay medical expenses for an employee who sustains an injury as a result of an on-the-job accident, injury, or occupational disease. Workers' compensation is designed to protect school district employees and their families against the hardships from injury arising in the workplace. In an effort to assist school staff in recovering from an eligible workers' compensation injury, the Board provides a Modified Duty Early Return To Work Program. The Program is provided to staff members who have been injured on the job, but who are not permanently disabled. The Program is intended to minimize the negative psychological impact to an injured staff member due to being out of work and to provide a transition and adjustment period for the injured staff member to return to work while recovering from an on-the-job injury.

The school district may assign temporary modified duties and responsibilities to staff members that have sustained an eligible workers' compensation injury. These employees may temporarily perform duties and responsibilities that may or may not be within their job description, or may or may not be within their department. The modified duties and/or responsibilities will be within the injured staff member's capabilities and a staff member will not be assigned any modified duties and/or responsibilities that require any certifications/licenses that are not possessed by the injured staff member.

The modified duties and responsibilities will be determined by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, the district's designated Workers' Compensation Coordinator, after a medical examination and evaluation of the injured staff member by the Board's designated workers' compensation physician. The Workers' Compensation Coordinator will determine if the injured staff member is eligible for modified duties or responsibilities. This determination will be based on:

1. The workers' compensation physician's examination and evaluation report;
2. The injured staff member's capabilities to assume modified duties or responsibilities;
3. The availability of modified duties and responsibilities within the district at the time; and/or
4. Other issues that may impact the district's ability to assign modified duties and responsibilities.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3425.1/page 2 of 2
Modified Duty Early Return to Work
Program – Teaching Staff Members

This Modified Duty Early Return to Work Program will be administered consistent with applicable federal and State laws and in accordance with provisions of collective bargaining agreements within the district.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3432 SICK LEAVE

The Board of Education shall grant sick leave, in accordance with law, to teaching staff members absent from work because of personal disability or quarantine. Each steadily employed employee eligible for sick leave will be entitled annually to the number of paid sick leave days negotiated with the employee's majority representative or provided in this policy or in an individual contract with the Board.

29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3433 VACATIONS

The Board of Education believes that the school district benefits when teaching staff members employed to work twelve months a year are given periodic relief from the responsibilities of their positions 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 or in an individual contract with the Board.

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

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3435 ANTICIPATED DISABILITY

The Board of Education shall provide for leaves of absence, in accordance with law and the policies of this Board, for any employee of this district not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement whose absence from duties will be required for a foreseeable event of disability such as childbirth or surgery.

An employee who anticipates disability shall so notify the Superintendent as soon as the employee is under medical supervision for the condition and a date is projected for the anticipated disability. Because of the potentially disabling nature of pregnancy and the certainty of temporary disability at birth, the Board will presume that a pregnant employee is disabled for work thirty days before the anticipated date of childbirth and continues to be disabled for thirty days after birth, except that any such employee who presents medical certification of her fitness may continue to work until she is actually disabled and may return to work as soon as she is able.

The Board reserves the right to require an employee who requests an extended leave of absence that includes anticipated disability to commence and/or terminate the leave at times that ensure continuity in the educational program in accordance with Policy No. 3431. No person who is required to take leave at a time other than that requested will be denied the use of sick leave for the anticipated disability that occurs or is presumed to occur during the leave.

An employee who anticipates a disability may request a leave of absence to commence before disability and to extend beyond the period of disability. Any such request shall be subject to Board discretion and the Board's policy on leave of absence. An employee on voluntary leave of absence is not eligible for sick leave pay for disability occurring during the period of that absence.

42 U.S.C. 2000e-2
29 C.F.R. 1604-1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 10:5-12
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-6; 18A:16-2; 18A:30-1 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3436 PERSONAL LEAVE

The Board of Education will provide compensated absence for reasons of personal necessity for teaching staff members not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement or in an individual contract with the Board.

The Board reserves the right to determine the reasons for which personal leave will be granted, the number of days that may be used in any one school year for personal leave, and the manner of proof of personal necessity.

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

Adopted: 3 November 2009



3437 MILITARY LEAVE

The Board of Education recognizes that military service rendered by any district employee in the defense of the country or in maintaining preparedness for conflict, foreign or domestic, is a service benefiting all citizens. A permanent or full-time temporary officer and/or employee of the district will be provided military leave and related benefits pursuant to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 U.S.C. Section 4301 et seq., P.L. 2001 Chapter 351 amending N.J.S.A. 38:23-1, N.J.S.A. 38A:1-1 and N.J.S.A. 38A:4-4., and any other applicable Federal and State laws.

A permanent or full-time temporary officer or employee of the school district who is a member of the organized militia of New Jersey (New Jersey National Guard, New Jersey Naval Militia Joint Command) shall be entitled, in addition to pay received, if any, as a member of the organized militia, to a leave of absence from his or her respective duties without loss of pay or time on all days during which he or she shall be engaged in any period of State or Federal active duty; provided, however that the leave of absence for Federal active duty or active duty for training shall not exceed ninety work days in the aggregate in any calendar year. Any leave of absence for such duty in excess of ninety work days shall be without pay, but without loss of time. Such leave shall be in addition to the regular vacation or other accrued leave provided to the officer or employee. A full-time temporary officer or employee who has served under such temporary appointment for less than one year in the district shall receive this leave without pay, but without loss of time.

A permanent or full-time temporary officer or employee of the school district who is a member of the organized reserve of the Army of the United States, United States Naval Reserve, United States Air Force Reserve or United States Marine Corps Reserve, or other organization affiliated therewith, including the National Guard of other states, shall be entitled, in addition to pay received, if any, as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, to a leave of absence from his or her respective duty without loss of pay or time on all work days on which he or she shall be engaged in any period of Federal active duty, provided, however, that such leave of absence shall not exceed thirty work days in any calendar year. Such leave shall be in addition to the regular vacation or other accrued leave provided to the officer or employee. Any leave of absence for such duty in excess of thirty work days shall be without pay, but without loss of time. A full-time temporary officer or employee who has served under such temporary appointment for less than one year in the district shall receive this leave without pay, but without loss of time.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS
3437/page 2 of 2
Military Leave

Military leave with pay is not authorized for Inactive Duty Training (IDT) as defined in N.J.A.C. 5A:2-2.1.

The district will provide benefits and rights for staff on military leave as required by Federal and State laws.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:13H-2.1, in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 5 of the New Jersey Constitution, upon application by the district to the State Treasury and approval of the application by the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting, reimbursement shall be made by the State of New Jersey for any costs incurred as a result of the provisions of P.L. 2001, Chapter 351.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-33; 18A:28-11.1; 18A:29-11; 18A:66-8.1
N.J.S.A. 38:23-1 et seq.; 38A:1-1; 38A:4-4; 52:13H-2.1;
N.J.A.C. 5A:2-2.1
Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act
(USERRA), 38 U.S.C. Section 4301 et seq.

Adopted: 3 November 2009
Revised: 29 May 2018



3439 JURY DUTY

The Board of Education will indemnify any teaching staff member against loss of pay incurred by a call to jury duty. No such employee will be penalized in any way for an absence caused by service on a panel of grand or petit jurors. The time any such employee is absent on jury duty will not be charged against personal leave and will count as school district service.

Teaching staff members shall report a call to jury duty during the school term to the Principal or their immediate supervisor who shall determine whether or not a replacement is available. Teaching staff members scheduled for jury service during the school term for whom the administration indicates a replacement cannot reasonably be found shall seek from the Assignment Judge an excusal or deferment of service. Teaching staff members shall obtain from the Superintendent, or designee, a letter indicating the lack of availability of a substitute in such instances.

A teaching staff member who is a full-time teacher and is absent from school duties on jury duty for any court of New Jersey, any court of any other State, any federal district court, or in the U.S. District Court for New Jersey will receive their usual compensation from the school district for each day the teaching staff member is present for jury duty.

An employee summoned to jury duty shall promptly report the summons to his/her immediate supervisor. On return from jury duty, the employee must submit to his/her immediate supervisor a court record of the number of days served on jury duty.

While on jury duty, an employee must report daily to his/her supervisor the schedule for the following day and must report to work when he/she is excused from jury duty for half a day or more or suffer loss of pay.

N.J.S.A. 2B:20-1 et seq.; 2B:20-10; 2B:20-16

Adopted: 3 November 2009



4111 CREATING POSITIONS

The Board of Education recognizes its authority to establish support staff positions that, when filled by qualified employees, will assist the district in the achievement of educational goals set by the Board.

The Board will create new positions as required, approve a job title appropriate to the position, and determine the number of persons required to staff adequately each such position.

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board such new positions or additional staffing in existing positions as may be required by student enrollments and the operational needs of the district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1; 18A:17-24; 18A:28-1

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4124 EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

The Board of Education requires that every nontenured employee annually sign an employment contract for a term of not more than one year.

The employment contract shall include the date; name of the employee; the beginning and ending dates of service; the salary to be paid and the manner of payment; an authorization for salary deductions as applicable; and such other terms and conditions as may be necessary to a complete statement of the employment relationship.

In the event that the salary entered on the written contract differs from that formally approved by the Board, the salary approved by the Board shall be the salary paid.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4125 EMPLOYMENT OF SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

The Board of Education believes it is vital to the successful operation of the district that support staff positions be filled with highly qualified and competent employees.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1, the Board shall appoint, transfer, remove, or renew a certificated or non-certificated officer or employee only upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and by a recorded roll call majority vote of the full membership of the Board. The Board shall not withhold its approval for arbitrary and capricious reasons. The Board shall approve the employment, fix the compensation, and establish the term of employment for every support staff member employed by this district.

The Board may employ substitutes and/or contract for substitutes for absent support staff members in order to ensure continuity in a program. The Board will annually approve a list of substitutes and rate of pay and/or the Board will approve a contract for a contracted service provider to provide substitute support staff members.

The Board of Education shall not employ for pay or contract for a paid services of any support staff member or any other person serving in a position which involves regular contact with students unless the Board has first determined consistent with the requirements and standards of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq. that no criminal history record information exists on file in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Identification Division, or the State Bureau of Identification which would disqualify the individual from being employed or utilized in such capacity or position.

An individual employed by the board or a school bus contractor holding a contract with the Board, in the capacity of a school bus driver, shall be required to meet the criminal history record requirements as outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.1

The Board will employ paraprofessional school aides and/or classroom aides to assist in the supervision of student activities under the direction of a Principal, teacher or other designated certified professional personnel. Aides will serve the needs of students by performing nonprofessional duties and may work only under the direct supervision of a teaching staff member(s).



In accordance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA), paraprofessionals hired after January 8, 2002, who work in a program supported with Title I, Part A funds, with certain exceptions, must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Completed at least two (2) years of study at an institution of higher education;
2. Obtained an associate's (or higher) degree; or
3. Met a rigorous standard of quality and be able to demonstrate, through a formal State or Local academic assessment, knowledge of and the ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing and mathematics (or, as appropriate, reading readiness, writing readiness and mathematics readiness).

Paraprofessional staff working in a Title I school, and whose salary is paid for in whole or in part with Title I funds, must meet one of the criteria listed above. The Superintendent or designee will ensure paraprofessionals working in a program supported with Title I funds meet the above stated requirements.

An individual employed by the Board in any substitute capacity or position shall be required to undergo a criminal history record check in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1b.

An individual, except as provided in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1g, shall be permanently disqualified from employment or service in the school district if the criminal history record check reveals a record of conviction for any crime or offense as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.

The Board or contracted service provider may employ an applicant on an emergent basis for a period not to exceed three months, pending completion of a criminal history records check if the Board or contracted service provider demonstrates to the Commissioner of Education that special circumstances exist which justify the emergent employment as prescribed in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1c. In the event the criminal history record check is not completed for an emergent hired employee within three months, the Board or contracted service provider may petition the Commissioner for an extension of time, not to exceed two months, in order to retain the employee.

No criminal history record check shall be performed unless the applicant shall have furnished written consent to such a check. The applicant shall bear the cost for the criminal history record check, including all costs for administering and processing the check. The district will deny employment to an applicant if the applicant is required and refuses to submit to a criminal history background check.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

4125/page 3 of 3

Employment of Support Staff Members

The Board of Education prohibits any relative of a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools from being employed in an office or position in the school district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2 and Board Policy 0142.1 – Nepotism.

A support staff member's misstatement of fact material to his/her qualifications for employment or the determination of his/her salary will be considered by the Board to constitute grounds for dismissal.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-5; 18A:6-6; 18A:6-7.1; 18A:6-7.1b; 18A:6-7.1c; 18A:6-7.2; 18A:16-1 et seq.; 18A:26-1 et seq.; 18A:27.1 et seq.; 18A:27-4.1; 18A:27-7; 18A:27-8; 18A:39-19.1

N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 [VOCATIONAL DISTRICTS]

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 15 July 2014
Revised: 21 July 2021



4140 TERMINATION

The Board of Education will enter a contract with each non-tenured support staff member providing, in part, for the termination of employment by either party. The Board may terminate the employment of an employee for incompetence, immorality, unfitness for service, insubordination, reduction in force, or other good cause. Any notification of termination for cause will include a full statement of the reasons for the dismissal on notice duly given a nonprobationary employee.

The Board may terminate an employment contract with a non-tenured support staff member only upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and by a recorded roll call majority vote of the full membership of the Board. The Board will not withhold its approval for arbitrary and capricious reasons. N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1.

The Board may temporarily suspend an employee with or without pay and without notice when his/her continued services may be inimical to the interests of students.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10; 18A:17-2; 18A:17-3; 18A: 27-4.1

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4145 LAYOFFS

The Board of Education shall provide the support staff necessary for the operation of the district in a manner that is efficient and economical.

The Board reserves the right to abolish support staff positions and reduce district staff commensurately whenever reasons of economy, reorganization of the school district, reduction in the number of students, or other good cause so warrant. The Superintendent shall continually review the efficiency and effectiveness of district organization and recommend to the Board the creation and abolishment of support staff positions and the reallocation of duties and positions.

When two or more employees with equal time in position are employed in the same classification of employment in which a position is abolished, the employee shall be reemployed who has demonstrated greater competence.

When, as the result of the abolishment of a position, an employee is demoted in position, the employee shall receive the salary of the position to which he/she has been assigned.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10; 18A:17-4

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4146 NONRENEWAL OF NONTENURED SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER

The Board will renew the employment contract of a nontenured support staff member only upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and by a recorded roll call majority vote of the full membership of the Board. The Board will not withhold its approval for arbitrary and capricious reasons. A nontenured support staff member who is not recommended for renewal by the Superintendent is deemed nonrenewed.

When the nontenured support staff member's performance does not meet the standards of the school district, the Superintendent shall recommend not to renew the nontenured support staff member's contract prior to notifying the nontenured support staff member of the nonrenewal, the Superintendent will notify the Board of the recommendation not to renew the nontenured support staff member's contract and the reasons for the recommendation. The Superintendent may notify the Board in a written notice or in executive session at a full Board meeting. In the event the Board is notified in executive session, the Superintendent will comply with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and provide reasonable notice to the nontenured support staff member their employment will be discussed in executive session in order for the nontenured support staff member to exercise their statutory right to request a public discussion.

The Superintendent shall provide written notification to ~~notify~~ each nontenured support staff member to whom reemployment will not be offered in accordance with the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, individual contract, or any other agreement between the parties. Paraprofessionals continuously employed since the preceding September 30 as a school aide or classroom aide in a school district that receives funding under Title I of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 shall be notified of renewal or nonrenewal on or before May 15 in each year in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:27-10.2.

Any nontenured support staff member receiving notice that a contract for the succeeding year will not be offered, may within fifteen calendar days, request in writing a statement of the reasons for such nonemployment which shall be given to the a nontenured support staff member in writing within thirty calendar days after the receipt of such ~~the~~ request.

Whenever a nontenured support staff member has requested in writing and received a written statement of reasons for non-reemployment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:27-3.2, the nontenured support staff member may request in writing an informal appearance before the Board.



The request shall be submitted to the Board within ten calendar days of the nontenured support staff member's receipt of the Board's statement of reasons. The informal appearance shall be scheduled within thirty calendar days from the nontenured support staff member's receipt of the Board's statement of reasons

The Board is not required to offer reemployment or vote on reemployment after an informal appearance with a nontenured support staff member who was not recommended for reemployment by the Superintendent. The Board may, with a majority vote of its full membership in public session and without the recommendation of the Superintendent, offer the nontenured support staff member reemployment after the informal appearance before the Board. Within three working days following the informal appearance, the Board shall notify the affected nontenured support staff member, in writing, of its final determination.

The provisions as outlined in Policy and Regulations 4146 may be revised or adjusted by the Superintendent of Schools to be in accordance with the terms and timelines of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, individual contract, or any other agreement between the parties provided the terms are not contrary to any statute, administrative code, or any management rights of the Board.

This policy does not apply to the contract renewal of the Treasurer of School Moneys, Board Auditor, Board Attorney or Board Secretary, except a Board Secretary who performs business administration functions.

N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 29 April 2014

Revised: 16 November



4150 DISCIPLINE

The Board of Education directs all support staff members to observe statutes, rules of the State Board of Education, policies of this Board, and duly promulgated administrative rules and regulations governing staff conduct. Violations of those statutes, rules, policies, and regulations will be subject to discipline.

The immediate supervisor and/or Superintendent shall deal with disciplinary matters on a case by case basis. Discipline will include, as appropriate, verbal and written warnings, transfer, suspension, freezing wages, and dismissal; discipline will provide, wherever possible, for progressive penalties for repeated violations.

In the event disciplinary action is contemplated, notice will be given to the employee in ordinary and concise language of the specific acts and omissions upon which the disciplinary action is based; the text of the statute, policy, rule, or regulation that the employee is alleged to have violated; a date when the employee may be heard and the administrator who will hear the matter; and the penalty that may be imposed.

N.J.S.A. 18A:25-7; 18A:27-4

N.J.S.A. 34-13A-1 et seq.; 34:19-1

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4152 WITHHOLDING AN INCREMENT

The Board of Education recognizes that any advancement on a salary schedule, including annual increments and raises, is not automatic but rests within the discretion of the Board.

Advancement on any salary schedule shall require favorable reports covering the employee's competence and thoroughness in the performance of assigned duties as well as the employee's record of attendance and compliance with district regulations.

The Superintendent shall base a recommendation for withholding an increment on evaluations of the employee's performance and conduct. The Superintendent must also show to the satisfaction of the Board that the standards by which an employee has been evaluated are not exceptional or unusual and are expected of all employees in a similar classification.

N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14

Adopted: 15 December 2009



SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
4159/page 1 of 1
Support Staff Member/School District
Reporting Responsibilities
Aug 10

4159 SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER/SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

All support staff members shall be required to report their arrest or indictment for any crime or offense to the Superintendent of Schools within fourteen (14) calendar days of the arrest or indictment. For purposes of this policy, "support staff members" shall include all school district employees who hold a position in the school district for which no certificate issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners is requires.

The report submitted to the Superintendent shall include the date of arrest or indictment and charge(s) lodged against the support staff member. Such support staff members shall also report to the superintendent the disposition of any charges within seven calendar days of the disposition. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements may b4e deemed "just cause" for disciplinary action, which may include termination or non-renewal of employment in accordance with law.

Teaching staff members are required to report their arrest or indictment for any crime or offense in accordance with Policy 3159 and N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.1.

The school district shall make these reporting requirements known to all new support staff members upon initial employment and to all employees on an annual basis.

Adopted: 19 October 2010



4160 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The Board of Education requires each candidate for employment who receives a conditional offer of employment to undergo a physical examination(s) to determine whether the candidate is able to perform with reasonable accommodation job-related functions pursuant to P.L. 101-336, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

If upon completing an examination(s) it is determined a candidate for employment who received a conditional offer of employment is unable to perform with reasonable accommodation job-related functions pursuant to the provisions of the ADA, the conditional offer of employment will be rescinded either by the Superintendent of Schools, if the Board has not yet approved the appointment, or by the Board, if the Board had approved the appointment at a Board meeting.

The physical examination shall include, but is not limited to, a health history to include past serious illnesses and injuries; current health problems; allergies; and a record of immunizations. The physical examination shall also include a health screening to include, but not limited to: height and weight; blood pressure; pulse and respiratory rate; vision screening; and hearing screening.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:16-3, the Board shall bear the cost of physical examinations required by this Policy performed by a physician or institution designated by the Board. However, the candidate shall bear the cost if the examination is performed by a physician or institution designated by the candidate with approval of the Board. In the event the Board approves the physician or institution designated by the candidate to complete an examination required by this Policy, the candidate will be provided with the detailed requirements of the examination.

School employee physicals, examinations, and/or annual medical updates do not require screening or disclosure of HIV status.

A Mantoux tuberculosis test shall be given to all student teachers, school bus drivers on contract with the district, and contractors or volunteers who have contact with students.

All staff members' medical and health records, including computerized records, will be secured, stored and maintained separately from other personnel files. The information contained in medical records will be kept confidential. Only the staff member, the Superintendent, and the school medical inspector shall have access to medical information regarding an individual employee. Health records may be shared only with authorized individuals in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-5. The staff member may provide health-status information, including medications that may be of value to medical personnel in the event of an emergency requiring



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
4160/page 2 of 2
Physical Examination

treatment. In such instances, the staff member may also choose to share with the staff member's.

Building Principal and, if desired, with the certified school nurse, information regarding current health status to assure ready access in a medical emergency.

Additional individual psychiatric or physical examinations of any staff member may be required by the Board whenever, in the judgment of the Board, a staff member shows evidence of deviation from normal physical or mental health. Any additional individual examinations will be pursuant to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3. Additional examinations and/or certifications may be required to verify fitness in accordance with Policy 4161 or disability in accordance with Policies 4425 and 4435.

42 U.S.C.A. 12101

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.1; 6A:32-6.2; 6A:32-6.3

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 19 September 2017



4161 EXAMINATION FOR CAUSE

The Board of Education may require the physical and/or psychiatric examination of any support staff member who shows evidence of deviation from normal physical or mental health in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3(b).

The Superintendent shall require a physical and/or psychiatric examination on a support staff member whenever, in the judgment of the Superintendent, a support staff member shows evidence of deviation from normal physical or mental health, to determine the support staff member's physical and mental fitness to perform with reasonable accommodation the position the support staff member currently holds, or to detect any health risks to students and other employees.

A support staff member that is required to undergo a physical and/or psychiatric examination shall be provided a written statement of reasons for the required examination(s) and notice the support staff member has the right to request a hearing with the Board. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:25-7 and will offer the support staff member the opportunity to appear before the Board to refute the reasons for the required examination(s), provided any such hearing is requested by the support staff member in writing within five working days of the support staff member's receipt of the written statement of reasons. A support staff member shall be ordered to submit to the appropriate examination(s) by the physician or institution designated by the Board if the support staff member failed to timely request a hearing before the Board or failed to persuade the Board at the hearing that the support staff member should not be required to submit to the appropriate examination(s). The Board's determination at the conclusion of such a hearing is appealable to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:4 – Appeals pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3(b)2.

The Board shall bear the cost of the examination if the examination is performed by a physician or institution designated by the Board. The examination may be performed by a physician or institution of the support staff member's own choosing, approved by the Board, and at the support staff member's own expense in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-3 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

4161/page 2 of 2

Examination for Cause

If the support staff member submits names of physicians or institutions to the Board for consideration to complete the appropriate examination(s) the Board is not required to designate the physician or institution submitted for consideration by the support staff member, but shall not act unreasonably in withholding its approval of the physician or institution. The Board shall require the support staff member to authorize the release of the examination results to the Superintendent.

If the results of any such examination indicate mental abnormality or communicable disease, the support staff member shall be ineligible for further service until proof of recovery, satisfactory to the Board, is furnished, but if the support staff member is under contract or has tenure, they may be granted sick leave with compensation as provided by law and shall, upon satisfactory recovery, be permitted to complete the term of their contract, if they are under contract, or be reemployed with the same tenure as they possessed at the time their services were discontinued, if they have tenure, unless their absence shall exceed a period of two years in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-4.

In order to return to work, the support staff member must submit to an appropriate examination and submit the results of the examination to the Superintendent. The examination must be conducted by a physician or institution upon which the Board and support staff member confer and agree. If the physician or institution conducting the examination is conducted by the Board's choice, the cost shall be borne by the Board; if the physician or institution conducting the examination is conducted by the support staff member's choice, the cost shall be borne by the support staff member.

A support staff member who refuses to submit to the examination required by this Policy and has exhausted the hearing procedures established by law and this Policy shall be subject to discipline, which may include, but not limited to, termination or certification of tenure charges to the Commissioner of Education, as applicable.

42 U.S.C.A. 12101

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10; 18A:16-2; 18A:16-3; 18A:16-4; 18A:25-7;

18A:28-5; 18A:30-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.2 ; 6A:32-6.3

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 15 August 2022



4212 ATTENDANCE

The regular and prompt attendance of support staff members is an essential element in the efficient operation of the school district and the effective conduct of the educational program. Staff member absenteeism disrupts the educational program and the Board of Education attendance an important component of a staff member's job performance.

A support staff member who fails to give prompt notice of an absence, misuses sick leave, fails to verify an absence in accordance with Board policy, falsifies the reason for an absence, is absent without authorization, is repeatedly tardy, or accumulates an excessive number of absences may be subject to appropriate consequences, which may include the withholding of a salary increment, dismissal and/or certification of tenure charges.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1, sick leave is defined to mean the absence from work because of a personal disability due to injury or illness or because the support staff member has been excluded from school by the school medical authorities on account of contagious disease or of being quarantined for such a disease in the staff member's immediate household. No support staff member will be discouraged from the prudent, necessary use of sick leave and any other leave provided for in the collective bargaining agreement negotiated with the member's majority representative, in an individual employment contract, or provided in the policies of the Board. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:30-4, the Superintendent or Board of Education may require a physician's certificate to be filed with the Secretary of the Board in order to obtain sick leave.

The Superintendent, in consultation with administrative staff members, will review the rate of absence among the staff members. The review will include the collection and analysis of attendance data, the training of support staff members in their attendance responsibilities, and the counseling of support staff member for whom regular and prompt attendance is a problem.

N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 14 July 2015



4211.3 CONSULTING OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT

The Board of Education recognizes that support staff members will have expertise and knowledge in areas that other school districts, agencies, and other entities may desire. Recognizing that the school district will request the expertise from support staff members from other school districts, agencies and other entities, the Board supports sharing of its support staff members with other school districts, agencies, and other entities to the extent it does not interfere with the efficient operation of the school district.

The Superintendent may recommend to the Board a support staff member's attendance in another school district, agency or other entity without additional remuneration to the support staff member or school district, upon a written request from the agency or from the support staff member.

The Board of Education recognizes support staff members will have expertise and knowledge in areas that other school districts, public and private agencies, and private business organizations may desire to compensate as a paid consultant. When a support staff member serves as a paid consultant, the support staff member is not permitted to use normal work hours for any paid consulting activities. The support staff member must complete any paid consulting activities on their own time to include vacation days, evenings, weekends, and/or school holidays.

The support staff member must comply with the New Jersey School Ethics Act N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq. and, if required, must comply with financial disclosure requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24 and 12-25.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4214 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No support staff member of the Board of Education shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity which is in conflict with the proper discharge of the support staff member's duties.

No support staff member shall use or attempt to use his/her position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages.

No support staff member of the Board shall act in his/her official capacity in any matter wherein he/she has a direct or indirect personal financial interest.

No support staff member of the Board shall accept any gift, favor, service or other thing of value under circumstances from which it might be reasonably inferred that such gift, service or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing the support staff member in the discharge of his/her duties.

Support staff members may receive gifts of only nominal value from students or their parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8; 18A:11-1

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4215 CODE OF ETHICS

All support staff employees will:

Represent themselves honestly in the application and selection procedure;

Report to work as scheduled;

Discuss complaints with their immediate superior, or through approved channels;

Not advise or counsel students except in special cases with the knowledge and consent of the Principal;

Complete thoroughly their assigned tasks;

Endeavor to establish good working relationships with other employees, professional as well as non-professional;

Commit themselves to providing the best possible services for students;

Uphold all rules and regulations as set by the Board, the Superintendent, and the Principals;

Keep the trust under which confidential information may be given;

Adhere to all the conditions of a contract;

Give prompt notice of any change in availability for continued employment; and

Protect and care for district property.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4216 DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board of Education believes the appearance and dress of support staff members is an important component of the educational program of this school district. The attitude of support staff members about their professional responsibilities and the importance of education in the lives of students are reflected in their dress and appearance. Accordingly, in order to create an atmosphere of respect for support staff members and an environment conducive to discipline and learning, the Board establishes the following rules for the dress of support staff members in the performance of their professional duties:

1. Acceptable attire for support staff members shall include, but not be limited to, dresses, skirts, blouses, suits, sweaters, pants, and dress shirts with or without a tie;
2. Inappropriate attire within the regular school day includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Jeans (unless approved by the Principal or designee for a special activity or event);
 - b. T-shirts (unless approved by the Principal or designee for a special activity or event);
 - c. Strapless shirts and dresses;
 - d. Sweatshirts, shorts, sweatpants, workout attire unless approved by the Principal or designee;
 - e. Beachwear; and
 - f. Hats and/or head coverings unless approved by the Principal or designee for medical or religious reasons.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
4216/page 2 of 2
Dress and Grooming

3. The clothing and appearance of all support staff members shall be clean and neat;
4. No clothing may be worn that constitutes a danger to health or safety to the wearer or to others, and no clothing may be worn that interferes with the instructional program;
5. A support staff member may request a waiver of this dress code for the performance of particular duties. Such waivers may be granted by the Principal or designee or the support staff member's immediate supervisor;
6. The Building Principal or the support staff member's supervisor, as appropriate, shall determine whether a violation of this dress code has occurred and shall discuss the violation with the support staff member concerned. Where a single violation so warrants or violations recur, the Principal or supervisor may enter a reprimand in the support staff member's file and may recommend other appropriate disciplinary measures.

N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4

Adopted: 18 October 2022



4218 USE, POSSESSION, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SUBSTANCE

The Board of Education recognizes a support staff member who reports to work under the influence of a substance poses a significant threat to their health, safety and welfare and the health, safety and welfare of others, including students and other staff members. The Board strongly advises any support staff member that has a dependency on a substance as defined in this Policy to seek appropriate treatment. The Board has an obligation and the right to maintain a safe and healthy work environment and adopts this Policy as an important component toward maintaining a safe environment in the school district.

For purposes of this policy, “substance” or “substances” as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(a) means alcoholic beverages, any controlled dangerous substances, including anabolic steroids as defined in N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2, or any chemical or chemical compound which releases vapors or fumes causing a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system, including, but not limited to, glue containing a solvent having the property of releasing toxic vapors or fumes as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C35-10.4, and over-the-counter and prescription medications that are improperly used to cause intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system.

A support staff member shall be required to submit to an immediate medical examination to include a substance test if the support staff member’s supervisor has reasonable suspicion to believe a support staff member is under the influence of a substance during work hours or at a school-sponsored function where the support staff member has been assigned job responsibilities. Refusal by a support staff member to consent to the medical examination including a substance test will be a positive result for substances. In the event the results of the medical examination and substance test are not provided to the Superintendent, within twenty-four (24) hours or as soon as the test results are available, it will be deemed a positive result for substances and the support staff member shall be subject to appropriate discipline. Any required medical examination and testing shall be paid for by the Board.

In the event the Board physician determines the support staff member was under the influence of a substance, the determination shall be reported to the Superintendent and the support staff member will be subject to appropriate discipline. Appropriate discipline may include, but not be limited to, withholding an increment, terminating a non-tenured support staff member, and/or filing tenure charges for a tenured support staff member in accordance with law. The support staff member will be afforded the opportunity to have positive test results confirmed using acceptable confirmation test practices. This confirmation test shall be paid for by the support staff member.



SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

4218/page 2 of 2

Use, Possession, or Distribution of Substance

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In the event a support staff member's medical examination and substance test results are negative for substance or if the Board physician determines the support staff member was not under the influence of a substance, the results or determination shall be reported to the Superintendent and the support staff member shall be returned to their position unless the Superintendent has a reason the support staff member should not be returned to their position.

In accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(a), any staff member who, in the course of their employment, has reason to believe a staff member has unlawfully possessed or in any way been involved in the distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, or drug paraphernalia shall report the matter as soon as possible to the Principal, or in the absence of the Principal, to the staff member's supervisor responsible at the time of the alleged violation. Either the Principal or the staff member's supervisor responsible at the time of the alleged violation shall notify the Superintendent who shall notify, as soon as possible, the County Prosecutor or other law enforcement official designated by the County Prosecutor to receive such information. The Superintendent or designee shall provide to the County Prosecutor or designee all known information concerning the matter, including the identity of the staff member involved.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(a)3, the Superintendent or designee shall not disclose the identity of the staff member who has voluntarily sought and participated in an appropriate treatment or counseling program for an alcohol or drug abuse problem, provided the staff member is not reasonably believed to be involved or implicated in drug-distribution activities. An admission by a staff member in response to questioning initiated by the Principal or Superintendent's designee or following the discovery by the Principal or Superintendent's designee of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, or drug paraphernalia, shall not constitute a voluntary, self-initiated request for counseling and treatment.

A staff member who unlawfully possessed or in any way has been involved in the distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids or drug paraphernalia, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3, shall be subject to appropriate discipline which may include, but not be limited to, termination of a non-tenured support staff member or the filing of tenure charges for a tenured support staff member in accordance with law.

42 CFR Park 2

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-3; 18A:40A-9

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1; 6A:16-6.3; 6A:16-6.5

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 14 July 2015

Revised: 7 January 2020



4220 EMPLOYEE EVALUATION

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of employee evaluations in the reinforcement of performance strengths and the remediation of weaknesses.

The Superintendent shall develop a plan for the evaluation of support staff members. He/She shall invite the participation of employees in the development of the plan and shall assess and modify the plan as necessary.

Employees shall be grouped into position classifications based upon similarities of duties, responsibilities, and qualifications. The evaluation process shall be similar for all employees in a single classification.

The evaluation process shall provide for the recognition and commendation of effective performance, the identification and remediation of performance deficiencies, and the recommendation of discipline or dismissal when an employee fails to improve his/her performance. Evaluation procedures shall provide that each employee is informed of the specific objectives of his/her position and the standards that will be used to assess the employee's performance against those objectives. Employees will be evaluated by qualified supervisors annually. Any records created in the evaluation process will become part of the employee's file and subject to Board policy on personnel records.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4230 OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education recognizes that support staff members enjoy a private life outside their job responsibilities in the school district. The Board believes that school employees exert a continuing influence away from the school district. Accordingly, the Board reserves the right to determine if activities outside the support staff member's job responsibilities interfere with their performance and the discharge of the support staff member's responsibilities to this district.

All support staff members are advised to be governed in their activities outside the school by the following guidelines:

1. Support staff members shall not devote time during their work day to an outside private enterprise, business, or business organization. They shall not solicit or accept customers for a private enterprise, business, and/or business organization on school grounds during their work day without the express permission of the Superintendent;
2. The Board does not endorse, support, or assume liability in any way for any staff member of this district who conducts a private activity in which students or employees of this district participate;
3. Support Staff members shall not send campaign literature home with students, or request direct or have students distribute campaign literature on behalf of any candidate for local, State, or national office or for any bond issue, proposal, or any public question submitted at any general, municipal, or school election. No student shall be requested or directed by any support staff member to engage in any activity which tends to promote, favor, or oppose any such candidacy, bond issue, proposal, or public questions; and
4. Copyrights and patents to materials or equipment developed, written, prepared, processed, or tested by support staff members in the performance of their school district duties reside with and may be claimed by the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4
N.J.S.A. 19:1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 21 March 2013
Revised: 15 July 2014



4233 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education recognizes and encourages the right of all citizens, including school employees, to engage in political activity. However, the Board prohibits the use of school premises and school time for partisan political purposes.

The Board establishes the following guidelines to govern all support staff members in their political activities:

1. An employee shall not engage in political activity on school premises unless permitted in accordance with Policy No. 7510 Use of School Facilities and/or applicable Federal and State laws;
2. An employee shall not post political circulars or petitions on school premises nor distribute such circulars or petitions to students nor solicit campaign funds or campaign workers on school premises;
3. An employee shall not display any material that would tend to promote any candidate for office on an election day in a school facility that is used as a polling place;
4. An employee shall not engage in any activity in the presence of students while on school property, which activity is intended and/or designed to promote, further or assert a position(s) on labor relations issues.

The provisions of this policy do not apply to the conduct of employee representative elections.

Nothing in this Policy shall be interpreted to impose a burden on the constitutionally protected speech or conduct of a staff member or student.

N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4

Green Township v. Rowe, Superior Court of New Jersey – Appellate Division A-2528-98T5

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4240 EMPLOYEE TRAINING

The Board of Education believes that continuing training and study is essential to the improvement of employee performance and the acquisition of technological skills. The Board encourages all employees to participate in appropriate training programs.

The immediate supervisor shall prepare rules for employee participation in programs of job skill improvement. The rules will include methods of reporting and verifying claims for participation in such activities.

The Board will reimburse, to the extent permitted by budget, employee requests for attendance at training programs provided participation has been approved in advance by the Superintendent.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4281 INAPPROPRIATE STAFF CONDUCT

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of all students within this school district. Furthermore, the Board recognizes there exists a professional responsibility for all school staff to protect a student's health, safety and welfare. The Board strongly believes that school staff members have the public's trust and confidence to protect the well-being of all students attending the school district.

In support of this Board's strong commitment to the public's trust and confidence of school staff, the Board of Education holds all school staff to the highest level of professional responsibility in their conduct with all students. Inappropriate conduct and conduct unbecoming a school staff member will not be tolerated in this school district.

The Board recognizes and appreciates the staff-student professional relationship that exists in a school district's educational environment. This Policy has been developed and adopted by this Board to provide guidance and direction to avoid actual and/or the appearance of inappropriate staff conduct and conduct unbecoming a school staff member toward students.

School staff's conduct in completing their professional responsibilities shall be appropriate at all times. School staff shall not make inappropriate comments to students or about students and shall not engage in inappropriate language or expression in the presence of students. School staff shall not engage in inappropriate conduct toward or with students. School staff shall not engage or seek to be in the presence of a student beyond the staff member's professional responsibilities. School staff shall not provide transportation to a student in their private vehicle or permit a student into their private vehicle unless there is an emergency or a special circumstance that has been approved in advance by the Building Principal/immediate supervisor and the parent/legal guardian.

Inappropriate conduct by a school staff member outside their professional responsibilities may be considered conduct unbecoming a staff member. Therefore, school staff members are advised to be concerned with such conduct which may include, but is not limited to, communications and/or publications using e-mails, text-messaging, social networking sites, or any other medium that is directed and/or available to students or for public display.

A school staff member is always expected to maintain a professional relationship with students and school staff members shall protect the health, safety and welfare of school students. A staff member's conduct will be held to the professional standards established by the New Jersey State Board of Education and the New Jersey Commissioner of Education. Inappropriate conduct or conduct unbecoming a staff member may also include conduct not specifically listed in this Policy, but conduct determined by the New Jersey State Board of Education, the New Jersey



Commissioner of Education, an arbitration process, and/or appropriate courts to be inappropriate or conduct unbecoming a school staff member.

School personnel, compensated and uncompensated (volunteers), are required to report to their immediate supervisor or Building Principal any possible violations of this Policy. In the event the report alleges conduct by the Building Principal or the immediate supervisor, the school staff member may report directly to the Superintendent. In addition, school personnel having reasonable cause to believe a student has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or acts of child

abuse or neglect as defined under N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10 are required to immediately report to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1 and inform the Building Principal or immediate supervisor after making such report. However, notice to the Building Principal or designee need not be given when the school staff member believes such notice would likely endanger the referrer or child(ren) involved or when the staff member believes that such disclosure would likely result in retaliation against the child or in discrimination against the referrer with respect to his/her employment.

Reports may be made in writing or with verbal notification. The immediate supervisor or Building Principal will notify the Building Principal of all reports, including anonymous reports. The Building Principal will investigate all reports with a final report to the Superintendent of Schools. The Building Principal or the Superintendent, may at any time after receiving a report take such appropriate action as necessary and as provided for in the law. This may include, but is not limited to, notifying law enforcement, notifying the New Jersey Department of Children and Families in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1 and/or any other measure provided for in the law.

This Policy will be distributed to all school staff and provided to staff members at anytime, upon request.

N.J.S.A. 18A:28-5 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 21 March 2013



4282 USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

The Board of Education has a strong commitment to quality education and the well-being of all students, as well as the preservation of the school district's reputation. The Board believes staff members must establish and maintain public trust and confidence and be committed to protecting all students attending the school district. In support of the Board's strong commitment to the public's trust and confidence, the Board holds all staff members to the highest level of professional responsibility.

The Commissioner of Education has determined inappropriate conduct outside a staff member's professional responsibilities may determine them as unfit to discharge the duties and functions of their position. Staff members should be advised communications publications, photographs, and other information appearing on social networking sites deemed inappropriate by the Board could be cause for dismissal of a non-tenured staff member or to certify tenure charges against a tenured staff member to the Commissioner of Education.

Staff members are advised to be concerned and aware such conduct deemed inappropriate may include, but is not limited to, communications and/or publications using e-mails, text-messaging, social networking sites, or any other form of electronic communication that is directed and/or available to students or for public display or publication.

While the Board respects the right of staff members to use social networking sites, staff members should recognize they are held to a higher standard than the general public with regard to standards of conduct and ethics. It is important that a staff member's use of these sites does not damage the reputation of the school district, employees, students, or their families. Staff members who utilize, post or publish images, photographs, or comments on social networking sites, blogs, or other forms of electronic communication outside their professional responsibilities shall ensure their use, postings, or publications are done with an appropriate level of professionalism and are appropriate conduct for a school staff member. Staff members should exercise care in setting appropriate boundaries between their personal and public online behavior, understanding that what is private in the digital world often has the possibility of becoming public even without their knowledge or consent.

The school district strongly encourages all staff members to carefully review the privacy setting on social networking sites they use and exercise care and good judgment when posting content and information on such sites. Staff members should adhere to the following guidelines, which are consistent with the district's workplace standards on harassment, student relationships, conduct, professional communication and confidentiality.



When using personal social networking sites, school staff members:

1. Should not make statements that would violate any of the district's policies, including its policies concerning discrimination or harassment;
2. Must uphold the district's value of respect for the individual and avoid making defamatory statements about the school district, employees, students or their families;
3. May not disclose any confidential information about the school district or confidential information obtained during the course of his/her employment, about any individual(s) or organization, including students and/or their families;
4. Shall not use social networking sites to post any materials of a sexually graphic nature;
5. Shall not use social networking sites to post any materials which promote violence;
6. Shall not use social networking sites which would be detrimental to the mission and function of the district;
7. Are prohibited from using their school district title as well as adding references to the district in any correspondence including, but not limited to, e-mails, postings, social networking sites unless the communication is of an official nature and is serving the mission of the district. This prohibition also includes signature lines and personal e-mail accounts;
8. Shall not post updates to their status on any social networking sites during normal working hours including posting of statements or comments on the social networking sites of others during school time unless it involves a school project. Employees must seek approval from the Superintendent of Schools for such use; and
9. Shall not post or publish any information the Commissioner of Education would deem to be inappropriate conduct by a school staff member.

The policy of this district is to maintain a level of professionalism both during and after the school day. Any publication through any means of electronic communication which is potentially adverse to the operation, morale or efficiency of the district, will be deemed a



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
4282/page 3 of 3
Inappropriate Staff Conduct

violation of this Policy. If the Board or Superintendent believes that a staff member's activity on any social networking site violates the district's policies, the Board or Superintendent may request that the employee cease such activity. Depending on the severity of the incident, the staff member may be subject to disciplinary action.

This Policy has been developed and adopted by this Board to provide guidance and direction to staff members on how to avoid actual and/or the appearance of inappropriate conduct toward students and/or the community while using social networking sites.

Adopted: November 13, 2012



SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

4283/page 1 of 5

Electronic Communications Between Support Staff
Members and Students

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4283 ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-40, the Board of Education adopts this Policy to provide guidance and direction to support staff members to prevent improper electronic communications between support staff members and students. The Board of Education recognizes support staff members can be vulnerable in electronic communications with students.

The Board prohibits all electronic communications between a support staff member and a student. However, based on a support staff member's professional responsibilities electronic communications between a support staff member and a student may be permitted with written approval of the Superintendent or designee. The approval is only for the school year in which the approval is granted. If the Superintendent or designee approves electronic communications between a support staff member and a student, the support staff member shall be required to comply with all the provisions of this Policy.

The Commissioner of Education has determined inappropriate conduct may determine a school staff member unfit to discharge the duties and functions of their position. Improper electronic communications by school staff members may be determined to be inappropriate conduct.

For the purposes of this Policy, "electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular telephone, computer, computer network, personal data assistant or pager. "Electronic communications" include, but are not limited to, e-mails, text messages, instant messages and communications made by means of an Internet website, including social media and social networking websites.

For the purposes of this Policy, "professional responsibility" means a support staff member's responsibilities assigned to the support staff member by the administration or Board of Education.

For the purposes of the Policy, "improper electronic communications" means an electronic communication between a support staff member and any student of the school district when:



1. The content of the communication is inappropriate as defined in this Policy; and/or
2. The manner in which the electronic communication is made is not in accordance with acceptable protocols for electronic communications between a support staff member and a student as defined in this Policy.

Inappropriate content of an electronic communication between a support staff member, who has been approved by the Superintendent or designee to have electronic communications, and a student includes, but is not limited to:

1. Communications of a sexual nature, sexually oriented humor or language, sexual advances or content with a sexual overtone;
2. Communications involving the use, encouraging the use, or promoting or advocating the use of alcohol or tobacco, the illegal use of prescription drugs or controlled dangerous substances, illegal gambling or other illegal activities;
3. Communications regarding the support staff member's or student's past or current romantic relationships;
4. Communications which include the use of profanities, obscene language, lewd comments or pornography;
5. Communications that are harassing, intimidating or bullying;
6. Communications requesting or trying to establish a personal relationship with a student beyond the support staff member's professional responsibilities;
7. Communications related to personal or confidential information regarding another school staff member or student; and
8. Communications between the support staff member and a student that the Commissioner of Education or an arbitrator would determine to be inappropriate in determining the support staff member is unfit to discharge the duties and functions of their position.

The following acceptable protocols for all electronic communications between a support staff member, who has been approved by the Superintendent or designee to have electronic communications, and a student shall be followed:



1. E-mail Electronic Communications Between a Support Staff Member and a Student
 - a. All e-mails between a support staff member and a student must be sent or received through the school district's e-mail system. The content of all e-mails between a support staff member and a student shall be limited to the staff member's professional responsibilities regarding the student.
 - b. A support staff member shall not provide their personal e-mail address to any student. If a student sends an e-mail to a support staff member's personal e-mail address, the staff member shall respond to the e-mail through the school district e-mail system and inform the student his/her personal e-mail address shall not be used for any electronic communication between the support staff member and the student.
 - c. A support staff member's school district e-mail account is subject to review by authorized school district officials. Therefore, a support staff member shall have no expectation of privacy on the school district's e-mail system.
2. Cellular Telephone Electronic Communications Between a Support Staff Member and a Student
 - a. Communications between a support staff member and a student via a personal cellular telephone shall be prohibited.
 - (1) However, a support staff member may, with prior approval of the Principal or designee, communicate with a student using their personal cellular telephone if the need to communicate is directly related to the support staff member's professional responsibilities for a specific purpose such as a field trip, athletic event, co-curricular activity, etc. Any such approval for cellular telephone communications shall not extend beyond the specific field trip athletic event, co-curricular activity, etc. approved by the Principal or designee.
3. Text Messaging Electronic Communications Between Support Staff Members and Students
 - a. Text messaging communications between a support staff member and an individual student are prohibited.



- (1) However, a support staff member may, with prior approval of the Principal or designee, text message students provided the need to text message is directly related to the teaching staff member's professional responsibilities with a class or co-curricular activity. Any such text message must be sent to every student in the class or every member of the co-curricular activity. Any such approval for text messaging shall not extend beyond the class or activity approved by the Principal or designee.
4. Social Networking Websites and other Internet-Based Social Media Electronic Communications Between Support Staff Members and a Student
- a. A support staff member is prohibited from communicating with any student through the support staff member's personal social networking website or other Internet-based website. Communications on personal websites are not acceptable between a support staff member and a student.
 - b. A support staff member shall not accept "friend" requests from any student on their personal social networking website or other Internet-based social media website. Any communication sent by a student to a support staff member's personal social networking website or other Internet-based social media website shall not be responded to by the support staff member and shall be reported to the Principal or designee by the support staff member.
 - c. If a support staff member has a student(s) as a "friend" on their personal social networking website or other Internet-based social media website they must permanently remove them from their list of contacts upon Board adoption of this Policy.
 - d. Communication between a support staff member and a student through social networking websites or other Internet-based social media websites is only permitted provided the website has been approved the Principal or designee and all communications or publications using such websites are available to: every student in the class; every member of the co-curricular activity and their parents; and the Principal or designee.



Reporting Responsibilities

1. In the event a student sends an electronic communication to a support staff member, who has not been approved by the Superintendent or designee to have electronic communications, the support staff member shall report the communication to the Principal or designee. The Principal or designee will take appropriate action to have the student discontinue such electronic communications. Electronic communications by a support staff member or a student where such communications are not approved by the Superintendent or designee may result in appropriate disciplinary action.
2. In the event a student sends an improper electronic communication, as defined in this Policy, to a support staff member who has been approved by the Superintendent or designee to receive electronic communications, the support staff member shall report the improper electronic communication to the Principal or designee. The Principal or designee will take appropriate action to have the student discontinue such improper electronic communications. Improper electronic communications by a support staff member or a student may result in appropriate disciplinary action.

The provisions of this Policy shall be applicable at all times while the support staff member is employed in the school district and at all times the student is enrolled in the school district, including holiday and summer breaks.

A copy of this Policy will be made available on an annual basis, to all parents, students and school employees either electronically or in school handbooks.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-40

Adopted: 5 May 2015



4321 ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTER NETWORK(S)/COMPUTERS AND
RESOURCES BY SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

The Board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the manner in which information is accessed, communicated and transferred that those changes will alter the nature of teaching and learning. Access to telecommunications will allow support staff members to explore databases, libraries, Internet sites, bulletin boards and the like while exchanging information with individuals throughout the world. The Board supports access by support staff members to information sources but reserves the right to limit in-school use to materials appropriate to educational purposes. The Board directs the Superintendent to effect training of support staff members in skills appropriate to analyzing and evaluating such resources as to appropriateness for educational purposes.

The Board also recognizes that telecommunications will allow support staff members access to information sources that have not been pre-screened using Board approved standards. The Board therefore adopts the following standards of conduct for the use of computer network(s) and declares unethical, unacceptable, inappropriate or illegal behavior as just cause for taking disciplinary action, limiting or revoking network access privileges, instituting legal action or taking any other appropriate action as deemed necessary.

The Board provides access to computer network(s)/computers for administrative and educational purposes only. The Board retains the right to restrict or terminate support staff members' access to the computer network(s)/computers at any time, for any reason. The Board retains the right to have the Superintendent or designee monitor network activity, in any form necessary, to maintain the integrity of the network(s) and ensure its proper use.

Standards for Use of Computer Network(s)

Any individual engaging in the following actions declared unethical, unacceptable or illegal when using computer network(s)/computers shall be subject to discipline or legal action:

- A. Using the computer network(s)/computers for illegal, inappropriate or obscene purposes, or in support of such activities. Illegal activities are defined as activities which violate federal, state, local laws and regulations. Inappropriate activities are defined as those that violate the intended use of the network(s). Obscene activities shall be defined as a violation of generally accepted social standards for use of publicly owned and operated communication vehicles.
- B. Using the computer network(s)/computers to violate copyrights, institutional or third party copyrights, license agreements or other contracts.



- C. Using the computer network(s) in a manner that:
1. Intentionally disrupts network traffic or crashes the network;
 2. Degrades or disrupts equipment or system performance;
 3. Uses the computing resources of the school district for commercial purposes, financial gain or fraud;
 4. Steals data or other intellectual property;
 5. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to the files of others or vandalizes the data of another user;
 6. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to resources or entities;
 7. Forges electronic mail messages or uses an account owned by others;
 8. Invades privacy of others;
 9. Posts anonymous messages;
 10. Possesses any data which is a violation of this policy; and/or
 11. Engages in other activities that do not advance the educational purposes for which computer network(s)/computers are provided.

Violations

Individuals violating this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions as defined by Policy No. 4150, Discipline which includes but are not limited to:

1. Use of the network(s)/computers only under direct supervision;
2. Suspension of network privileges;
3. Revocation of network privileges;
4. Suspension of computer privileges;



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

4321/page 3 of 3

Acceptable Use of Computer Network(s)/Computers and
Resources by Support Staff Members

5. Revocation of computer privileges;
6. Suspension;
7. Dismissal;
8. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities; and/or
9. Any appropriate action that may be deemed necessary as determined by the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Education.

N.J.S.A. 2A:38A-3

Adopted: 15 December 2009



SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

4322/page 1 of 1

Staff Member's Use of Personal Cellular Telephones/
Other Communication Devices

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4322 STAFF MEMBER'S USE OF PERSONAL CELLULAR TELEPHONES/ OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The North Caldwell Board of Education recognizes a support staff member may need to electronically communicate on a non-school related, personal matter using a personal cellular telephone or other personal communication device. Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: voice conversations, text-messaging, accessing social networking or other internet sites, or any other type of electronic communication.

In the event the support staff member needs to electronically communicate on a non-school related, personal matter using a personal cellular telephone or other personal communication device during their workday, support staff member may do so provided: the communication is made during the support staff member's free lunch or break periods and is made outside the presence of students.

A support staff member's personal cellular telephone or other personal communication device shall be secured by the support staff member and outside the view of others when the support staff member is performing assigned school district responsibilities.

An electronic communication by a support staff member on a non-school related, personal matter using a personal cellular telephone or other personal communication device shall not be made while the support staff member is performing assigned school district responsibilities.

In the event the support staff member has an emergency requiring immediate attention that requires such a communication while performing assigned school district responsibilities, the support staff member shall inform their Principal or immediate supervisor before or immediately after the communication, depending on the nature of the emergency. The Board of Education is not responsible if a support staff member's personal cellular telephone or other communication device is lost, stolen or missing.

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 20 October 2015



SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

4324/page 1 of 1

Right of Privacy

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4324 RIGHT OF PRIVACY

The Board of Education will provide facilities and school district-owned property to assist staff members in their job responsibilities or for the staff members' convenience. These facilities or district-owned property may include, but are not limited to, an office, a storage closet, a filing cabinet, a locker and/or a desk. The Principal or designee may provide a staff member with exclusive use and access to such facilities or school district-owned property or may require the facility or school district-owned property be shared with other staff members. The staff member may be provided a lock or key by the school district or may secure the facility or school district-owned property using their own locking device with permission from the Principal or designee.

School staff members should be aware their expectation of privacy in these facilities and/or the school district-owned property provided by the Board of Education is reduced by virtue of actual office practices and procedures, for searches conducted pursuant to an investigation of work-related employee misconduct, or by legitimate school district policies or regulations. In addition, staff members shall have a reduced expectation of privacy in these facilities and school district-owned property if there is reasonable suspicion the staff member is violating a law or school policy. School staff members shall be on notice this reduced expectation of privacy may result in such facilities and/or school district-owned property being searched without a search warrant. In order to avoid exposing personal belongings to such a search, school staff members are discouraged from storing personal papers and effects in these facilities or school district-owned property.

Adopted: March 27, 2012



4340 GRIEVANCE

The Board of Education shall develop and practice reasonable and effective means for the resolution of disputes that may arise in the employment of support staff members not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement.

The Board directs that any grievance not provided for by negotiated agreement be resolved by submission to the following grievance procedure, which is designed to promote proper and equitable settlement of grievances at the lowest appropriate level and to facilitate an orderly process for the resolution of grievances.

For the purposes of this policy, "grievance" means an unresolved problem concerning the application or interpretation by an officer or employee of this district of law, regulations of the State Board of Education, the bylaws or policies of the Board, or the administrative regulations of the Superintendent; "grievant" is a district employee who alleges a grievance or the employee's representative; "party" means the grievant or any person named in the grievance as allegedly having violated a law, bylaw, policy, or regulation; and "day" means a school day.

Level One

Within thirty calendar days of the occurrence of the act or omission giving rise to the grievance, the grievant must present his/her grievance in writing to the grievant's immediate supervisor. The written document will be a clear, concise statement of the grievance and will include the law, rule, policy, or regulation that the grievant alleges to have been violated; the factual circumstances on which the grievance is based; the person or persons involved; the decision, if any, rendered at the private conference; and the remedy sought.

Within ten working days the supervisor shall present a decision to the grievant in writing. If the supervisor does not respond during the time permitted, the grievant may appeal to the next level.

Level Two

A grievant not satisfied with a decision at Level One may appeal that decision in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within ten working days after receipt of the decision or the expiration of the time during which the decision must be rendered. The written appeal will include a copy of the original grievance; the decision rendered, if any; the name of the grievant's representative, if any; and a clear, concise statement of the reasons for the appeal of the decision.



SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
4340/page 2 of 2
Grievance

The Superintendent of Schools shall present a decision to the grievant within ten working days. If no decision is rendered within that time limit, the grievant may appeal to the next level.

Level Three

A grievant not satisfied with a decision at Level Two may appeal that decision in writing to the Board of Education within ten working days after receipt of the decision or the expiration of the time during which the decision must be rendered. The written appeal to the Board will include copies of the original grievance, the appeal of that grievance at Level Two, and the decision, if any, rendered at Level Two. Within thirty working days after the delivery of the appeal, the Board shall investigate the grievance, giving all persons who participate in Levels One and Two a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

The Board shall schedule the grievance for hearing and may require the presence of a party to the grievance.

The decision of the Board shall be final.

N.J.S.A. 34:13A-5.3

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4352 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Board of Education recognizes that an employee's right to freedom from employment discrimination includes the opportunity to work in an environment untainted by sexual harassment. Sexually offensive speech and conduct are wholly inappropriate to the harmonious employment relationships necessary to the operation of the school district and intolerable in a workplace to which the children of this district are exposed.

Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and verbal or physical contacts of a sexual nature that would not have happened but for the employee's gender. Whenever submission to such conduct is made a condition of employment or a basis for an employment decision, or when such conduct is severe and pervasive and has the purpose or effect of unreasonably altering or interfering with work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment, the employee shall have cause for complaint.

The sexual harassment of any employee of this district is strictly forbidden. Any employee or agent of this Board who is found to have sexually harassed an employee of this district will be subject to discipline, which may include termination of employment. Any employee who has been exposed to sexual harassment by any employee or agent of this Board is encouraged to report the harassment to an appropriate supervisor. An employee may complain of any failure of the Board to take corrective action by recourse to the procedure by which a discrimination complaint is processed. The employee may appeal the Board's action or inaction to the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights or to the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Complaints regarding sexual harassment shall be submitted following the procedures outlined in Regulation 1530, Equal Employment Opportunity.

The Affirmative Action Officer shall instruct all employees of this Board to recognize and correct speech and behavior patterns that may be sexually offensive with or without the intent to offend.

29 C.F.R. 1604.11

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4360 SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER TENURE

The Board of Education directs that the tenure status of support staff members be determined only in accordance with law and this policy and such contractual terms as may have been negotiated with the employee's majority representative.

Persons employed as janitors, custodians, and maintenance personnel including supervisory personnel, will be employed on fixed term contracts and will not acquire tenure in their positions.

The Board will not grant tenure to any employee for whom such tenure has not been provided in law.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-2; 18A:17-3

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4381 PROTECTION AGAINST RETALIATION

The Board of Education will take no retaliatory action, by discharge, demotion, suspension, or any other adverse action, against an employee because that employee has conscientiously:

1. Disclosed or threatened to disclose to a supervisor or public body an activity, policy, or practice of this Board or any district officer that the employee reasonably believes to be in violation of law or rule;
2. Provided information to a public body conducting an investigation, hearing, or inquiry into any alleged violation of law by the Board or an officer of this district; or
3. Objected to or refused to participate in an activity, policy, or practice of this district that the employee reasonably believes to be in violation of law or rule, fraudulent, criminal, or incompatible with a clear mandate of public policy concerning the public health, safety, or welfare or protection of the environment.

An employee who has reason to believe that the Board has engaged in an illegal activity or an activity contrary to public policy must report that belief in writing to the Superintendent before notice is given to a supervisor or a public body. The Superintendent shall promptly report the same to the Board and institute an investigation of the reported activity. The findings of the investigation will be reported in writing to the Board and to the employee.

The protection of law and this policy apply only to employees who have given notice in accordance with this policy and have afforded the Board a reasonable period of time to take any corrective action that may be required or have acted in circumstances that the employee believes in good faith constitute an emergency.

The Superintendent shall post notice of this policy and inform employees of their rights under the New Jersey Conscientious Employee Protection Act.

N.J.S.A. 34:19-1

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4410 COMPENSATION

The Board of Education will establish the compensation for support staff members not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement or in an individual contract with the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-6; 18A:16-11

Adopted: 15 December 2009



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

4413/page 1 of 1

Overtime Compensation

4413 OVERTIME COMPENSATION

The Board of Education will compensate overtime work in accordance with law. "Overtime work" means work in excess of forty hours in a single work week.

No overtime shall be worked without the express advance approval of the Superintendent and/or School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

29 U.S.C.A. 207(o)

29 U.S.C.A. 207(p)

N.J.S.A. 34:11-56(a)4

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4415 SUBSTITUTE WAGES

In order to ensure reliable assistance in the absence of regular support staff employees, the Board of Education will offer competitive compensation to qualified substitute secretaries, clerks, custodians, maintenance workers, bus drivers, teacher aides, and cafeteria workers. In no instance shall the wages paid a substitute exceed the wages paid the regular employee.

Substitute support staff members will be paid at a per diem rate set by the Board.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4420 BENEFITS

The Board of Education reserves the right to establish benefits for support staff members not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement or in an individual contract with the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-6; 18A:16-12 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4425 WORK RELATED DISABILITY PAY

The Board of Education will permit, in accordance with law, the absence without loss of pay or of annual or accumulated sick leave benefits of a support staff member disabled by accident or injury arising out of and in the course of employment. Any such employee shall seek the workers' compensation benefits to which he/she is entitled by law.

An employee whose disability has qualified for the receipt of workers' compensation benefits shall be presumed eligible for work related disability pay under this policy. When an employee's disability is so brief as to preclude the employee's application for worker's compensation benefits, the employee may request and the Board may grant work related disability pay.

Any employee who qualified for work related disability pay under this policy shall receive full pay during the period he/she is on disability leave of absence, up to one calendar year.

As a condition of receiving full salary, an employee who receives workers' compensation benefits for his/her work-related disability must endorse and deliver to the Board all workers' compensation temporary disability checks received for the period covered by this policy.

N.J.S.A. 18A:30-2.1; 18A:66-32.1
N.J.S.A. 34:15-38

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4425.1 MODIFIED DUTY EARLY RETURN TO WORK PROGRAM – SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

New Jersey's workers' compensation laws provide lost wages and pay medical expenses for an employee who sustains an injury as a result of an on-the-job accident, injury, or occupational disease. Workers' compensation is designed to protect school district employees and their families against the hardships from injury arising in the workplace. In an effort to assist school staff in recovering from an eligible workers' compensation injury, the Board provides a Modified Duty Early Return To Work Program. The Program is provided to staff members who have been injured on the job, but who are not permanently disabled. The Program is intended to minimize the negative psychological impact to an injured staff member due to being out of work and to provide a transition and adjustment period for the injured staff member to return to work while recovering from an on-the-job injury.

The school district may assign temporary modified duties and responsibilities to staff members that have sustained an eligible workers' compensation injury. These employees may temporarily perform duties and responsibilities that may or may not be within their job description, or may or may not be within their department. The modified duties and/or responsibilities will be within the injured staff member's capabilities and a staff member will not be assigned any modified duties and/or responsibilities that require any certifications/licenses that are not possessed by the injured staff member.

The modified duties and responsibilities will be determined by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, the district's designated Workers' Compensation Coordinator, after a medical examination and evaluation of the injured staff member by the Board's designated workers' compensation physician. The Workers' Compensation Coordinator will determine if the injured staff member is eligible for modified duties or responsibilities. This determination will be based on:

1. The workers' compensation physician's examination and evaluation report;
2. The injured staff member's capabilities to assume modified duties or responsibilities;
3. The availability of modified duties and responsibilities within the district at the time; and/or
4. Other issues that may impact the district's ability to assign modified duties and responsibilities.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
4425.1/page 2 of 2
Modified Duty Early Return to Work
Program – Support Staff Members

This Modified Duty Early Return to Work Program will be administered consistent with applicable federal and State laws and in accordance with provisions of collective bargaining agreements within the district.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4431.1 FAMILY LEAVE

Table of Contents

- A. Introduction
- B. Applicability
- C. Definitions
 - 1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act
 - 2. New Jersey Family Leave Act
- D. Eligibility
 - 1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act
 - 2. New Jersey Family Leave Act
- E. Types of Leave
 - 1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act
 - a. Intermittent and/or Reduced Leave for Birth or Placement of Son/Daughter
 - b. Intermittent and/or Reduced Leave for Medical Treatment of a Related Serious Health Condition
 - c. Intermittent Leave for serious health condition
 - d. Reduced Leave
 - e. Holidays
 - f. Servicemember Qualifying Exigency Leave
 - g. Military Caregiver Leave
 - 2. New Jersey Family Leave Act
 - a. Intermittent Leave
 - b. Reduced Leave
 - c. Holidays
- F. Notice
 - 1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act
 - a. Foreseeable Leave
 - b. Unforeseeable Leave



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

4431.1/page 2 of 24

Family Leave

2. New Jersey Family Leave Act
 - a. Foreseeable Leave
 - b. Unforeseeable Leave
- G. Leave Designation
- H. Benefits
- I. Returning from Leave
- J. Ineligible Staff Members
 1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act
 2. New Jersey Family Leave Act
- K. Verification of Leave
 1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act
 2. New Jersey Family Leave Act
- L. Interference with Family Leave Rights
- M. Non-Tenured Teaching Staff
- N. Record Keeping
- O. Processing of Complaints



A. Introduction

The Board will provide family leave in accordance with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA).

FMLA leave for eligible staff members shall be up to twelve weeks leave of absence in any twelve month period upon advance notice to the district for the birth of a son or daughter of the staff member and in order to care for such son or daughter; for the placement of a son or daughter with the staff member for adoption or foster care; in order to care for the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the staff member if such spouse, son, daughter, or parent has a serious health condition; or for a serious health condition that makes the staff member unable to perform the functions of the position of such staff member, or because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a military member on active duty or call to covered active duty status (or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty). In addition, eligible employees may take up to a combined total of twenty-six work weeks in a single twelve month period to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness.

NJFLA leave for eligible staff members shall be up to twelve weeks leave of absence in any twenty-four month period upon advance notice to the district so that a staff member may provide care made necessary by the birth of a child of the staff member, the placement of a child with the staff member in connection with adoption of such child by the staff member, and the serious health condition of a spouse, parent, or child.

B. Applicability

The Board will comply with requirements of the New Jersey and Federal Family Leave laws. The laws have similar and different provisions that may provide different rights and obligations for the staff member and/or the Board. The staff member shall be afforded the most favorable rights if there is a conflict in the rights afforded to the staff member under the two laws.

1. If the staff member is eligible for leave for reasons provided under the FMLA and NJFLA, then the time taken shall be concurrent and be applied to both laws.
2. The NJFLA provides twelve weeks leave in a twenty-four month period while the FMLA provides twelve weeks leave in a twelve-month period. A staff member is eligible for up to twelve weeks leave in the first twelve months of the twenty-four month period under the NJFLA. A staff member is eligible for up to twelve weeks leave in the second twelve-month period under the FMLA.



3. In the event the reason for the family leave is recognized under one law and not the other law, the staff member is eligible for each law's leave entitlements within one twelve-month period. (Example: A staff member may use their FMLA leave for a twelve week family leave for their own pregnancy, which is considered a "serious health condition" under FMLA, and upon conclusion of the twelve week FMLA leave, the staff member would be eligible for a twelve week NJFLA leave to care for their newborn or any other reasons pursuant to the NJFLA.)
- C. Definitions
1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

"Contingency operation" means a military operation that results in the call or order to, or retention on, active duty of members of the uniformed services during a war or during a national emergency declared by the President or Congress.

"Covered active duty" or "call to covered active duty" means duty during deployment of a member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country and, in the case of a member of the Reserve components of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country under a Federal call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operations.

"Covered servicemember" means a current member of the Armed Forces (including National Guard or Reserves), who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness; or a covered veteran undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness.

"Covered veteran" means an individual who was a member of the Armed Forces (including National Guard or Reserves), discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible staff member takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran. For a veteran discharged prior to March 8, 2013, the effective date of the FMLA Final Rule, the period between October 28, 2009 and March 8, 2013 will not count towards the determination of the five-year period. 29CFR §825.127(b)(2)

"Military caregiving leave" means leave taken to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness under FMLA 29 CFR §825.127



“Next of kin of a covered servicemember” means the nearest blood relative other than the covered servicemember’s spouse, parent, son, or daughter, in the following order of priority: blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the covered servicemember by court decree or statutory provisions, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and first cousins, unless the covered servicemember has specifically designated in writing another blood relative as his or her nearest blood relative for purposes of military caregiver leave under the FMLA. When no such designation is made, and there are multiple family members with the same level of relationship to the covered servicemembers, all such family members shall be considered the covered servicemember’s next of kin and may take FMLA leave to provide care to the covered servicemember, either consecutively or simultaneously. When such designation has been made, the designated individual shall be deemed to be the covered servicemember’s only next of kin. For example, if a covered servicemember has three siblings and has not designated a blood relative to provide care, all three siblings would be considered the covered servicemember’s next of kin. Alternatively, where a covered servicemember has a sibling(s) and designates a cousin as his or her next of kin for FMLA purposes, then only the designated cousin is eligible as the covered servicemember’s next of kin. An employer is permitted to require an employee to provide confirmation of covered family relationship to the covered servicemember pursuant to 29 CFR §825.127(b)(1)

“Outpatient status” means, with respect to a covered servicemember who is a current member of the Armed Forces, the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to either a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients. 29 CFR §825.127(b)(1)

“Parent” means a biological, adoptive, step or foster father or mother, or any other individual who stood in loco parentis to the employee when the employee was a son or daughter as defined below. This term does not include parents “in law.”

“Parent of a covered servicemember” means a covered servicemember’s biological, adoptive, step or foster father or mother, or any other individual who stood in loco parentis to the covered servicemember. This term does not include parents “in-law.”

“Serious health condition” means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential



medical facility or continuing treatment by a health care provider. “Serious health condition” may include treatment of substance abuse pursuant to 29 CFR §825.119.

“Serious injury or illness,” only in the case of a veteran or current member of the Armed Forces, means:

- a. In the case of a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the national Guard or Reserves, an injury or illness that was incurred by the covered servicemember in the line of duty in the Armed Forces or that existed before the beginning of the member’s active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces and that may render the servicemember medically unfit to perform the duties of the member’s office, grade, rank or rating; and
- b. In the case of a covered veteran, an injury or illness that was incurred by the member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces (or existed before the beginning of the member’s active duty and was aggravated by the service in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces) and manifested itself before or after the member became a veteran, and is:
 - (1) A continuation of a serious injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated when the covered veteran was a member of the Armed Forces and rendered the servicemember unable to perform the duties of the servicemember’s office, grade, rank or rating; or
 - (2) A physical or mental condition for which the covered veteran has received a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Service-Related Disability Rating (VASRD) of fifty percent or greater, and such VASRD rating is based, in whole or in part, on the condition precipitating the need for military caregiver leave; or
 - (3) A physical or mental condition that substantially impairs the covered veteran’s ability to secure or follow a substantially gainful occupation by reason of a disability or disabilities related to military service, or would do so absent treatment; or
 - (4) An injury, including a psychological injury, on the basis of which the covered veteran has been enrolled in the Department of



Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. 29 CFR §825.127(c)

“Single twelve-month period” means that a military caregiver’s leave begins on the first day the staff member takes FMLA leave and ends twelve months after that date, regardless of the twelve-month period established by the district for other FMLA leave reasons. 29CFR §825.127(e)(1)

“Son” or “daughter” means a biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is either under age eighteen or age eighteen or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability at the time that FMLA leave is to commence.

“Son or daughter of the covered servicemember” means a covered servicemember’s biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child for whom the covered servicemember stood in loco parentis, and who is of any age. 29 CFR §825.127(d)(1)

“Son or daughter on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status” means the staff member’s biological adopted or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child for whom the staff member stood in loco parentis who is on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status, and who is of any age. 29 CFR §825.126(a)(5)

“Spouse” means a husband or wife. For purposes of this definition, husband or wife refers to the other person with whom an individual entered into marriage as defined or recognized under State law in the State in which the marriage was entered into or, in the case of a marriage entered into outside of any State, if the marriage is valid in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least one State. This definition includes an individual in a same-sex marriage or common law marriage. 29 CFR §825.122

“Staff member” means an employee eligible for family and medical leave in accordance with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

“Week” or “Workweek” means the number of days a staff member normally works each calendar week.



2. New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA)

“Child” means a biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, child of a parent who is under eighteen years of age or a child eighteen years of age or older but incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical impairment.

“Continuing medical treatment” or “continuing supervision by a health care provider” means a period of incapacity or a period of absence in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:14.

“Parent” means a biological, adoptive, or foster parent; step-parent; parent-in-law; a legal guardian having a “parent-child relationship” with a child as defined by law; or a person who has sole or joint legal or physical custody, care, guardianship, or visitation with a child.

“Serious health condition” means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that requires inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical facility or continuing medical treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider.

“Spouse” means a person to whom a staff member is lawfully married as defined by New Jersey law.

“Staff member” means an employee eligible for family leave in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act.

“Week” or “Workweek” means the number of days a staff member normally works each calendar week.

D. Eligibility

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

A staff member shall become eligible for FMLA leave after he/she has been employed at least twelve months in this district and employed for at least 1250 hours of service during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave. The twelve months the staff member must have been employed need not be consecutive months pursuant to 29 CFR §825 110(b). The minimum 1250 hours of service shall be determined according to the principles established under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FSLA) for



determining compensable hours of work pursuant to 29 CFR §785. Entitlement to FMLA leave taken for the birth of a son or daughter or placement of a son or daughter with the staff member for adoption or foster care shall expire at the end of the twelve-month period beginning on the date of such birth or placement.

Pursuant to 29 CFR §825 Section 202, a husband and wife both employed by the district are limited to a combined total of twelve weeks of leave during the twelve-month period if the leave is taken for the birth of a son or daughter of the staff member or to care for such son or daughter after birth; for placement of a son or daughter with the staff member for adoption or foster care or in order to care for the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the staff member with a serious health condition.

The method to determine the twelve-month period in which the twelve weeks of FMLA leave entitlement occurs will be the calendar year.

A staff member during any period of FMLA leave is prohibited from performing any services on a full-time basis for any person for whom the staff member did not provide services immediately prior to commencement of the leave. A staff member using FMLA leave may commence part-time employment that shall not exceed half the regularly scheduled hours worked for the district. The staff member may continue the part-time employment that commenced prior to the FMLA leave at the same number of hours that the staff member was regularly scheduled prior to such leave.

2. New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA)

A staff member shall become eligible for NJFLA leave after he/she has been employed at least twelve months in this district for not less than 1,000 base hours, excluding overtime, during the immediate preceding twelve month period. The calculation of the twelve-month period to determine eligibility shall commence with the commencement of the NJFLA leave. NJFLA leave taken for the birth or adoption of a healthy child may commence at any time within a year after the date of the birth or placement for adoption.

The district shall grant a family leave under NJFLA to more than one staff member from the same family (for example, a husband and a wife, or a brother and a sister) at the same time, provided such staff members are otherwise eligible for the leave. N.J.A.C. 13:14-1.12



A staff member during any period of the NJFLA leave is prohibited from performing any services on a full-time basis for any person for whom the staff member did not provide services immediately prior to commencement of the leave. A staff member on NJFLA leave may commence part-time employment that shall not exceed half the regularly scheduled hours worked for the district. The staff member may continue the part-time employment that commenced prior to the NJFLA leave at the same number of hours that the staff member was regularly scheduled prior to such leave.

The method to determine the twenty-four month period in which the twelve weeks of NJFLA leave entitlement occurs will be the calendar year.

E. Types of Leave

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

A staff member may take FMLA leave to include servicemember qualifying exigency leave or military caregiver leave in consecutive weeks, as intermittent leave, or as reduced leave. A staff member who requests intermittent or reduced leave shall make a reasonable effort to schedule such leave so as not to unduly disrupt the instructional/educational program.

- a. Leave for the birth of a son or daughter or placement of a son or daughter with the staff member for adoption or foster care may not be taken by a staff member intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule.
- b. Leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary for planned and/or unanticipated medical treatment of a related serious health condition by or under the supervision of a health care provider, or for recovery from treatment or recovery from a serious health condition.
- c. Intermittent leave means leave scheduled for periods of time from one hour or more to several weeks; however, the total time within which the leave is taken can not exceed a twelve month period for each serious health condition episode. Intermittent leave may be taken for a serious health condition that requires periodic treatment by a health care provider, rather than one continuous period of time. Intermittent leave may also be taken for absences where the staff member is incapacitated or unable to perform the essential functions of the position because of a



serious health condition even if the staff member does not receive treatment by a healthcare provider. The staff member shall make a reasonable effort to schedule intermittent leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the instructional/educational program.

- d. Reduced leave means leave scheduled for fewer than the staff member's usual number of hours worked per workweek, but not fewer than a staff member's usual number of hours worked per workday, unless otherwise agreed to by the staff member and the district. A staff member is entitled, at the option of the staff member, to take leave on a reduced leave schedule not exceeding twenty-four consecutive weeks. The staff member shall make a reasonable effort to schedule reduced leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the instructional/educational program. The staff member shall provide the district prior notice of the care, medical treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider necessary due to a serious health condition of a family member in a manner that is reasonable and practicable. Leave taken on a reduced leave schedule shall not result in a reduction of the total amount of leave to which a staff member is entitled.
- e. The fact that a holiday may occur within the week taken by a staff member as Family Leave has no effect and the week is counted as a week of Family Leave. However, if the staff member is out on Family Leave and the school district is closed and the staff member would not be expected to report for work for one or more weeks, the weeks the school district is closed for this staff member do not count against the staff member's family leave entitlement.

Any leave time remaining after a staff member has exhausted his/her entitlement to intermittent leave in any twelve month period may be taken as consecutive leave or reduced leave, and any leave time remaining after a staff member has exhausted his/her entitlement to reduced leave in any twelve month period may be taken as consecutive leave or intermittent leave.

- f. Servicemember qualifying exigency leave may arise out of the foreign deployment of the staff member's spouse, child, or parent 29 CFR §§825.122 and 126:



- (1) The district must grant an eligible staff member up to twelve work weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave during a twelve-month period for qualifying exigencies that arise when the staff member's spouse, child or parent is on covered active duty, or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty.
- (2) The military member must be the spouse, son, daughter or parent of the staff member taking FMLA exigency leave.
- (3) FMLA leave can be granted for one or more of the following exigencies:
 - (a) Short-notice deployment:
 - i. Notification of duty seven or less calendar days prior to date of deployment;
 - ii. Leave can be used for a period of seven calendar days beginning on the date the military member is notified.
 - (b) Military events and related activities, including official ceremonies, programs, or events sponsored by the military and related to the covered active duty or call to covered active duty status of the military member' and to attend family support or assistance programs and informational briefings sponsored or promoted by the military, military service organizations, or the American Red Cross.
 - (c) Childcare and school activities including arranging for alternative childcare; providing childcare on an urgent, immediate need basis (not routine, regular, or everyday basis); to enroll in or transfer to a new school or day care facility; or to attend meetings with staff at a school day care facility;
 - i. The son or daughter must be the son or daughter of the covered servicemember.
 - (d) Financial and legal arrangements made to address the military member's absence while on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status.



SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

4431.1/page 13 of 24

Family Leave

- (e) Counseling, provided by someone other than a health care provider for oneself, for the military member, or qualified child, if the need arises from the covered active duty status of the military member.
- (f) Rest and Recuperation (R&R) to spend time with the military member on short-term, temporary R&R leave during a term of deployment:
 - i. Can be used for a period of fifteen calendar days beginning on the date the military member commences each instance of R&R leave.
- (g) Post-deployment activities such as ceremonies or briefings including any that arise from the death of the military member while on covered active duty.
- (h) Parental care for one meeting the definition of a “parent” and incapable of self care including: arranging alternative care; providing care on an immediate need basis; and to attend meetings or arrange services at a care facility.
- (i) Additional activities in accordance with 29 CFR §825.126(b)(9).
- g. Military caregiver leave provides care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness 29CFR §§825.122 and 127:
 - (1) The district must grant up to a total of twenty-six workweeks of unpaid, job-protected leave during a “single twelve-month period” to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness.
 - (a) The eligible staff member must be the spouse, son, daughter parent or next of kin of the covered servicemember.
 - (b) The staff member is limited to a combined total of twenty-six workweeks for any FMLA-qualifying reasons during the single twelve-month period. Up to twelve of the



twenty-six weeks may be for an FMLA qualifying reason other than military caregiver leave.

- (c) Spouses who are eligible for FMLA leave and are employed by the same covered employer may be limited to a combined total of twenty-six workweeks of leave during a single twelve-month period if the leave is taken for birth of the employee's son or daughter or to care for the child after birth, for placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care, or to care for the child after placement, to care for the employee's parent with a serious health condition, or to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness. If one spouse is ineligible for FMLA leave, the other spouse would be entitled to a full twenty-six workweeks of FMLA leave.
- (2) Leave entitlement is applied on a per-covered servicemember, per-injury basis.
 - (a) The staff member may take an additional twenty-six weeks of leave if the leave is to care for different covered servicemembers or to care for the same servicemember with a subsequent serious injury or illness, except that no more than twenty-six weeks of leave may be taken within any single twelve-month period.
 - (b) An eligible staff member may take military caregiver leave to care for more than one current service member or covered veteran at the same time or for the same family member with the same serious injury or illness both when the family member is a current servicemember and when the family member is a veteran.
 - (c) Military caregiver leave may be taken by eligible staff members whose family members are recent veterans with serious injuries or illnesses incurred or aggravated in the line of duty on active duty, and that manifested before or after the veteran left active duty.
- 2. New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA)

A staff member may take NJFLA leave in consecutive weeks, as intermittent leave, or as reduced leave. A staff member who requests intermittent or reduced



leave shall make a reasonable effort to schedule such leave so as not to unduly disrupt the instructional/educational program. The district shall not require a staff member to take a leave of absence beyond the period of time the staff member requests family leave. N.J.A.C. 13:14-1.5(f)

- a. In the case of a family member who has a serious health condition, leave may be taken intermittently when medically necessary. The total time within which the leave is taken, can not exceed a twelve-month period for each serious health condition episode. The staff member will provide the district with prior notice of the leave in a manner which is reasonable and practicable; and the staff member shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the instructional/educational program. In the case of the birth or adoption of a healthy child, the leave may be taken intermittently only if agreed to by the staff member and the district.
- b. Reduced leave means leave scheduled for fewer than the staff member's usual number of hours worked per workweek, but not fewer than a staff member's usual number of hours worked per workday, unless otherwise agreed to by the staff member and the district. A staff member is entitled, at the option of the staff member, to take leave on a reduced leave schedule for a period not exceeding twenty-four consecutive weeks. The staff member is not entitled to take the leave on a reduced leave schedule without an agreement between the staff member and the district if the leave is taken for the birth or adoption of a healthy child. The staff member shall make a reasonable effort to schedule reduced leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the instructional/educational program. The staff member shall provide the district prior notice of the care, medical treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider necessary due to a serious health condition of a family member in a manner that is reasonable and practicable. Leave taken on a reduced leave schedule shall not result in a reduction of the total amount of leave to which a staff member is entitled.
- c. The fact that a holiday may occur within the week taken by a staff member as family leave has no effect and the week is counted as a week of family leave. However, if the staff member is out on family leave and the school district is closed and the staff member would not be expected to report for work for one or more weeks, the weeks the school district is closed for this staff member do not count against the staff member's family leave entitlement.



Any leave time remaining after a staff member has exhausted his/her entitlement to intermittent leave in any twelve month period may be taken as consecutive leave or reduced leave, and any leave time remaining after a staff member has exhausted his/her entitlement to reduced leave in any twelve month period may be taken as consecutive leave or intermittent leave.

F. Notice

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

- a. Foreseeable Leave - A staff member eligible for FMLA leave must give at least a thirty day written advance notice to the Superintendent if the need for the leave is foreseeable based on an expected birth, placement for adoption of foster care, or planned medical treatment for a serious health condition of the staff member or a family member. If thirty days is not practical, the staff member must provide notice “as soon as practicable” which means as soon as both possible and practical, taking into account all the facts and circumstances in the individual case. For foreseeable leave where it is not possible to give as much as thirty days notice “as soon as practical” ordinarily would mean at least verbal notification to the Superintendent within one or two business days or when the need for leave becomes known to the staff member. The written notice shall include the reasons for the leave, the anticipated duration of the leave and the anticipated start of the leave.

When planning medical treatment, the staff member must consult with the Superintendent and make a reasonable effort to schedule the leave so as not to unduly disrupt the educational program, subject to the approval of the health care provider. Staff members are ordinarily expected to consult with the Superintendent prior to scheduling of treatment that would require leave for a schedule that best suits the needs of the district and the staff member.

The district may delay the staff member taking leave for at least thirty days if the staff member fails to give thirty days notice for foreseeable leave with no reasonable excuse for the delay.

- b. Unforeseeable Leave - When the approximate timing of the need for leave is not foreseeable, a staff member should give notice to the Superintendent for leave as soon as practicable under the facts



and circumstances of the particular case. It is expected the staff member will give notice to the Superintendent within no more than one or two working days of learning of the need for leave, except in extraordinary circumstances where such notice is not foreseeable. The staff member should provide notice to the employer either in person or by telephone, telegraph, facsimile machine or other electronic means.

2. New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA)
 - a. Foreseeable Leave - A staff member eligible for NJFLA leave must give at least a thirty day advance written notice to the Superintendent of the need to take family leave except where the need to take family leave is not foreseeable.
 - (1) Notice for leave to be taken for the birth or placement of the child for adoption shall be given at least thirty days prior to the commencement of the leave, except that if the date of the birth or adoption requires leave to begin in less than thirty days, the staff member shall provide such notice that is reasonable and practicable.
 - (2) Notice for leave to be taken for the serious health condition of a family member shall be given at least fifteen days prior to the commencement of leave, except that if the date of the treatment or supervision requires leave to begin in less than fifteen days, the staff member shall provide such notice that is reasonable and practicable.
 - (3) When the Superintendent is not made aware that a staff member was absent for family leave reasons and the staff member wants to request the leave be counted as family leave, the staff member must provide timely notice within two business days of returning to work to have the time considered for family leave in accordance with the Family Leave Act.
 - b. Unforeseeable Leave - When the need for leave is not foreseeable, the staff member must provide notice “as soon as practicable” which shall be at least verbal notice to the Superintendent within one or two business days of the staff member learning of the need to take family leave. Whenever emergent circumstances make written notice impracticable, the



staff member may give verbal notice to the Superintendent, but any verbal notice must be followed by written notice delivered within two working days.

G. Leave Designation

An eligible staff member shall designate FMLA or NJFLA leave upon providing notice of the need for the leave or when the need for leave commences. The Superintendent shall provide the staff member with this Policy to assist the staff member in determining the type of leave.

H. Benefits

Whether a staff member is required to use sick time or any other accrued leave time concurrent with FMLA or NJFLA leave time will depend upon either the district's practice or a provision in the district's collective bargaining agreement, if applicable. 29CFR §825.100.

The Board will maintain coverage under any group health insurance policy, group subscriber contract, or health care plan at the level and under the conditions coverage would have been provided if the staff member had continued to work instead of taking the leave. If the staff member was paying all or part of the premium payments prior to the leave, the staff member would continue to pay his/her share during the leave time. Any ten month staff member who is on leave under NJFLA or FMLA at the end of the school year will be provided with any benefits over the summer that the staff member would normally receive if they had been working at the end of the school year.

I. Returning from Leave

The Federal Family and Medical Leave Act and/or the New Jersey Family Leave Act

A staff member returning from leave shall be entitled to the position he/she held when leave commenced or to an equivalent position of like seniority, status, employment benefits, pay and other conditions of employment. If the district experiences a reduction in force or layoff and the staff member would have lost his/her position had the staff member not been on family leave as a result of the reduction in force or pursuant to the good faith operation of a bona fide layoff and recall system including a system under any collective bargaining agreement, the staff member shall be entitled to reinstatement to the

former or an equivalent position in accordance with applicable statutes, codes and laws. The staff member's tenure and seniority rights, if any, and other benefits shall be



preserved, but the staff member shall accrue no additional time toward tenure or seniority for the period of the leave, except as may be provided by law.

The return of a staff member prior to the expiration of the requested family leave may be permitted by the Board if the return does not unduly disrupt the instructional program or require the Board to incur the cost of continuing the employment of a substitute under contract.

The Board may, in accordance with the provisions of 29 CFR §825.312 delay restoration of employment of a staff member using FMLA leave for the staff member's serious health condition until the staff member submits a fitness-for-duty examination from his/her health care provider indicating that the staff member is able to resume work. In the event the Board requires such a fitness-for-duty examination before restoration of the staff member after leave, the Board will provide the staff member specific notice either at the time the staff member gives notice of the need for leave or immediately after the leave commences and the staff member advises the Board of the medical circumstances for the leave.

If leave is taken under FMLA, and the staff member does not return to work after the leave expires, the Board is entitled to recover health insurance costs paid while the staff member was on FMLA. The Board's right to recover premiums would not apply if the staff member fails to return to work due to:

1. The continuation, onset or recurrence of a serious health condition of the staff member; or
2. Circumstances beyond the staff member's control.

J. Ineligible Staff Members

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The district may deny job restoration after FMLA leave if the staff member is a "key employee" as defined in 29 CFR 825 217 if such denial is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the district or the district may delay restoration to a staff member who fails to provide a fitness for duty certificate to return to work for leave that was the staff member's own serious health condition. A "key employee" is a salaried, staff member who is among the highest paid ten percent of the school district staff employed by the district within 75 miles of the worksite. No more than ten percent of the school district staff within 75 miles of the worksite may be "key employees."



In the event the Superintendent believes that reinstatement may be denied to a key employee, the Superintendent must give written notice to the staff member at the time the staff member gives notice of the need for leave, or when the need for leave commences, if earlier, that he/she qualifies as a key employee. The key employee must be fully informed of the potential consequences with respect to reinstatement and maintenance of health benefits if the district should determine that substantial and grievous economic injury to the district's operations will result if the staff member is reinstated from leave. The district's notice must explain the basis for the district's finding that substantial and grievous economic injury will result, and if leave has commenced, must provide the staff member a reasonable time in which to return to work. If the staff member on leave does not return to work in response to the notice of intent to deny restoration, the staff member continues to be entitled to maintenance of health insurance.

A key employee's rights under the FMLA continue unless and until the staff member either gives notice that he/she no longer wishes to return to work or the district actually denies reinstatement at the conclusion of the leave period. A staff member is still entitled to request reinstatement at the end of the leave period even if the staff member did not return to work in response to the district's notice. The district will then again determine whether there will be substantial and grievous economic injury from reinstatement based on the facts at that time. If it is determined that substantial and grievous economic injury will result, the district will notify the staff member in writing (in person or by certified mail) of the denial of the restoration.

2. New Jersey Family Leave Act

The district may deny family leave to the staff member if the staff member is a salaried employee who is among the highest paid five percent of the school district staff or one of the seven highest paid employees of the district, whichever is greater, if the denial is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the school district's operations. The Superintendent shall notify the staff member of the intent to deny the leave at the time the Superintendent determines the denial is necessary. If the leave has already commenced at the time of the district's notification of denial, the staff member shall be permitted to return to work within ten working days of the date of notification.

K. Verification of Leave

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)



The Board requires a staff member's FMLA leave to care for the staff member's seriously ill spouse, son, daughter, or parent, or for a servicemember's qualifying exigency or serious injury; or for illness due to the staff member's own serious health condition that makes the staff member unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of the staff member's position, be supported by a certification issued by the health care provider of the staff member or the staff member's ill family member. The medical certification required encompasses both physical and psychological care and includes situations where a family member is unable to care for his/her own basic medical, hygienic, or nutritional needs or safety, or is unable to transport himself/herself to the doctor. It can also include providing psychological comfort and reassurance beneficial to a child, spouse, or parent with a serious health condition who is receiving inpatient or home care and can include situations where the staff member may be needed to substitute for others who normally care for the family member or covered servicemember or to make arrangements for changes in care. The staff member need not be the only individual or family member available to care for the family member or covered servicemember. 29CFR §825.124

The certification must meet the requirements of 29 CFR §§825.306, 309, and 310 to include: which part of the definition of "serious health condition" applies; the approximate date the serious health condition commenced and its probable duration; whether it will be necessary for the staff member to take intermittent and/or reduced leave; whether the patient is presently incapacitated and the likely duration and frequency of episodes of incapacity; if additional treatments will be required for the condition; and/or if the patient's incapacity will be intermittent or will require reduced leave. The certification of a serious health condition of a family member of the staff member shall be sufficient if it states the date on which the condition commenced, the probable duration of the condition, and the medical facts within the provider's knowledge regarding the condition. Certification for the birth or placement of a child need only state the date of birth or date of placement.

In the event the Superintendent doubts the validity of the certification, in accordance with 29 CFR ~~Section~~ §825.307, the district may require, at the district's expense, the staff member obtain an opinion regarding the serious health condition from a second health care provider designated by the district, but not employed on a regular basis by the district. If the second opinion differs from the staff member's health care provider, the district may require, at the district's expense, the staff member obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated by the district or approved jointly, in good faith, by the



district and the staff member. The opinion of the third health care provider shall be final and binding on the district and the staff member.

The district may require re-certification pursuant to the requirements of 29 CFR §825.308. In accordance with 29 CFR §825.309, the staff member on leave must provide a written report to the Superintendent every thirty workdays. The report shall include the staff member's status and intended date to return to work. In the event the staff member's circumstances change, the staff member must provide reasonable notice to the Superintendent if the staff member intends to return to work on a date sooner than previously noticed to the district. The staff member is not required to take more leave than necessary to resolve the circumstance that precipitated the need for leave. As a condition of returning to work after the leave for the staff member's own serious health condition, and in accordance with 29 CFR §825.310, the district requires a staff member to provide a certification from their health care provider that the staff member is able to resume work.

In accordance with 29 CFR §825.311, the district may delay the taking of FMLA leave to a staff member who fails to provide certification within fifteen days after being requested to do so by the district. In accordance with 29 CFR §825.312, the district may delay the taking of leave until thirty days after the date the staff member provides notice to the district of foreseeable leave or the district may delay continuation of leave if a staff member fails to provide a requested medical certification in a timely manner.

2. New Jersey Family Leave Act

The Board shall require the certification of a duly licensed health care provider verifying the purpose of requested NJFLA leave. Certification of a serious health condition of a family member of the staff member shall be sufficient if it states the date on which the condition commenced, the probable duration of the condition, and the medical facts within the provider's knowledge regarding the condition. Certification for the birth or placement of a child need only state the date of birth or date of placement, whichever is appropriate.

In the event the Superintendent doubts the validity of the certification for the serious health condition of a family member of the staff member, the district may require, at the district's expense, the staff member to obtain an opinion regarding the serious health condition from a second health care provider designated or approved, but not employed on a regular basis, by the district. If the second opinion differs from the certification the district may require, at the district's



expense, that the staff member obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the district and the staff member concerning the serious health condition. The opinion of the third health care provider shall be final and binding on the district and the staff member.

L. Interference with Family Leave Rights

The Federal Family and Medical Leave Act and the New Jersey Family Leave Act prohibit interference with a staff member's rights under the law, and with legal proceedings or inquiries relating to a staff member's rights. Unless permitted by the law, no staff member shall be required to take family leave or to extend family leave beyond the time requested. A staff member shall not be discriminated against for having exercised his/her rights under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act or the New Jersey Family Leave Act nor discouraged from the use of family leave.

M. Non-Tenured Teaching Staff

Family leave granted to a nontenured staff member cannot extend the staff member's employment beyond the expiration of his/her employment contract.

N. Record Keeping

In order that staff member's entitlement to FMLA leave and NJFLA leave can be properly determined, the Superintendent shall ensure the keeping of accurate attendance records that distinguish family leave from other kinds of leave. The Superintendent will publish a notice explaining the Act's provisions and provide information concerning the procedures for filing complaints of violations of the FMLA and NJFLA.

O. Processing of Complaints

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) 29 CFR §§825.400-401

- a. If there is a dispute between the district and a staff member as to whether leave qualifies as FMLA leave, it should be resolved through discussion between the staff member and the district. Such discussions and the decision shall be documented by the school district.
- b. The staff member also may file, or have another person file on his/her behalf, a complaint with the United States Secretary of labor. A complaint may be filed in person, by mail, or by telephone with the Wage



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
4431.1/page 24 of 24
Family Leave

and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of labor, at any local office of the Wage and Hour Division.

2. New Jersey Family Leave Act N.J.A.C. 13:14-1.16
 - a. Any complaint alleging a violation of the Act shall be processed in the same manner as a complaint filed under the terms of N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 13:4 through the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division on Civil Rights.

Implementation of FMLA and NJFLA will be consistent with provisions in collective bargaining agreement(s) in the district.

29 CFR et seq.
29CFR §785
N.J.S.A. 10:5-1
N.J.A.C. 13:14-1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 15 March 2016



4432 SICK LEAVE

The Board of Education shall grant sick leave, in accordance with law, to support staff members absent from work because of personal disability or quarantine. Each steadily employed employee eligible for sick leave will be entitled annually to the number of paid sick leave days negotiated with the employee's majority representative or provided in this policy or in an individual contract with the Board.

29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



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 or in an individual contract with the Board.

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

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4434 HOLIDAYS

The Board of Education will compensate support staff members for holidays in accordance with the holiday provisions of current valid negotiated contracts.

Compensation for holidays for non-association/non-union represented support staff members will be determined by the Board on an annual basis.

N.J.S.A. 36:1-1

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4435 ANTICIPATED DISABILITY

The Board of Education shall provide for leaves of absence, in accordance with law and the policies of this Board, for any employee of this district not otherwise covered by the terms of the negotiated agreement whose absence from duties will be required for a foreseeable event of disability such as childbirth or surgery.

An employee who anticipates disability shall so notify the Superintendent as soon as the employee is under medical supervision for the condition and a date is projected for the anticipated disability. Because of the potentially disabling nature of pregnancy and the certainty of temporary disability at parturition, the Board will presume that a pregnant employee is disabled for work thirty days before the anticipated date of childbirth and continues to be disabled for thirty days after parturition, except that any such employee who presents medical certification of her fitness may continue to work until she is actually disabled and may return to work as soon as she is able.

The Board reserves the right to require an employee who requests an extended leave of absence that includes anticipated disability to commence and/or terminate the leave at times that ensure continuity in district operations. Whenever possible, partial year leaves of absence will begin and end at divisions in the academic calendar and will cause not more than one interruption in employment continuity during the school year in which the leave is taken. No person who is required to take leave at a time other than that requested will be denied the use of sick leave for the anticipated disability that occurs or is presumed to occur during the leave.

An employee who anticipates a disability may request a leave of absence to commence before disability and to extend beyond the period of disability. Any such request shall be subject to Board discretion and the Board's policy on leave of absence. An employee on voluntary leave of absence is not eligible for sick leave pay for disability occurring during the period of that absence.

42 U.S.C.A. 2000e-2(a)

29 C.F.R. 1604-1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 10:5-12(a)

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-6; 18A:16-2; 18A:30-1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4436 PERSONAL LEAVE

The Board of Education will provide for an employee's compensated absence for reason of personal necessity not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement or in an individual contract with the Board.

The Board reserves the right to determine the reasons for which personal leave will be granted, the number of days that may be used in any one school year for personal leave, and the manner of proof of personal necessity.

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

Adopted: 15 December 2009



4437 MILITARY LEAVE

The Board of Education recognizes that military service rendered by any district employee in the defense of the country or in maintaining preparedness for conflict, foreign or domestic, is a service benefiting all citizens. A permanent or full-time temporary officer and/or employee of the district will be provided military leave and related benefits pursuant to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 U.S.C. Section 4301 et seq., P.L. 2001 Chapter 351 amending N.J.S.A. 38:23-1, N.J.S.A. 38A:1-1 and N.J.S.A. 38A:4-4., and any other applicable Federal and State laws.

A permanent or full-time temporary officer or employee of the school district who is a member of the organized militia of New Jersey (New Jersey National Guard, New Jersey Naval Militia Joint Command) shall be entitled, in addition to pay received, if any, as a member of the organized militia, to a leave of absence from his or her respective duties without loss of pay or time on all days during which he or she shall be engaged in any period of State or Federal active duty provided, however, that the leave of absence for Federal active duty or active duty for training shall not exceed ninety work days in the aggregate in any calendar year. Any leave of absence for such duty in excess of ninety work days shall be without pay, but without loss of time. Such leave shall be in addition to the regular vacation or other accrued leave provided to the officer or employee. A full-time temporary officer or employee who has served under such temporary appointment for less than one year in the district shall receive this leave without pay, but without loss of time. This paid leave shall be in addition to the regular vacation or other accrued leave provided to the officer or employee. Any leave of absence for such duty in excess of ninety workdays shall be without pay, but without loss of time.

A permanent or full-time temporary officer or employee of the school district who is a member of the organized reserve of the Army of the United States, United States Naval Reserve, United States Air Force Reserve or United States Marine Corps Reserve, or other organization affiliated therewith, including the National Guard of other states, shall be entitled, in addition to pay received, if any, as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, to a leave of absence from his or her respective duty without loss of pay or time on all work days on which he or she shall be engaged in any period of Federal active duty, provided, however, that such leave of absence shall not exceed thirty work days in any calendar year. Such leave shall be in addition to the regular vacation or other accrued leave provided to the officer or employee. Any leave of absence for such duty in excess of thirty (30) work days shall be without pay, but without loss of time. A full-time temporary officer or employee who has served under such temporary appointment for less than one year in the district shall receive this leave without pay, but without loss of time.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

4437/page 2 of 2

Military Leave

Military leave with pay is not authorized for Inactive Duty Training (IDT) as defined in N.J.A.C. 5A:2-2.1.

The district will provide benefits and rights for staff on military leave as required by Federal and State laws.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:13H-2.1, in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 5 of the New Jersey Constitution, upon application by the district to the State Treasury and approval of the application by the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting, reimbursement shall be made by the State of New Jersey for any costs incurred as a result of the provisions of P.L. 2001, Chapter 351.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-33; 18A:29-11

N.J.S.A. 38:23-1 et seq.; 38A:1-1; 38A:4-4; 52:13H-2.1

N.J.A.C. 5A:2-2.1

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 U.S.C. Section 4301 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 29 May 2018



4438 JURY DUTY

The Board of Education will indemnify all full-time employees against loss of pay incurred by a call to jury duty. No employee will be penalized in any way for an absence caused by service on a panel of grand or petit jurors. The time any such employee is absent will not be charged against personal leave and will count toward district service.

A full-time employee who is absent from their school district duties while on jury duty for any court of New Jersey, any court of any other State, any federal district court, or in the U.S. District Court for New Jersey will receive their usual compensation from the school district for each day the support staff member is present for jury duty.

An employee summoned to jury duty shall promptly report the summons to his/her immediate supervisor.

On return from jury duty, the employee must submit to his/her immediate supervisor a court record of the number of days served on jury duty.

While on jury duty, an employee must report daily to his/her supervisor the schedule for the following day and must report to work when he/she is excused from jury duty for half a day or more or suffer loss of pay.

N.J.S.A. 2B:20-1 et seq.; 2B:20-16

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5111 ELIGIBILITY OF RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

The North Caldwell Board of Education shall admit to its schools, free of charge, persons over five and under thirteen years of age, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, or such younger or older student as is otherwise entitled by law to a free public education.

Eligibility to Attend School

The Board shall admit students eligible to attend school free of charge that are domiciled within the district as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1 et seq.

A child who is domiciled within the school district and resides with a parent or guardian who is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or a member of the reserve component of the armed forces of the United States who is ordered into active military service in a time of war or national emergency shall be permitted to remain enrolled in the school district in which the child is domiciled at the time of the parent or guardian being ordered into active military service, regardless of where the child resides during the period of active duty. Following the return of the child's parent or guardian from active military service, the child's eligibility to remain enrolled in the school district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3.1 shall cease at the end of the current school year unless the child is domiciled in the school district.

The Board shall also admit any student that is kept in the home of a person other than the student's parent or guardian, where the person is domiciled in the school district and is supporting the student without remuneration as if the student were his or her own child in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2. A student is only eligible to attend school in the district pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2 if the student's parent or guardian files, together with documentation to support its validity, a sworn statement that he or she is not capable of supporting or providing care for the student due to family or economic hardship and the student is not residing with the other person solely for the purpose of receiving a free public education. In addition, the person keeping the student must file, if so required by the Board of Education, a sworn statement that he or she: is domiciled within the school district; is supporting the child without remuneration and intends to do so for a time longer than the school term; will assume all personal obligations for the student relative to school requirements; and a copy of his or her lease if a tenant, or a sworn landlord's statement if residing as a tenant without a written lease, or a mortgage or tax bill if an owner. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(c), any person who fraudulently allows a child of another person to use his or her residence and is not the primary financial supporter of that child; and any person who fraudulently claims to have given up custody of his or her child to a person in another district commits a disorderly persons offense.



A student is eligible to attend school in this school district free of charge pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:1.b if the student is kept in the home of a person domiciled in the school district, who is not the parent or guardian and the parent or guardian is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or the reserve component of the United States armed forces and has been ordered into active military service in the United States armed forces in time of war or national emergency. Eligibility under this provision shall cease at the end of the current schoolyear during which the parent or guardian returns from active military duty.

A student is eligible to attend school in this school district free of charge pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1d if the student's parent or guardian temporarily resides within the school district and elects to have the student attend the school district of temporary residence, notwithstanding the existence of a domicile elsewhere. When required by the Board of Education, the parent or guardian shall demonstrate the temporary residence is not solely for purposes of a student attending the school district of temporary residence. When one of a student's parents or guardians temporarily resides in the school district while the other is domiciled or temporarily resides elsewhere, eligibility to attend school shall be determined in accordance with the criteria of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1(a)1.i.

A student is eligible to attend this school district free of charge:

1. If the student's parent or guardian moves to another school district as the result of being homeless, subject to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2 - Education of Homeless Children;
2. If the student is placed by court order or by a society, agency, or institution in the home of a school district resident pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-2;
3. If the student previously resided in the school district and if the parent or guardian is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or the United States reserves and has been ordered to active service in time of war or national emergency, resulting in the relocation of the student out of the school district, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3(b). The school district shall not be obligated for transportation costs; and
4. If the student resides on federal property within the State pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-7.7 et seq.



Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 or any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, a student who moves out of the school district as a result of domestic violence, sexual abuse, or other family crises shall be permitted to remain enrolled in the school district for the remainder of the school year in pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1 and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2(h). If the student remains enrolled in the school district for the remainder of the school year, the school district shall provide transportation services of the student, provided the student lives remote from school, and the State shall reimburse the school district for the cost of the transportation services. Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1 shall be construed to affect the rights of homeless students pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12, N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12.1, or any other applicable State or Federal law.

If the district of residence cannot be determined according to the criteria contained in N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12; if the criteria contained in N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12 identify a district of residence out of the State; or if the child has resided in a domestic violence shelter, homeless shelter, or transitional living facility located outside of the district of residence for more than one year, the State shall assume fiscal responsibility for the tuition of the child in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12.d.

A student's eligibility to attend this school shall not be affected by the physical condition of an applicant's housing or his or her compliance with local housing ordinances, or terms of lease.

Except as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.3(b)1, immigration/visa status shall not affect eligibility to attend school and the school district shall not condition enrollment in the school district on immigration status. A student's immigration/visa status and their eligibility to attend school shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.3(b) and Regulation 5111.

Proof of Eligibility

The Board of Education shall accept a combination of forms of documentation from persons attempting to demonstrate a student's eligibility for enrollment in the school in accordance with the provisions N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.4. The Board of Education shall consider the totality of information and documentation offered by an applicant, and shall not deny enrollment based on failure to provide a particular form subset of documents, without regard to other evidence presented.

The Board of Education shall not condition enrollment on the receipt of information or documents protected from disclosure by law, or pertaining to criteria that are not a legitimate basis for determining eligibility to attend school as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.4(d). The Board of Education may consider, in a manner consistent with Federal law, documents or information referenced in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.4(d) or pertinent parts thereof if voluntarily disclosed by the applicant. The Board of Education may not, directly or indirectly, require or



request such disclosure as an actual or implied condition of enrollment. However, in the case of a dispute between the school district and the parent or guardian of the student in regard to the student's eligibility to enroll in the school district or to remain enrolled in the school district pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, the school district may request from the new Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission the parent or guardian's name and address for use in verifying a student's eligibility for enrollment in the school district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S. 18A:38-1.3.

Registration Forms and Procedures for Initial Assessment

Registration and initial determinations of eligibility will be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.1. The Board of Education shall use Commissioner-provided registration forms or locally developed forms that are consistent with the forms provided by the Commissioner. A district level administrator designated by the Superintendent shall be available, and clearly identified to applicants and available to assist persons who experience difficulties with the enrollment process.

Initial eligibility determinations shall be made upon presentation of an enrollment application and enrollment shall take place immediately except in cases those of clear, uncontested denials. Enrollment shall take place immediately when an applicant has provided incomplete, unclear or questionable information, but the applicant shall be notified that the student will be removed from the school district if defects in the application are not corrected, or an appeal is not filed, in accordance with subsequent notice to be provided pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.2.

When a student appears ineligible based on the information provided in the initial application, the school district shall issue a preliminary written notice of ineligibility, including an explanation of the right to appeal to the Commissioner of Education. Enrollment shall take place immediately if the applicant clearly indicates disagreement with the district's determination and an intent to appeal to the Commissioner of Education. An applicant whose student is enrolled pursuant to this provision shall be notified that the student be removed, without a hearing before the Board, if no appeal is filed within the twenty-one (21) day period established by N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.

When enrollment is denied and no intent to appeal is indicated, applicants shall be advised they shall comply with compulsory education laws. When the student is between the ages of six and sixteen, applicants also shall be asked to complete a written statement indicating the student will be attending school in another school district or a nonpublic school, or receiving instruction elsewhere than at a school pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25. In the absence of this written statement, staff shall report to the school district of actual domicile or residence, or the Department of Children and Families a potential instance of "neglect" for the purposes of ensuring compliance with compulsory education law, N.J.S.A. 9:6-1. Staff shall provide the



school district or the Department of Children and Families with the student's name, the name(s) of the parent/guardian/resident, and the student's address to the extent known. Staff shall also indicate admission to the school district has been denied based on residency or domicile, and there is no evidence of intent to arrange for the child to attend school or receive instruction elsewhere.

Enrollment or attendance at in the school shall not be conditioned on advance payment of tuition when enrollment is denied and an intent to appeal is indicated, or when enrollment is provisional and subject to further review or information. The Board of Education shall ensure the registration process identifies information suggesting an applicant may be homeless so procedures may be implemented in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2, Education of Homeless Children. Enrollment or attendance in the school district shall not be denied based upon the absence of the certified copy of the student's birth certificate or other proof of a student's identity as required within thirty days of initial enrollment, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-25.1.

Enrollment in the school district shall not be denied based upon absence of student medical information. However, actual attendance at school may be deferred until the student complies with student immunization rules set forth in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.

When enrollment in the school district, attendance at school, or the receipt of educational services in the regular education program appears inappropriate, the student shall not be denied based upon the absence of a student's prior educational record. However, the applicant shall be advised the student's initial educational placement may be subject to revision upon the school district's receipt of records or further assessment of the student.

Notice of Ineligibility

When a student is found ineligible to attend the schools district pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22., or the student's initial application is found to be deficient upon subsequent review or investigation, the school district immediately shall provide to the applicant notice that is consistent with Commissioner-provided sample form(s) and meets requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4 et seq. Notices shall be in writing; in English and in the native language of the applicant;; issued by the Superintendent and directed to the address at which the applicant claims to reside. Notices of ineligibility include information as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.2.

Removal of Currently Enrolled Students

Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:22 et seq. and this Policy shall preclude the Board of Education from identifying through further investigation or periodic requests for revalidation of eligibility, students enrolled in the school district who may be ineligible for continued attendance due to error in initial assessment, changed circumstances or newly discovered information.



When a student who is enrolled and attending school based on an initial eligibility determination is later determined to be ineligible for continued attendance, the Superintendent may apply to the Board of Education for the student's removal in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.3. No student shall be removed from school unless the parent, guardian, adult student, or resident keeping an "affidavit student" (as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-1.2) has been informed of his or her entitlement to a hearing before the Board of Education. Once the hearing is held, or if the parent, guardian, adult student or resident keeping an "affidavit student", does not respond within the designated time frame to the Superintendent's notice or appear for the hearing, the Board of Education shall make a prompt determination of the student's eligibility and shall immediately provide notice in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.2. Hearings required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.3. may be conducted by the full Board or a Board Committee, at the discretion of the full Board. If the hearing(s) is conducted by a Board Committee, the Committee shall make a recommendation to the full Board for action. No student may be removed except by vote of the Board taken at a meeting duly convened and conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the Open Public Meetings Act.

Appeal to the Commissioner

An applicant may appeal to the Commissioner of Education the school district's determination that a student is ineligible to attend its schools. Appeals shall be initiated by petition which shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:3-8.1 and shall proceed as a contested case pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-11, appeals of "affidavit student" eligibility determinations shall be filed by the resident keeping the student.

Assessment and Calculation of Tuition

If no appeal to the Commissioner is filed following notice of a an ineligibility determination, the Board of Education may assess tuition for up to one year of a student's ineligible attendance, including the twenty-one day period provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 for appeal to the Commissioner. Tuition will be assessed and calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-6.3 et seq. If the responsible party does not pay the tuition assessment, the Board of Education may petition the Commissioner for an order assessing tuition, enforceable in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:58-10, through recording, upon request of the Board of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3-12, on the judgment docket of the Superior Court, Law Division.

If an appeal to the Commissioner is filed and the petitioner does not sustain the burden of demonstrating the student's right to attend the school district, or the petitioner withdraws the appeal, fails to prosecute, or abandons the appeal by any means other than settlement agreeing to waive or reduce tuition, the Commissioner may assess tuition in accordance with the



provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-6.2(a). Upon the Commissioner's finding that an appeal has been abandoned, the Board of Education may remove the student from school and seek tuition in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-6.2.

Nonresident Students

The admission of a nonresident student to school must be approved by the Board. No student otherwise eligible shall be denied admission on the basis of the student's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation or sex, social or economic status, or disability. The continued enrollment of any nonresident student shall be contingent upon the student's maintenance of good standards of citizenship and discipline.

Students Who Anticipate Moving to or from the District

Students who are not domiciled in North Caldwell by the first day of school (September 1st) are not eligible for early enrollment. Enrollment will only be permitted once student is domiciled in North Caldwell.

Former Domiciled Students

Regularly enrolled students whose parent or guardian have moved out of the school district may be permitted to finish the school year or complete the marking period whichever comes first,

provided tuition is paid. If the enrolled student is in sixth grade and the student was a resident of North Caldwell at the start of the school year, he/she shall be permitted to complete the school year without payment of tuition.

The Board of Education shall not be responsible for the transportation to or from school of any non-domiciled student.

Tuition rates shall be determined on a per student per diem basis. Tuition shall be charged monthly, in advance of attendance.



Students of District Employees

Students of Board employees who do not reside in this school district may be admitted to school in this district with payment of tuition, rate approved by Board, provided that the educational program of such student can be provided within district facilities.

Other Nonresident Students

Other nonresident students, otherwise eligible for attendance, may be admitted to school in this district with payment of tuition if their admission is warranted by the inaccessibility of school in their home district, the singular availability of an appropriate educational program in this district, the avoidance of transfer and readmission of a student whose legal custody is shared by a parent or guardian residing in this district, or other good cause.

N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1; 18A:38-1.1; 18A:38-1.3; 18A:38-3;
18A:38-3.1; 18A:7B-12

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3; 6A:17-2.1 et seq.; 6A:22
8 CFR 214.3

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 17 August 2010
Revised: 18 October 2016
Revised: 19 September 2017
Revised: 19 March 2018
Revised: 30 April 2019
Revised: 15 March 2022



5112 ENTRANCE AGE

The Board of Education will admit to this district children otherwise eligible by law or Board policy who have attained the age requirements set by law and this Board of Education. The Board requires documentary verification of the age and birthdate of any child for whom admission to this district is sought.

Preschool Disabled

A child is eligible for entrance into a program of special education who has attained his/her third birthday and has been found by the Child Study Team to be eligible for a program for the preschool disabled in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education.

Kindergarten

A child is eligible for entrance into Kindergarten who will have attained the age of five years on or before October 1 of the year in which entrance is sought.

No child will be admitted to Kindergarten who has not met the age requirement set by this policy.

First Grade

A child is eligible for entrance into first grade who will have attained the age of six years on or before October 1 of the year in which entrance is sought. Children reaching the age of six between October 2 and 31 may be eligible for admission into first grade based upon the following criteria:

1. Attendance in an accredited Kindergarten program;
2. Written recommendation of the administrator and classroom teacher of the school previously attended;
3. Observation of that student by designated district personnel;
4. Assessment by district personnel; and
5. Proof furnished of immunization against communicable diseases.

After the review of these criteria, the Principal will determine the final grade placement of the children.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19; 18A:38-5; 18A:38-6; 18A:44-1;
18A:44-2; 18A:46-6; 18A:46-6.1

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5114 CHILDREN DISPLACED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Board of Education will cooperate with the County Office of Education, as appropriate and feasible, in the education of children temporarily displaced by domestic violence. Any student attending the schools of this district, whether regularly enrolled in this or another district, who has been admitted to a shelter for victims of domestic violence will be permitted and encouraged to continue an appropriate educational program with minimal disruption.

The Board will cooperate with other educational institutions in the sharing of pertinent student records and in the establishment of sending-receiving relationships on behalf of displaced children. The confidentiality of all matters concerning displaced children will be strictly observed, and no information regarding the present residence of the child will be released.

N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5116 EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN

The Board of Education will admit and enroll homeless children in accordance with Federal and State laws and New Jersey Administrative Code. The Board of Education adopts this Policy to be in compliance with law and administrative code to ensure the enrollment of homeless children in school and to respond to appeals made by parents or other parties related to the their enrollment of homeless children.

The Board of Education shall determine that a child is homeless when he or she resides in a publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including: hotels or motels; congregate shelters, including domestic violence and runaway shelters; transitional housing; and homes for adolescent mothers. A child is also determined homeless when he or she resides in a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation, including: cars or other vehicles including mobile homes; tents or other temporary shelters; parks; abandoned buildings; bus or train stations; temporary shelters provided to migrant workers and their children on farm sites; and the residence of relatives or friends where the homeless child resides out of necessity because his or her family lacks a regular or permanent residence of its own. A child is also determined homeless when he or she resides in substandard housing or any temporary location wherein children and youth are awaiting foster care placement.

The school district of residence for a homeless child is responsible for the education of the child and shall assume all responsibilities as required in N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.3. The school district of residence for a homeless child means the school district in which the parent of a homeless child resided prior to becoming homeless.

The school district liaison designated by the Superintendent of Schools for the education of homeless children is Board appointed annually during reorganization meeting. The liaison will facilitate communication and cooperation between the school district of residence and the school district where the homeless child resides and shall assume all responsibilities as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.4(a).

When a homeless child resides in a school district, the school district liaison shall notify the liaison of the school district of residence within twenty-four hours of receiving notification from the parent, the Department of Human Services or the Department of Children and Families, a shelter director, an involved agency, or a case manager. Upon notification of the need for enrollment of a homeless child, the liaison in the school district of residence shall coordinate enrollment procedures immediately based upon the best interest of the child pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.5(b).



The Superintendent of the school district of residence or designee shall decide in which school district the homeless child shall be enrolled in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 17-2.5.

Unless parental rights have been terminated by a court of competent jurisdiction, the parent retains all rights under N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.1 et seq.

When a dispute occurs regarding the determination of homelessness or the determination of the school district of enrollment made by the school district of residence, the Superintendent(s) or the designee(s) of the involved district(s) or the child's parent(s) shall immediately notify the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, who in consultation with the Department of Education's McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Coordinator or designee, shall immediately decide the child's status. If a dispute remains between the parent and the involved school district(s) following the Executive County Superintendent's determination, the parent or the involved district Board(s) of Education may appeal to the Commissioner of Education for determination pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes.

When a school district is designated as the school district of residence disputes its designation as the school district of residence, or where no designation can be agreed upon by the involved school districts, the Superintendent(s) or designee(s) of the involved school districts shall immediately notify the Executive County Superintendent of Schools who shall immediately make a determination, if possible, but no later than within forty-eight hours.

If the dispute regarding the determination of district of residence does not involve the determination of homelessness and/or district enrollment, the school district disputing the Executive County Superintendent's determination may appeal to the Department of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-19.2(d), (e), and (f) and request a determination from the Division of Administration and Finance.

If an appeal of a determination of district of residence also includes an appeal of the determination of homelessness and/or school district of enrollment, the appeal shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes.

Any dispute or appeal shall not delay the homeless child's immediate enrollment or continued enrollment in the school district. The homeless child shall be enrolled in the school district in which enrollment or continued enrollment is sought by the parent, pending resolution of the dispute or appeal. Disputes and appeals involving the services provided to a homeless child with a disability shall be made pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14.



Financial responsibility, including the payment of tuition for the homeless child, will be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.8. The school district of residence shall list the child on its annual Application for State School Aid (ASSA) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-33 until the parent establishes a permanent residence or is deemed domiciled in another jurisdiction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.d. At that time, the school district of residence shall no longer list the student on its ASSA. The State shall assume fiscal responsibility for the tuition of the child pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12.1 and shall pay the tuition to the school district in which the child is currently enrolled until the parent establishes a permanent residence or is deemed domiciled in another jurisdiction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.d. under the circumstances outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.8(c).

On or before December 31 of each year, the district shall report to the Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs an accounting of each instance in which the district is made aware that a student enrolled in the district because the student's parent moved to the district as a result of being homeless.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12; 18A:7B-12.1; 18A:38-1
N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 26 April 2017
Revised: 15 March 2022



5120 ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS

The Board of Education directs the assignment of students to the schools, programs, and classes of this district consistent with the best interests of students and the best uses of the resources of this district.

Students shall generally attend the school located in the attendance area of their residence. The Superintendent may assign a student to a school other than that designated by the attendance area when such an exception is justified by circumstances and/or is in the best interests of the student. Every effort will be made to continue a student in the same elementary school once the student has been enrolled in that elementary school.

The Superintendent shall assign incoming transfer students to the school in their attendance area of their residence provided the district's school or class size requirements can accommodate the student's enrollment. The Building Principal may assign students in his/her school to grades, classes, and groups on the basis of the needs of the student as well as the sound administration of the school.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-38.a.(1), a parent of twins or higher order multiples enrolled in the same Kindergarten through eighth grade level at the same public school may request, in writing, the children be placed in the same classroom or in separate classrooms. The Principal shall make the classroom placement requested in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-38.a.(1).

The written request must be submitted to the Principal no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of each school year. Parents of twins or higher order multiples enrolling after the school year commences shall request the classroom placement in writing no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of attendance.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-38.(2)(b), a Principal may, after consultation with the students' parent and teachers at the end of the initial grading period, request the Board make a different classroom placement determination for the twins or higher order multiples if the initial classroom placement is determined to be disruptive to any of the students in the class or classes, or if the Principal concludes the initial placement does not sufficiently support the students' academic or social development. Upon receiving such request, the Board shall make a final classroom placement determination.

“Higher order multiples” means triples, quadruplets, quintuplets or larger group siblings born at one birth. Provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-38 do not apply to a school district which maintains only a single classroom for the grade level in which twins or higher order multiples are enrolled.



The parent shall be responsible for any additional student transportation costs that are incurred by the district as a result of providing the requested classroom placement, unless the district is in agreement with the placement. In the event one of the twins or higher order multiples receives special education services, the requested placement shall not be accommodated if the placement is inconsistent with the student's Individualized Education Plan.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-38

Adopted: September 16, 2014



5130 WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

The Board of Education believes that the educational goals of this district are best implemented by a student's exposure to the entire educational program and that every student enrolled in this district should be encouraged to complete the program of instruction appropriate to his/her needs. No student below the age of sixteen will be permitted to withdraw from school.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



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 (6) and sixteen (16) 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 8140

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. A student who is absent from school for observing a 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 experience deemed essential to learning and may result in retention at grade level.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS
5200/page 2 of 2
Attendance
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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: 15 December 2009

Revised: 24 February 2015

Revised: 7 March 2023



5230 LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DISMISSAL

The Board of Education requires that students be in attendance for the full school day in order to benefit from the instructional program. That requirement will be waived only when compelling circumstances require that a student be late to school or dismissed from school before the end of the school day.

The Principal may excuse for cause the late arrival and early dismissal of a student on the prior written request of the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Good cause may include, but need not be limited to, medical and dental appointments that cannot be scheduled outside the school day or medical disability.

No student will be permitted to leave the school before the end of the school day except in the presence of the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or an agent of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who has written authorization, or in the custody of agents of the state acting in their legal capacity.

The Principal shall maintain a record of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each student. If one parent has been assigned custody of the student by court order or separation agreement and wishes to limit the noncustodial parent's access to the student, the parent in custody must inform the Principal of any such limitation and may request that his/her authorization be required before the noncustodial parent is granted access. In the absence of such notice, the Principal will presume that a student may be released into the care of either parent.

A student who suffers an incapacitating medical disability will be released from school only in the presence of an adult.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5240 TARDINESS

The Board of Education believes that promptness is an important element of school attendance. Students who are late to school or to class miss essential portions of the instructional program and create disruptions in the academic process for themselves and other students.

Tardiness to school or class that is caused by a student's illness, an emergency in the student's family, the observance of a religious holiday, a death in the student's family, or by the student's compliance with a request or directive of an administrator will be considered justified and is excused. All other incidents of tardiness will be considered unexcused.

A student who develops a pattern of tardiness, excused or unexcused, will be offered counseling with an appropriate staff member to determine the cause of the tardiness.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14; 18A:36-15; 18A:36-25 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5250 EXCUSAL FROM CLASS OR PROGRAM

The Board of Education directs that a student be excused from any part of the instructions in health education, family life education, sex education, or instruction that includes dissection of animals that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student or the adult student finds morally, conscientiously, or religiously offensive. A request for excusal must be presented in a signed statement and submitted to the Principal.

An excused student shall be assigned to an alternate program of independent study on a substitute topic within the health education, family life education, or sex education program. The parent's or legal guardian's right of excusal applies to any alternate program as well.

No excused student will be penalized by loss of credit as a result of his/her excusal, but a student will be held accountable for successful completion of any alternate program assigned.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.7

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5300 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR(S) (AEDS)

The American Heart Association estimates many lives could be saved if defibrillators were more widely available. Due to technological advances, automated external defibrillators (AEDs) may be used by lay persons without any training to provide defibrillation within the first minutes of cardiac arrest thereby increasing the victim's chances of survival. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.a, the Board of Education shall ensure every school in the school district has an AED as defined in N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-24. The AED shall be made available in an unlocked location on school property with an appropriate identifying sign. The AED shall be accessible during the school day and any other time when a school sponsored athletic event or team practice is taking place in which students of the school district are participating. The AED shall be within reasonable proximity of the school athletic field or gymnasium, as applicable.

A team coach, licensed athletic trainer, or other designated staff member if there is no coach or licensed athletic trainer, who is present during athletic events or team practices, shall be trained in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and use of the AED in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-25.a. The school district shall be deemed to be in compliance with N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-25.a, if a State-certified emergency services provider or other certified first responder is on site at the event or practice.

Each AED in the school district shall be tested and maintained according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines. Notification shall be provided to the appropriate first aid, ambulance, rescue squad or other appropriate emergency medical services provider regarding the AED, the type acquired, and its location in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-25.b and c.

The school district and its employees shall be immune from civil liability in the acquisition and use of AEDs pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-27.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.b, Superintendent of Schools or designee shall establish and implement an Emergency Action Plan applicable to each school in the school district for responding to a sudden cardiac event including, but not limited to, an event in which the use of an AED may be necessary. The Emergency Action Plan shall be consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.a and, at a minimum, shall include a list of no less than five (5) school employees, team coaches, or licensed athletic trainers who hold current certifications recognized by the Department of Health and Senior Services in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and in the use of an AED. This list shall be updated, if necessary, at least once in each semester of the school year. The Emergency Action Plan shall also include detailed procedures on responding to a sudden cardiac event including, but not limited to, the identification of the persons in the school who will be responsible for responding to the person



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS

5300/page 2 of 2

Automated External Defibrillator(s) (AEDs)

experiencing the sudden cardiac event; calling 911; starting cardio-pulmonary resuscitation; retrieving and using the AED; and assisting emergency responders in getting to the individual experiencing the sudden cardiac event.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.a; 18A:40-41.b

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 16 September 2014



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 required. The school physician shall be currently licensed by the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners in medicine or osteopathy whose training and scope of practice includes child and adolescent health and development. The school district shall conduct a criminal history background check on any physician before entering into an agreement for delivery of services.

The school physician 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);
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 Improvement Act;
3. Physical examinations conducted in the school physician's office or other comparably equipped facility for students who do not have a medical home or whose parent has identified the school as the medical home for the purpose of a sports physical examination;
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 reissued 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);
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.

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 Superintendent of Schools.

The certified school nurse shall possess a standard educational certificate with a school nurse endorsement or school nurse/non-instructional endorsement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-13.3 or 13.4. 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 Defibrillator (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.

The certified school nurse shall 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 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 12;
3. Maintaining student health records, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4;
4. Recommending to the school 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;
6. Recommending to the school Principal exclusion of students who show evidence of communicable disease, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-7 and 8;
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;
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. Providing classroom instruction in areas related to health pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-13.3;
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 for the meeting pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4(h);
12. Writing and updating, at least annually, the individualized health care plan and the individualized emergency healthcare plan 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; and
16. 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:9-13.4.

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 in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(c). The 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 is limited to providing services only as permitted under the non-certified nurse's license issued by the State Board of Nursing.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-13.3; 6A9-13.4; 6A:16-2.3

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 5 May 2015



5306 HEALTH SERVICES TO NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Board of Education having nonpublic schools within the school district boundaries shall provide nursing services to students enrolled full-time in the nonpublic school pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-23 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5.

The Board shall provide for the extension of emergency care provided to public school students and to full-time nonpublic school students who are injured or become ill at school or during participation on a school team or squad pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5(a)4. The Board may provide additional services to those required under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5(a) and under conditions as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5(c).

The nursing services shall be provided by a registered nurse licensed in the State of New Jersey who is an employee of the school district, third-party contractor, or an independent contractor. The nursing services provided to nonpublic school students shall not include instructional services.

A nonpublic school may decline nursing services required or permitted under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5 by submitting to the Board of Education notification signed by the Chief School Administrator of the nonpublic school pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-29. A student who is enrolled in a nonpublic school and whose parent objects to the student receiving any services provided under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5 shall not be compelled to receive the services except for a physical or medical examination to determine whether the student is ill or infected with a communicable disease pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-30.

The Board shall consider the provision of health services to nonpublic schools based upon the considerations outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5(h)1 through 3. The Superintendent or designee shall confer annually with the administrator of the nonpublic school to advise the nonpublic school of the amount of funds allocated by the department of Education to the nonpublic school; to agree on the basic health services that shall be provided and the additional medical services that may be provided as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:40-23 et seq.; to inform the nonpublic school the County Office of Education shall provide assistance in the event an agreement cannot be reached regarding the health services and additional medical services to be provided to the nonpublic school; to assure the nonpublic school receiving services receives a copy of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-23 to 31 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5; and to assure that a description of the provision of nursing services is reflected in the school district's Nursing Services Plan.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS
5306/page 2 of 2
Nursing Services Plan
M

The Board providing health services to a nonpublic school(s) shall submit information to the Executive County Superintendent on or before October 1 annually that includes: a written statement verifying the required annual conferences was held with a nonpublic school; a copy of the contract with another agency to provide the services, if applicable; a copy of the Board meeting minutes approving the contract; and a description of the type and number of services that were provided during the previous school year on a Commissioner of Education approved form. A copy of the information submitted to the Executive County Superintendent shall also be provided to the Chief School Administrator of each nonpublic school within the school district boundaries.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-23 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5 et seq.

Adopted: 5 May 2015



5307 NURSING SERVICES PLAN

The Board of Education shall annually adopt the school district's Nursing Services Plan at a regular meeting and submit it to the County Superintendent of Education for review and approval.

The Superintendent, or designee, shall develop the Nursing Services Plan in consultation with the school physician and certified school nurse.

The Nursing Services Plan shall include a description of the basic nursing services to be provided to all students and a summary of the specific medical needs of individual students, if any, and the nursing services required to address those needs. The Nursing Services Plan shall also include a description of how nursing services will be provided in emergency situations, detailed nursing assignments sufficient to provide the services to students in all of its school buildings as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(b) through (d), and nursing services and additional medical services provided to nonpublic schools pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5.

The Board, in its determination of the number of certified school nurses and non-certified nurses needed to perform all of the required services as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16 et seq. shall consider: the geographic size including the number and location of school buildings; the general and special education enrollment; the number of children with medical involvement and extent of nursing services required; the requirement that non-certified nurses be assigned to the same school building or school complex as the supervising certified school nurse to ensure that the certified school nurse can provide required supervision pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(b) and (d) and N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3.3; and nursing services and additional medical services provided to nonpublic schools pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1(b)

Adopted: 15 December 2009



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. 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(c). Student health records may be stored electronically or in paper format and shall be maintained separately from other student records in a secure location accessible to authorized personnel while school is in session. The health history and immunization record shall be removed from the student's health record and placed in the student's mandated record upon graduation or termination and kept according to the schedule set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8.

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:16-7.1 et seq.

Any Board of Education employee with knowledge of, or access to, information that identifies a student as having HIV infection or AIDS; information obtained by the school's alcohol or drug program which would identify the student as an alcohol or drug user; or information provided by a secondary school student while participating in a school-based alcohol or drug counseling program that indicates a parent, guardian, or other person residing in the student's household is dependent upon or illegally using a substance shall comply with restrictions for sharing such information in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4(b) through (e) and as required by Federal and State statutes and regulations.

Access to and disclosure of information in a student's health record shall meet the requirements of the Family Education 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 records 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.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS
5308/page 2 of 2
Student Health Records

Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4 or in Policy and Regulation 5308 shall be construed to prohibit school personnel from disclosing to student 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:32-75.4.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4 et seq.; 6A:32-7.4 et seq.; 6A:32-7.5 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 5 May 2015



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 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1(a)2 (Policy and Regulation 5330).
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 Epi-pen 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 parent of any student determined to be in need of immediate medical care (Policy and Regulation 8441); and
 - 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).



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

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).

STUDENTS
5310/page 2 of 4
Health Services
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, Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Program (PEOSH) Bloodborne Pathogens Standards;
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 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;
10. Development of an individual healthcare plan and individualized emergency healthcare plan for students with chronic medical conditions, including life-threatening allergies, diabetes, and asthma, requiring special health services in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.11.e, 12.12, 12.13, and 12.15; and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(b)3xii; (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.

The Board of Education shall comply with the following required health services as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2:

1. Immunization records shall be reviewed and updated annually pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 through 4.24.



2. A Building Principal or designee shall not knowingly admit or retain in the school building any student whose parent has not submitted acceptable evidence of the child's immunization, according to the schedule specified in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4, Immunization of Students in School.
3. The school district shall perform tuberculosis tests on students using methods required by and when specifically directed to do so by the New Jersey Department of Health, based upon the incidence of tuberculosis or reactor rates in specific communities or population groups pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-16.
4. The school district shall immediately report by telephone to the health officer of the jurisdiction in which the school is located any communicable diseases that are identified as reportable pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-1, whether confirmed or presumed.
5. Each school in the district shall have and maintain for the care of students at least one nebulizer in the office of the school nurse or a similar accessible location pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.7.
6. Each student medical examination shall be conducted at the medical home of the student. If a student does not have a medical home, the school district shall provide the this examination at the school physician's office or other comparably equipped facility.
7. The findings of required examinations under 8.b, c., and d. below shall include the following components:
 - a. Immunizations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 through 4.24;
 - b. Medical history including allergies, past serious illnesses, injuries, ~~and~~ operations, medications, and current health problems;
 - c. Health screenings including height, weight, hearing, blood pressure, and vision; and
 - d. Physical examinations.
8. The school district shall ensure that students receive medical examinations in accordance with N.J.S.C. 6A:16-2.2(f) and 6. above and:



- a. Prior to participation on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural team or squad for students enrolled in any grades six to twelve in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)1;
 - b. Upon enrollment in school in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)2;
 - c. For the purposes of the comprehensive Child Study Team evaluation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)4; and
 - d. When a student is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)5.
9. Each school shall have available and maintain an AED, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41a.a(1) and (3), and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(i).
 10. The Board of Education shall make accessible information regarding the New Jersey FamilyCare Program to students who are knowingly without medical coverage pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-34.
 11. Information concerning a student's HIV/AIDS status shall not be required as part of the medical examination or health history pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:5C-1 et seq.
 12. The Board of Education shall ensure that students receive health screenings as outlined N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(l).
 13. The school nurse or designee shall screen to ensure hearing aids worn by students who are deaf and/or hard of hearing are functioning properly. The school nurse or designee will ensure any FM hearing aid systems in classrooms or any school equipment in the school building used to assist students hear are functioning properly.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-4 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3; 6A:16-2.1; 6A:16-2.2

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 5 May 2015
Revised: 18 October 2016



5320 IMMUNIZATION

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases and in recognition that prevention is a means of combating the spread of disease, the Board of Education requires the immunization of students against certain diseases in accordance with State statute and rules of the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services.

A student shall not knowingly be admitted or retained in school if the parent has not submitted acceptable evidence of the child's immunization, according to schedules specified in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 – Immunization of Pupils in School. However, a child may be admitted to school on a provisional basis in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5 and Regulation 5320.

Medical or religious exemptions to immunizations shall be in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3 and 4.4. For students with a medical exemption pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3, the school nurse shall annually review student immunization records to confirm the medical condition for the exemption from immunization continues to be applicable in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(b)3.v.

No immunization program, other than that expressly required by the rules of the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services or by order of the New Jersey State Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, may be conducted in district schools without the express approval of the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-20

N.J.S.A. 26:4-6

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3

N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 24 November 2020



5330 ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

The Board of Education disclaims any and all responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of an illness of any student. However, in order for many students with chronic health conditions and disabilities to remain in school, medication may have to be administered during school hours. Parents are encouraged to administer medications to children at home whenever possible as medication should be administered in school only when necessary for the health and safety of students. The Board will permit the administration of medication in school in accordance with applicable law.

Medication will only be administered to students in school by the school physician, a certified or noncertified school nurse, a substitute school nurse employed by the district, the student's parent, a student who is approved to self-administer in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 and 12.4, and school employees who have been trained and designated by the certified school nurse to administer epinephrine and hydrocortisone sodium succinate in an emergency pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.5, ~~and~~ 12.6, 12.29, and 12.30.

Self-administration of medication by a student for asthma or other potentially life-threatening illnesses, ~~or~~ a life threatening allergic reaction, or adrenal insufficiency is permitted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3.

The school nurse shall have the primary responsibility for the administration of epinephrine and hydrocortisone sodium succinate to the student. However, the ~~certified~~ school nurse may designate, in consultation with the Board or the Superintendent, additional employees of the district who volunteer to be trained in the administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism and the administration of hydrocortisone sodium succinate using standardized training protocols established by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) in consultation with the Department of Health when the school nurse is not physically present at the scene.



In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.6.d, no school employee, including a school nurse or any other officer or agent of a Board of Education or a physician or an advanced practice nurse providing a prescription under a standing protocol for school epinephrine pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.5 and/or hydrocortisone sodium succinate pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.29, shall be held liable for any good faith act or omission consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.5 and N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.29, nor shall any action before the New Jersey State Board of Nursing lie against a school nurse for any such action taken by a person designated in good faith by the school nurse pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.6.d and N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.33. Good faith shall not include willful misconduct, gross negligence, or recklessness.

The school nurse or designee shall be promptly available on site at the school and at school-sponsored functions in the event of an allergic reaction or an emergency requiring the administration of hydrocortisone sodium succinate. In addition, the parent must be informed that the school district, its employees and agents shall have no liability as a result of any injury arising from the administration of epinephrine or hydrocortisone sodium succinate to the student.

The parent of the student must sign a statement acknowledging their understanding the district shall have no liability as a result of any injury arising from the administration of the epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism or the administration of hydrocortisone sodium succinate to the student. ~~and~~ In addition, the parent shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees or agents against any claims arising out of the administration of the epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism or the administration of hydrocortisone sodium succinate to the student.

The permission for the emergency administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism containing epinephrine to students for anaphylaxis and/or the emergency administration of hydrocortisone sodium succinate for adrenal insufficiency is effective for the school year it is granted and must be renewed for each subsequent school year.

Each school in the district shall have and maintain for the use of students at least one nebulizer in the office of the school nurse or a similar accessible location. Each certified school nurse or other persons authorized to administer asthma medication will receive training in airway management and in the use of nebulizers and inhalers consistent with NJDOE regulations. Every student that is authorized to use self-administered asthma medication pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 or a nebulizer must have an asthma treatment plan prepared by the student's physician which shall identify, at a minimum, asthma triggers, the treatment plan, and other such elements as required by the State Board of Education.



All student medications shall be appropriately maintained and secured by the school nurse, except those medications to be self-administered by students. In those instances the medication may be retained by the student with the prior knowledge of the school nurse. The school nurse may provide the Principal and other teaching staff members concerned with the student's educational progress with such information about the medication and its administration as may be in the student's best educational interests. The school nurse may report to the school physician any student who appears to be affected adversely by the administration of medication and may recommend to the Principal the student's exclusion pursuant to law.

The school nurse shall document each instance of the administration of medication to a student. Students self-administering medication shall report each incident to a teacher, coach, or other individual designated by the school nurse who is supervising the student during the school activity when the student self-administers. These designated individuals shall report such incidents to the school nurse within twenty-four hours of the self-administration of medication. The school nurse shall preserve records and documentation regarding the self-administration of medication in the student's health file.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1.1; 18A:40-3.1; 18A:40-6; 18A:40-7; 18A:40-12.3;
18A:40-12.4; 18A:40-12.5; 18A:40-12.6; 18A:40-12.7;
18A:40-12.8; 18A:40-12.29 through 12.33

N.J.S.A. 45:11-23

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(b)

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 20 October 2015

Revised: 24 November 2020



5330.01 ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICAL CANNABIS

The Board of Education, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.22, must adopt a Policy authorizing parents, and designated caregiver(s) to administer medical cannabis to a qualifying student patient while on school grounds, aboard a school bus, or attending a school-sponsored event. The parent of a qualifying student patient requesting the administration of medical cannabis to the student while on school grounds, aboard a school bus, or attending a school-sponsored event must comply with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.22 and N.J.S.A. 24:6I-1 et seq. and Policy and Regulation 5330.01.

A student enrolled in the school district must be authorized to engage in the medical use of cannabis pursuant to N.J.S.A. 24:6I-1 et seq. and that the parent or designated caregiver be authorized to assist the student with the medical use of cannabis pursuant to N.J.S.A. 24:6I-1 et seq. The student and the designated primary caregiver(s) must complete registration with the Cannabis Regulatory Commission in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 24:6I-4.

The parent of the student authorized to engage in the medical use of cannabis must submit a written request with supporting documentation to the Principal requesting approval to have a designated caregiver(s) assist in the administration of medical cannabis to the qualifying student patient while on school grounds, aboard a school bus, or attending a school-sponsored event. The Principal, in consultation with the school nurse, the school physician, and the Superintendent of Schools, will review each request and upon approval will inform the parent in writing of the approval with details for the administration of medical cannabis to the qualifying student patient. The medical use of cannabis by a qualifying student patient while on school grounds, aboard a school bus, or attending a school-sponsored event will only be authorized after the written approval from the Principal is provided to the parent.

Medical cannabis may only be administered to the qualifying student patient while the student is on school grounds, aboard a school bus, or attending a school-sponsored event by the designated caregiver(s) in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.22 and N.J.S.A. 24:6I-1 et seq. The prescribed medical cannabis must be in the possession of the designated caregiver(s) at all times, except during the administration process. The primary caregiver shall comply with the requirements of the Principal's written



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS
5330.01/page 2 of 2
Administration of Medical Cannabis
M

approval for the administration of medical cannabis to the qualifying student patient while on school grounds, aboard a school bus, or attending a school-sponsored event.

All health records related to the administration of medical cannabis to a qualifying student patient while on school grounds, aboard a school bus, or attending a school-sponsored event shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.4.

No person shall be subject to arrest or prosecution for constructive possession, conspiracy, or any other offense for simply being in the presence or vicinity of the medical use of cannabis as authorized under N.J.S.A. 24:6I-1 et seq. or N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.22. No custodial parent, , or person who has legal custody of a qualifying student patient who is a minor shall be subject to arrest or prosecution for constructive possession, conspiracy, or any other offense for assisting the minor in the medical use of cannabis as authorized under N.J.S.A. 24:6I-1 et seq. or N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.22.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.22;
N.J.S.A. 24:6I-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4; 6A:32-7.4

Adopted: 18 October 2016
Revised: 21 July 2021



5330.05 SEIZURE ACTION PLAN

The Board of Education requires the development of a seizure action plan, an individualized health care plan, and an individualized emergency health care plan for students with epilepsy or a seizure disorder to care for and treat these students while at school pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.34 et seq.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.35, the parent of the student with epilepsy or a seizure disorder seeking epilepsy or seizure disorder care while at school shall submit the student's seizure action plan annually to the school nurse.

The school nurse shall develop an individualized health care plan and an individualized emergency health care plan for the student, provided the parents annually provide to the Board written authorization for the provision of epilepsy or seizure disorder care. The school nurse shall update these plans on an annual basis and as necessary in the event there is a change in the health status of the student. These plans shall include the information outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.35.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.35, all staff members including staff working with school-sponsored programs outside the regular school day shall be trained in the care of students with epilepsy and seizure disorders. All school bus drivers, contracted and district-employed, shall be provided notice and information if they are transporting a student with epilepsy or a seizure disorder pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.36. The school nurse shall obtain a release from the parent of the student to authorize the sharing of medical information in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.37.

No school employee, including a school nurse, school bus driver, school bus aid, or any other officer or agent of the Board, shall be held liable for any good faith act or omission consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.34 through N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.38, nor shall an action before the New Jersey State Board of Nursing lie against a school nurse for any such action taken by a person trained in good faith by the school nurse pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.34 through N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.38. Good faith shall not include willful misconduct, gross negligence, or recklessness.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.34 et seq.

Adopted: 28 April 2021



5331 MANAGEMENT OF LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS

The Board of Education recognizes students may have allergies to certain foods and other substances and may be at risk for anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe, serious, systemic allergic reaction that can involve various areas of the body (such as the skin, respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, and cardiovascular system). Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that may be rapid in onset and may cause death. Policy 5331 has been developed in accordance with the Guidelines for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools developed by the New Jersey Department of Education.

An Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP) and an Individualized Emergency Healthcare Plan (IEHP) will be developed for each student at risk for a life-threatening allergic reaction. Self-administration of medication, the placement and the accessibility of epinephrine, and the recruitment and training of designees who volunteer to administer epinephrine during school and at school-sponsored functions when the school nurse or designee is not available shall be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12 and Board Policy and Regulation 5330. School staff will be appropriately trained by the school nurse or designee to understand the school's general emergency procedures and steps to take should a life-threatening allergic reaction occur.

The school district will develop and implement appropriate strategies and prevention measures for the reduction of risk of exposure to food allergens throughout the school day, during before- and after-school programs, at all school-sponsored activities, in the cafeteria, or wherever food is present.

A description of the roles and responsibilities of parent(s) or legal guardian(s), staff, and students to prevent allergic reactions and during allergic reactions are outlined in Regulation 5331.

Every incident involving a life-threatening allergic reaction and/or whenever epinephrine is administered throughout the school day, during before- and after-school programs, and/or at all school-sponsored activities shall be reported to the school nurse or designee. The school nurse or designee shall be responsible to notify emergency responders, the Principal or designee, the school physician, and the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent shall inform the Board of Education after every incident including a life-threatening allergic reaction or whenever epinephrine is administered by the school nurse or designee. In addition, in



Management of Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools

accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.5.e.(3), the school nurse or designee shall arrange for the transportation of a student to the hospital emergency room by emergency services personnel after the administration of epinephrine, even if the student's symptoms appear to have resolved.

There will be occasions where food and/or beverages will be served as part of a classroom experience, field trip, and/or celebration. Because the ingredients of these food and beverage products may be unknown to the food preparation person and/or server, a student with anaphylaxis to food should not consume any food products that he/she is unsure of the ingredients. The teacher will provide, whenever possible, advance notice of the classroom experience, field trip, or celebration in order for the student to bring a food or beverage product from their home so they may participate in the activity.

When a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) informs the Building Principal and the school nurse the student may have an anaphylactic reaction to a substance other than food, the Building Principal will work with school staff to determine if these substances are on school grounds. The Building Principal will inform and work with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the student to avoid the student's exposure to these substances if present on school grounds.

School staff will be appropriately trained by the school nurse or designee to understand the school's general emergency procedures and steps to take should a life-threatening allergic reaction occur. The school nurse or designee will provide appropriate training to school staff to understand allergies to food and other substances, to recognize symptoms of an allergic reaction, and to know the school's general emergency procedures and steps to take should a life-threatening allergic reaction occur. The school nurse will work with appropriate school staff to eliminate or substitute the use of allergens in the allergic student's meals, educational/instructional tools and materials, arts and crafts projects, or incentives.

Policy and Regulation 5331 should be annually reviewed, evaluated, and updated where needed. Policy and Regulation 5331 will be disseminated and communicated to all parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of students in the school in the beginning of each school year and when a student enters the school after the beginning of the school year.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 through 18A:40-12.6
New Jersey Department of Education - Guidelines for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools – September 2008

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5332 DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS

Federal and State legislation entitles every student to a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. Due to the high risk of medically fragile students and students with chronic illnesses, who in the past would not have survived to be able to attend school, families, professionals, and school personnel are challenged with new issues in caring for these students in the school setting. Some families may wish not to pursue life-saving medical protocols for their child due to the lack of benefit to the student's condition or quality of life that is likely to result from following these protocols. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1(a)3, all Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders received for a student will be thoroughly and carefully reviewed.

"Do Not Resuscitate order" or "DNR order" means a written directive signed by the parent or legal guardian of a student who, after consultation with the student's pediatrician and other advisors, declines emergency administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED) to the student. "Written order" means a directive and protocol written by the student's medical home to address a healthcare need or provide a medical service for a specific student. "Medical home" means a health care provider and that provider's practice site chosen by the student's parent or legal guardian for the provision of health care.

A family desiring to pursue a DNR order must submit a written order, which should be developed after a meeting with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), the student, if appropriate, the school physician, the school nurse, the student's family healthcare provider, and the local emergency medical services provider. The written order shall include specific written emergency orders and shall specifically meet the goals for the student. Community emergency medical services protocols must be clearly defined in the written order.

The school nurse is responsible for providing an appropriate response to DNR orders. The school nurse will coordinate the school district's review of the written order with the Building Principal or designee, the school physician, and the Superintendent of Schools or designee. The Superintendent of Schools or designee will review the written order with the Board of Education and the school Board Attorney. The school physician shall be responsible for instructing school staff in DNR orders.

The existence of a DNR written order and plan shall be referenced on the student's health form that is approved for use by the Commissioner of Education. A copy of the DNR written order shall be placed with the student's individualized health record and a copy should be kept with the local emergency medical services provider. The DNR written order shall be reviewed whenever a change occurs in the student's condition and at least once every six months.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3; 6A:16-2.1(a)3



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

New Jersey Department of Education – School Health Services Guidelines, July 2001

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5335 TREATMENT OF ASTHMA

The Board of Education recognizes the primary goal for children with asthma is to allow the child to live as normal a life as possible. The child should be able to participate in normal childhood activities, experience exercise tolerance similar to peers, and attend school to grow intellectually and develop socially. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1(a)5, the Board adopts this Policy that includes procedures for the treatment of asthma in the school setting.

Every school in the district shall have and maintain for the use of students at least one nebulizer in the office of the school nurse or a similar location. Each school nurse in the district shall receive 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 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.8(a). The school nurse, upon receiving this training, is authorized to administer asthma medication through the use of a nebulizer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.8(a).

Each student authorized to use self-administered asthma medication pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 and Policy 5330 or a nebulizer shall have an Asthma Action Plan (AAP) prepared by the student's medical home and submitted to the certified school nurse. The AAP shall identify, at a minimum, asthma triggers and information to be included in the individualized healthcare plan and individualized emergency healthcare plan, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(b) for meeting the medical needs of the student while attending school or a school-sponsored function.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3; 18A:40-12.7
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1(a)5

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5337 SERVICE ANIMALS

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, it is the Policy of the Board to permit use of a service animal by an individual with a disability in all areas of the district where the public is normally permitted: in district buildings; on district property; and on vehicles owned, leased, or controlled by the district. (28 CFR §35.136)

A. Definitions

1. “Act” means the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008.
2. “Designated administrator” means Principal or person designated by the Principal to coordinate these activities.
3. “District” means this school district.
4. “Handler” means the animal’s owner who is an individual with a disability or a person such as a trainer, assisting the owner with control of the service animal.
5. “Service animal” means a dog individually trained to do work or perform a specific job or task for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability (28 CFR §36.104)
 - a. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition.
 - b. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability (e.g. navigation, alerting physical support and assistance, preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors).
 - c. Work or tasks for the purposes of this definition do not include the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, therapy, companionship or crime deterrence.



STUDENTS
5337/page 2 of 5
Service Animals
Jan 19

B. Generally

1. The district shall permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability unless:
 - a. The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
 - b. The animal is not housebroken.
2. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g. voice control, signals or other effective means). (28 CFR §35.136(d))
3. If an animal is properly excluded, the district shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program or activity without having the service animal on the premises. (28 CFR §35.136(b))
4. If there are places in the district where it is determined to be unsafe for a handler and service animal, reasonable accommodations will be provided to assure the individual with a disability has equal access to the activity.
5. Unless the need for a service animal is readily apparent, the individual with a disability or his/her parent will be required to provide the district with information that:
 - a. The service animal is required because of a disability; and
 - b. What work or task the animal has been trained to perform.
6. The district may not require documentation, including proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal; nor that the dog demonstrates its ability to perform the work or task. (28 CFR §35.136(f))
7. Individuals with a disability who have service animals are not exempt from local animal control or public health requirements.



STUDENTS
5337/page 3 of 5
Service Animals
Jan 19

8. Service animals must be licensed and registered in accordance with State and local laws.

C. Delegation of Responsibility

1. The district is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal in accordance with 28 CFR §35.136(e).
 - a. The district is not responsible to pay for or provide a handler to aid the individual with a disability in the control of the service animal.
 - b. The district is responsible to provide assistance to an individual with a disability in performing the tasks required of the individual for the care and maintenance of the service animal.
2. If the district normally charges individuals for damage they cause, an individual with a disability may be charged for damage caused by his or her service animal. (28 CFR §35.136(h))
3. The district will designate relief areas for the service animal which will be included in mobility training and orientation of student and animals new to the school.

D. Notification and Responsibilities

1. In the event a service animal will be introduced as part of the school community, the designated administrator will develop a comprehensive implementation plan prior to introduction of the service animal into the school to include:
 - a. Notification to parents of students who may be in contact with the service animal;
 - b. Appropriate accommodations:
 - (1) For students who are allergic to the service animal; and/or
 - (2) For students who have fears regarding the service animal.
 - c. Appropriate etiquette regarding service animals to include:



STUDENTS
5337/page 4 of 5
Service Animals
Jan 19

- (1) Never pet a service animal while it is working;
 - (2) Never feed a working service animal'
 - (3) Do not deliberately startle, tease, or taunt a service animal;
 - (4) Do not hesitate to ask the handler if her or she would like assistance regarding directions for navigating the facility.
 2. The use of a service animal introduced as part of the school community will require inclusion into the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or the student's Section 504 Accommodation Plan.
 3. The district may request, but cannot require, the owner of a service animal introduced as part of the school community and, as included in the student's IEP or Section 504 Accommodation Plan, maintain liability insurance for the service animal. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will ensure the school district has appropriate insurance in the event a service animal is introduced as part of the school community.
- E. Miniature Horses
1. Miniature horses, although not included in the Act under the definition of "service animal," may only be permitted if individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability and if they meet the assessment factors outlined in 3. below. (28 CFR §35.136(i))
 2. Ponies and full size horses are not considered miniature horses.
 3. Assessment factors to determine whether the district can reasonably modify its policies, practices and procedures to allow for the use of miniature horses on its property, facilities or vehicles include:
 - a. Type, size and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate those features;
 - b. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;



STUDENTS
5337/page 5 of 5
Service Animals
Jan 19

- c. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
 - d. Whether the miniature horse's presence compromises legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operation.
4. All requirements for the use of service animals also apply to the use of miniature horses.

28CFR §35.136
28CFR §36.104

Adopted: 15 March 2016
Revised: 30 April 2019



STUDENTS
5338/page 1 of 2
Diabetes Management
Jan 10
M

5338 DIABETES MANAGEMENT

Diabetes is a serious chronic disease and must be managed twenty-four hours a day in order to avoid the potentially life-threatening short-term consequences of blood sugar levels that are either too high or too low and the serious long-term complications of high blood sugar levels. In order to manage their diabetes, students must have access to the means to balance food, medications and physical activity level while at school and at school-related activities.

The parent of a student with diabetes who seeks diabetes care for the student while at school shall inform the school nurse who shall develop an individualized health care plan and an individualized emergency health care plan for the student. The individualized health care plan and individualized emergency health care plan shall be updated by the school nurse prior to the beginning of each school year and as necessary in the event there is a change in the health status of the student.

The school nurse assigned to a particular school shall coordinate the provision of diabetes care at that school and ensure that appropriate staff members are trained in the care of students with diabetes, including staff members working with school-sponsored programs outside of the regular school day, as provided in the individualized health care plan and the individualized emergency health care plan. The school nurse shall have the primary responsibility for the emergency administration of glucagon to a student with diabetes who is experiencing severe hypoglycemia.

The school nurse shall designate, in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools or designee, additional employees of the school district who volunteer to administer glucagon to a student with diabetes who is experiencing severe hypoglycemia. The designated employees shall only be authorized to administer glucagon, following training by the school nurse or other qualified health care professional, when a school nurse is not physically present at the scene.

Upon the written request of the parent, and as provided in the student's individualized health care plan, the student will be permitted to manage and care for his/her diabetes as needed in the classroom, in any area of the school or school grounds, or at any school-related activity provided the student has been evaluated and determined to be capable of doing so as reflecting the student's individualized health care plan.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS
5338/page 1 of 2
Diabetes Management
Sep 14
M

The Principal or school nurse shall, for each student with diabetes whom a school bus driver transports, provide the driver with a notice of the student's condition, how to treat hypoglycemia, who to contact in an emergency and parent contact information. Designated areas of the school building shall have posted, in plain view, a reference sheet identifying signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia in student's with diabetes.

A student's school choice, if there is a choice option, shall not be restricted due to the fact the student has diabetes.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.11 through 18A:40-12.21

Adopted: 5 May 2015



STUDENTS
5339/page 1 of 2
Screening for Dyslexia
Sep 14
M

5339 SCREENING FOR DYSLEXIA

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.1 et seq., the Board of Education shall ensure each student enrolled in the school district who has exhibited one or more potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities is screened for dyslexia and other reading disabilities using a screening instrument selected pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.2. This screening shall be administered no later than the student's completion of the first semester of the second grade.

In the event a student enrolls in the district in Kindergarten through grade six and has no record of being previously screened for dyslexia and other reading disabilities pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.2. the Board shall ensure the newly-enrolled student is screened for dyslexia and other reading disabilities using a screening instrument selected pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.2. This screening shall be administered at the same time other students enrolled in the student's grade are screened for dyslexia and other reading disabilities, or if other students enrolled in the student's grade have previously been screened, within ninety calendar days of the date the student is enrolled in the district. The screenings shall be administered by a teacher or other teaching staff member properly trained in the screening process for dyslexia and other reading disabilities.

For the purposes of this Policy, "dyslexia" is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

For the purposes of this Policy, "potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities" means indicators that include, but shall not be limited to, difficulty in acquiring language skills; inability to comprehend oral or written language; difficulty in rhyming words; difficulty in naming letters, recognizing letters, matching letters to sounds and blending sounds when speaking and reading words; difficulty recognizing and remembering sight words; consistent transposition of number sequences, letter reversals, inversions and substitutions; and trouble in replication of content.



STUDENTS
5339/page 2 of 2
Screening for Dyslexia
Sep 14
M

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18:40-5.2(a), the Commissioner of Education shall distribute to each Board of Education information on screening instruments available to identify students who possess one or more potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities. The Commissioner shall provide information on the screening instruments appropriate for Kindergarten through grade two students and on screening instruments that may be suitably used for older students. The Board shall select and implement age-appropriate screening instruments for the early diagnosis of dyslexia and other reading disabilities.

In accordance with provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.2(b), the Commissioner shall also develop and distribute to each Board of Education guidance on appropriate intervention strategies for students diagnosed with dyslexia and other reading disabilities.

In the event a student is determined, through the screening conducted in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.3, to possess one or more potential indicators of dyslexia or other reading disabilities pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.1 et seq., the Board shall ensure the student receives a comprehensive assessment for the learning disorder. In the event a diagnosis of dyslexia or other reading disability is confirmed by the comprehensive assessment, the Board shall provide appropriate evidence-based intervention strategies to the student, including intense instruction on phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-131, general education teachers in grades Kindergarten through three, special education teachers, basic skills teachers, English as a second language teachers, reading specialists, learning disabilities teacher consultants, and speech-language specialists are required to complete at least two hours of professional development each year on the screening, intervention, accommodations and use of technology for students with reading disabilities, including dyslexia. The Board may make these professional development opportunities available to other instructional or support staff members as the Board deems appropriate. This requirement for professional development in reading disabilities may be part of the twenty (20) hours of annual professional development required by N.J.A.C. 6A:9 et seq. documentation of teachers' fulfillment of this professional development requirement shall be maintained in the district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-5.1; 18A:40-5.2; 18A:40-5.3; 18A:40-5.4

Adopted: 5 May 2015
Revised: 20 October 2015



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 contact the parent(s) of the student exhibiting warning signs of suicide to inform the parent(s) the student will be referred to the Child Study Team or a Suicide Intervention Team, appointed by the Superintendent or designee, for a preliminary assessment. Upon completion of the preliminary assessment, the Principal or designee shall meet with the parent(s) to review the assessment. Based on the preliminary assessment, the parent(s) may be required to obtain medical or psychiatric services for the student. 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.

In the event the student is required to obtain medical or psychiatric services, the parent(s) will be required to submit to the Superintendent a written medical clearance from a licensed medical professional, selected by the parent(s) and approved by the Superintendent, indicating the student has received medical services, does not present a risk to themselves or others, and is cleared to return to school. 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.

Any school district staff member, volunteer, or intern with reasonable cause to suspect to 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 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



STUDENTS
5350/page 2 of 2
Student Suicide Prevention
Apr 18

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:9-15.1 et seq., every teaching staff member must complete at least two (2) 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:9-15.1 et seq

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 16 August 2011
Revised: 25 September 2018



5410 PROMOTION AND RETENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that each child develops and grows in a unique pattern and that students should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their social, physical, and educational needs. Each student enrolled in this district shall be moved forward in a continuous program of learning in harmony with his/her own development.

Standards for student promotion shall be related to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and district goals and objectives and to the accomplishments of students. A student in the elementary grades will be promoted to the next succeeding grade level when he/she has completed the course requirements at the presently assigned grade; has achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade; has demonstrated the proficiencies required for movement into the educational program of the next grade; and has demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade.

Promotion policies and procedures will be provided to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) as appropriate. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and students shall be regularly informed during the school year of the student's progress toward meeting promotion standards. A teacher who determines that a student's progress may not be sufficient to meet promotion standards shall notify the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the student and offer immediate consultation to the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Every effort shall be made to remediate a student's deficiencies before retention is recommended. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and, where appropriate, the student shall be notified of the possibility of the student's retention at grade level in advance and, whenever feasible, no later than eight weeks prior to the end of the school year.

Classroom teachers shall recommend to the Building Principal the promotion or retention of each student. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and adult students may appeal a promotion or retention decision to the Superintendent whose decision shall be final.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.9

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5411 PROMOTION FROM SIXTH GRADE

The Board of Education will recognize with fitting ceremonies a student's completion of the program of studies offered by this district in elementary school and the student's entrance to middle school.

Successful completion of the program of studies in elementary school requires achievement of the instructional objectives set for each course of study, demonstration of mastery of the proficiencies established for each course, and a satisfactory attendance record. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student who may be prevented from graduating shall be so notified in advance and no later than six weeks prior to the close of the school year. Every effort shall be made to remediate a student's deficiencies before graduation is denied.

The requirements for promotion from elementary school of a disabled student shall be set forth in the student's individualized education program. Completion of those specialized requirements shall qualify the student for graduation and entry to secondary school.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.9; 18A:36-14; 18A:36-15;
18A:36-18; 18A:38-25 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6:3-4A.1; 6A:8-4.4 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5420 REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

The Board of Education believes that the cooperation between school and home in the interests of children is fostered by the systematic communication of students' educational welfare to parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The Board directs the establishment of a program of reporting student progress to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) by both written reports and by parent-teacher conferences and requires the cooperation of all appropriate teaching staff members in that program as part of their professional responsibilities.

The Superintendent shall develop, in consultation with appropriate teaching staff members, procedures for reporting student progress to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that utilize various methods of reporting appropriate to grade level and curriculum content; ensure that the student and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) receive ample warning of a possible failing grade or any grade that would adversely affect the student's educational status; enable the scheduling of parent-teacher conferences at such times as will ensure the greatest degree of participation by parent(s) or legal guardian(s); and require the issuance of report cards at intervals of not less than three times per year.

Reports of individual achievement on state assessment tests shall be promptly made available to the student or the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

N.J.A.C. 6:3-4A.1

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5500 EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

The Board of Education believes that students should commit themselves to learning and to the development of their unique potential. Students should know that their attitudes and acts affect both their own and their classmates' learning and should accept responsibility for helping to create a positive school environment. With the support and assistance of school staff members and parent(s) or legal guardian(s), all students can contribute to the effectiveness of the schools and the value of their education.

The Board expects all students in this school district, commensurate with their age and ability, to:

1. Prepare themselves mentally and physically for the process of learning;
2. Respect the person, property, and intellectual and creative products of others;
3. Take responsibility for their own behavior;
4. Use time and other resources responsibly;
5. Share responsibilities when working with others;
6. Meet the requirements of each course of study;
7. Monitor their own progress toward school objectives; and
8. Communicate with parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and appropriate school staff members.

The Superintendent shall, in consultation with staff members, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and, where appropriate, students, develop a statement of specific student behaviors that exemplify these expectations and shall publish both this policy and the statement of behaviors to all students, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and professional staff members.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5511 DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board of Education recognizes each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of the student's personal style and individual preferences. The Board will impose its judgment on students and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) only when a student's dress and grooming affect the educational program of the schools.

Students may not wear clothing or engage in grooming practices that present a health or safety hazard to the individual student or to others; materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program; cause excessive wear or damage to school property; or prevent the student from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

The Board of Education prohibits students from wearing, while on school property, any type of clothing, apparel or accessory which indicates that the student has membership in, or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities. The local law enforcement agency will advise the Board, upon request, of gangs which are associated with criminal activities.

The Building Principal shall determine whether the dress or grooming of students comes within these prohibitions.

Staff members shall demonstrate by example and precept wholesome attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance.

The Superintendent shall, on consultation with staff members, students, and parent(s) or legal guardian(s), prepare a dress code that imposes only minimum and necessary limitations on a student's taste and individuality.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1; 18A:11-7; 18A:11-8; 18A:11-9

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5512 HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, OR BULLYING

Table of Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Section Title</u>
A.	Prohibiting Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
B.	Definition of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying
C.	Student Behavior
D.	Consequences and Remedial Actions
E.	Reporting Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying
F.	Anti-Bullying Coordinator, Anti-Bullying Specialist and School Safety Team(s)
G.	Investigating Allegations of Harassment, Intimidation or and Bullying
H.	Responding to Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying
I.	Reprisal or Retaliation Prohibited
J.	False Accusations of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying
K.	Additional Policy Requirements
L.	Harassment, Intimidation, or-Bullying Training and Prevention Programs
M.	Reports to Board of Education and New Jersey Department of Education



- N. School and District Grading Requirements
- O. Reports to Law Enforcement
- P. Collective Bargaining Agreements and Individual Contracts
- Q. Students with Disabilities
- 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) or 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 such 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, that



STUDENTS

5512/ page 3 of 24

Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying

3. Substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students; and that
 - 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.

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 ~~that~~ 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.



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, 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, the 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 or guardians 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 ~~other~~ 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 and bullying; and
4. Report acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying to the designated school staff member.

D. Consequences and Appropriate Remedial Actions

The Board of Education requires its school administrators to implement procedures that ensure both the appropriate consequences and remedial responses for students and staff members 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 school Principal, 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 offense(s); consider the developmental ages of the students' 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 incidences occurred.

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.

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:

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;
- 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;
- 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.

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 acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying to the Principal or the Principal's 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 (2) 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.

The Principal or designee is required to ~~will~~ 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 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).

F. Anti-Bullying Coordinator, Anti-Bullying Specialist and School Safety 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 and bullying in the district.
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 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 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 Team shall meet, at a minimum, two (2) times per school year. The School Safety 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 Team.

The School Safety 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;
- 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 student, teachers, administrative staff and parents to prevent and address harassment, intimidation and 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 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 of students; and

Notwithstanding any provision of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-21 to the contrary, a parent who is a member of the School Safety 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

Principal's Preliminary Determination

Prior to initiating an investigation regarding a reported incident or complaint, the Principal or designee, in consultation with the anti-bullying specialist, shall make a preliminary determination as to whether a reported incident or complaint, assuming all facts are presented as true, is a report within the scope of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14.

Should the Principal or designee, in consultation with the anti-bullying specialist, determine that a reported incident or complaint, assuming all facts presented are true, is not a report within the scope of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, the incident will be addressed through the Board's Code of Student Conduct policy. The HIB 338 Form shall be completed, even if a preliminary determination is made not to conduct an investigation of harassment, intimidation, or bullying because the reported incident or complaint is a report outside the scope of the definition of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and must be submitted to the Superintendent. The Principal will provide the parents of the alleged offender(s) and victim(s) with formal notice of the decision not to initiate a harassment, intimidation, or bullying investigation.

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 Superintendent may require the Principal to conduct a harassment, intimidation, or bullying investigation of the incident if the Superintendent determines that the incident is within the scope of harassment, intimidation, or bullying and shall notify the Principal of this determination in writing. Should the Superintendent require the Principal to conduct a harassment, intimidation, or bullying investigation, the Principal will immediately initiate an investigation of harassment, intimidation, or bullying by referring the matter to the school anti-bullying specialist.

Additionally, any preliminary determination that finds the incident or complaint is a report outside the scope of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14 may be appealed to the Board, pursuant to the Board policies and procedures governing student grievances, and thereafter to the



Commissioner (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7(a)ix(1) and (a)ix(1)(A)). Should the preliminary determination not to conduct an investigation of harassment, intimidation, or bullying be overturned, the Principal will immediately initiate an investigation of harassment, intimidation, or bullying by referring the matter to the school anti-bullying specialist.

The Board requires a thorough and complete investigation to be conducted for each reported incident or complaint, assuming all facts presented are true, that is determined to be a report within the scope of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14. 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 ten school days 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 the 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.

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:37-15(b)(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.

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 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 Board also requires the thorough investigation of complaints or reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, occurring on district school buses, at 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.]

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 ~~and~~ 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 level 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.

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, “acts of kindness” programs or awards, use of student survey data to plan prevention and intervention programs and activities, social norms campaigns, posters, public service announcements, “natural helper” or peer leadership programs, “upstander” 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

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.

J. Reprisal or Retaliation Prohibited

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:37-1 et seq., 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, Long-term
3. Visitors and 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 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 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.



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 (2) hours of instruction in harassment, intimidation, or bullying prevention within each five (5) year professional development period as part of the professional development requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18:37-22.d. The required two (2) hours of suicide prevention instruction shall include information on the risk of suicide and incidents of harassment, intimidation or 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.

Each newly elected or appointed Board members must complete, during the first year of the member's first term, a training program on harassment, intimidation, or ~~and~~ 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 by 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 accordance with the New Jersey Student Learning ~~Core Curriculum content~~ Standards, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-29.

The school 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 or guardians, 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 ~~and~~ bullying in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-17 et seq.



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

The Superintendent shall report two (2) 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 (10) days of receipt of the grade for each school and the district.

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 appropriate Executive County Superintendent of Schools within thirty (30) 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: 15 December 2009

Revised: 16 August 2011

Revised: 18 October 2011

Revised: 17 December 2013

Revised: 14 August 2018

Revised: 15 August 2022

Revised: 15 November 2022



5513 CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Board of Education believes the schools district should help students learn to respect property and instill feelings of pride in their school. The Board requires each student in the district to responsibly care for school property and the school supplies and equipment entrusted to the student by the school district.

Students who cause damage to or lose school property may ~~will~~ be subject to disciplinary measures. The Board authorizes the imposition of a fine for the loss, damage, or destruction of a textbook and reserves the right to withhold a report card or diploma from any student whose payment of a fine is in arrears.

A student who demonstrates chronic and/or serious disregard for property may be referred to the Child Study Team.

The Superintendent shall develop rules for the safekeeping and accounting of textbooks and prepare a schedule of fines for lost damaged, and destroyed textbooks.

N.J.S.A. 18A:34-2; 18A:37-3
N.J.A.C. 6A

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 18 October 2022



5514 STUDENT USE OF VEHICLES

The Board of Education regards the operation by students of any vehicle for transportation to and from school as a matter subject to Board authority because student safety is of paramount concern to the Board.

Bicycles

Only those students in grades four through six, who have passed the borough's bicycle safety test, will be permitted to ride their bicycles to school. Bicycle safety helmets are to be worn at all times. This is in compliance with New Jersey State law. Cyclists are required to park their bicycles in the school bicycle racks. There are bicycle parking areas outside the Mountain auditorium. Bicycles must be locked or chained whenever they are parked in the school bicycle racks. Students must dismount their bikes and walk them to the bicycle rack as soon as they arrive on school grounds.

Razor Scooters/Skateboards and Roller Blades

Due to the lack of safety equipment built in to the razor scooters combined with the anticipated difficulty balancing while carrying a full backpack, these scooters will not be permitted to be used as transport to or from school. A safe arrival to school is critical to a successful start of the school day. Cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

For safety reasons, skateboards and roller blades are not permitted as transportation to and from school, and during school hours.

Wheelies are not permitted in school.

The Superintendent shall develop and disseminate regulations for the operation and parking of vehicles on school grounds. Permission to operate a vehicle on school grounds may be revoked for a student's failure to observe rules.

The Board will not be responsible for any vehicle that is lost, stolen, or damaged.

N.J.S.A. 39:4-10 et seq.; 39:4-10.5

Adopted: 15 December 2009



STUDENTS

5516/page 1 of 2

Use of electronic Communication and Recording

Devices (ECRD)

Nov 01

Aug 10

M

5516 USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND RECORDING DEVICES (ECRD)

The Board of Education believes students and/or school staff members should not be subject to having a video or audio recording taken of any student(s) or school staff member(s) for any purpose without the consent of the student, the student's parent, and/or the school staff member. In addition to protecting the privacy rights of students and school staff members, the Board recognizes such recordings can be disruptive to the educational program. In addition, inappropriate recordings of educational material, student assessment instruments, and/or student assessment reviews can be used to compromise the integrity of the district's educational program or lead to academic dishonesty in the event such recordings are stored and/or transmitted to other students. Therefore, the Board of Education adopts this Policy regarding student use of electronic communication and recording devices.

"Electronic communication and recording device (ECRD)" includes any device with the capability to audio or video record or is capable of receiving or transmitting any type of communication between persons. An ECRD includes, but is not limited to, cameras, cellular and wireless telephones, pagers/beepers, laptop computers, electronic readers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), two-way radios, portable fax machines, video broadcasting devices, and any other device that allows a person to record and/or transmit, on either a real time or delayed basis, sound, video or still images, text, or other information.

A student is not permitted to have turned on or use an ECRD on school grounds during the school day or when the student is participating in a curricular or school-sponsored co-curricular activity. A student's personal ECRD may only be used on school grounds in an emergency situation or before and after the school day or with the permission of a school staff member supervising the student in a curricular or school-sponsored co-curricular activity. ECRD with permission of a school staff member while participating in a curricular or school-sponsored activity where other students or staff members are present shall require the permission for such recording from any other student and their parents and/or staff members whose voice or image is to be recorded. This Policy is not intended to prohibit appropriate use of electronic devices for authorized or approved official curricular or school-sponsored co-curricular activities such as yearbook photographs, staff member/teacher-directed and approved activities, classroom presentations, athletic events, and drama production filming. A student authorized or approved to use an ECRD may not use an ECRD to access internet sites or view information or internet-based material that is inappropriate or would be blocked from student access by the school



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS

5516/page 2 of 2

Use of electronic Communication and Recording
Devices (ECRD)

Nov 01

Aug 10

district's acceptable use of computers and networks policy. Nothing in this Policy is intended to prevent a student from using their personal ECRD and recording school-sponsored co-curricular activities as a non-participant when the activity is open to the general public.

For the purposes of this policy, "school grounds" means and includes land, portions of land, structures, buildings and structures that support these buildings, including, but not limited to, administrative buildings, kitchens, maintenance shops and garages. "School grounds" also includes other facilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1.2, playgrounds, and other recreational places owned by the local municipalities, private entities, or other individuals during those times when the school district has exclusive use of a portion of such land.

An ECRD used in violation of this Policy will be confiscated by a school staff member or Principal or designee and the student will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-19

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 19 October 2010

Revised: 15 March 2016



5519 DATING VIOLENCE AT SCHOOL

The Board of Education believes a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for children to learn. A student who is a victim of dating violence suffers academically and the student's safety at school is jeopardized. Acts or incidents of dating violence at school whether they are verbal, sexual, physical or emotional will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with the school's student code of conduct.

All school staff members (administrative staff, instructional staff, support staff, and volunteers) shall take all reasonable measures to prevent acts or incidents of dating violence at school involving a student. All acts or incidents of dating violence at school shall be reported to the Principal or designee in accordance with the provisions outlined in Regulation 5519. A verbal report shall be made to the Principal or designee as soon as possible, but not later than the end of the student's school day when the staff member witnesses or learns of an act or incident of dating violence at school. A written report regarding the act or incident shall be submitted to the Principal or designee by the reporting staff member no later than one day after the act or incident occurred.

School staff members are required to report all acts or incidents of dating violence at school they witness or upon receiving reliable information concerning acts or incidents of dating violence at school. Acts or incidents may include, but are not limited to: those characterized by physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual abuse; digital or electronic acts or incidents of dating violence; and/or patterns of behavior which are threatening or controlling.

The Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, shall adopt the guidelines and procedures outlined in Regulation 5519 for responding to acts or incidents of dating violence at school. The protocols outlined in Regulation 5519 have been established for any school staff member who witnesses or learns of an act or incident of dating violence at school and for school administrators to work with the victim and the aggressor of an act or incident of dating violence.

Dating violence statements and investigations shall be kept in files separate from student academic and discipline records to prevent the inadvertent disclosure of confidential information. Every act or incident of dating violence at school that is reported shall be documented in an appropriate manner. This should include statements, planning actions and disciplinary measures as well as counseling and other support resources that are offered and prescribed to the victim or aggressor.



School administrators shall implement discipline and remedial procedures to address acts or incidents of dating violence at school consistent with the school's student code of conduct. The policies and procedures specific to acts or incidents of dating violence at school 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 alleged aggressor have been involved.

Consequences may include, but are not limited to: admonishment, temporary removal from the classroom, classroom or administrative detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, reports to law enforcement, and/or expulsion. Retaliation towards the victim of any act or incident of dating violence shall be considered when administering consequences to the alleged aggressor based on the severity of the act or incident.

Remediation/intervention may include, but is not limited to: parent conferences, student counseling (all students involved in the act or incident), corrective instruction or other relevant learning or service experiences, supporting student interventions (Intervention and Referral Services – I&RS), behavioral management plans and/or alternative placements.

A pattern of behaviors may be an important sign a student is involved in an unhealthy or abusive dating relationship. The warning signs listed in Regulation 5519 shall educate the school community on the characteristics that a student in an unhealthy or abusive relationship may exhibit. Many of these warning signs make a connection to one student in the relationship asserting control and power over the other. Recognizing one or more signs of teen dating violence plays an important role in preventing, educating and intervening in acts or incidents of dating violence.

The Board of Education shall make available to students and their families information on safe, appropriate school, family, peer and community resources available to address dating violence.

Upon written request to the school principal, a parent/legal guardian of a student less than eighteen years of age shall be permitted, within a reasonable period of time after the request is made, to examine the dating violence education instruction materials developed by the school district.

Notice of Policy and Regulation 5519 shall appear in all district publications that set forth the comprehensive rules, procedures and standards of conduct for students within the district and in any handbook.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS
5519/page 3 of 3
Dating Violence at School
Oct. 11

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.23a; 18A:37-33; 18A:37-34; 18A:37-35; 18A:37-37
New Jersey Department of Education Model Policy and guidance for Incidents Involving
Dating Violence – September 2011

Adopted: 31 January 2012



5520 DISORDER AND DEMONSTRATION

The Board of Education is responsible for providing a thorough and efficient system of education for students in this district and is authorized to preserve order so that the system may function properly. Students will not be disturbed in the exercise of their constitutionally guaranteed rights to assemble peaceably and to express ideas and opinions, privately or publicly, provided that their activities do not infringe on the rights of others and do not interfere with the operation of the educational program.

The Board will not permit the conduct on school premises of any willful activity engaged in by an individual acting alone or by a group of individuals that interferes with the orderly operation of the educational program or offends the rights of others. The Board specifically prohibits any assembly or expression that materially disrupts instruction; is obscene, slanderous, or grossly prejudicial; advocates the use of dangerous or harmful materials; advocates the use of force or the violation of law or school rules; or advertises goods or services for unauthorized commercial gain.

Disorderly students will be disciplined in accordance with law and Board Policy No. 5600; staff members who assist students in disorderly conduct may be subject to disciplinary measures.

The Board directs all staff members to attempt to resolve student conflict and dissent by reason and arbitration. Students who express dissent should be made aware of the lawful procedures available to them for the resolution of their grievances.

The Superintendent shall establish procedures for the prompt resolution of any disorder that occurs on school premises. The Building Principal shall be responsible for the identification and resolution of disorders in any school building and may summon law enforcement officers as necessary.

N.J.S.A. 2C:12-3; 2C:33-1; 2C:33-2; 2C:33-8
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1; 18A:37-1; 18A:37-2

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5530 SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Board of Education recognizes that a student's abuse of harmful substances seriously impedes that student's education and threatens the welfare of the entire school community. The Board is committed to the prevention of substance abuse and the rehabilitation of substance abusers by educational means, but will take the necessary and appropriate steps to protect the school community from harm and from exposure to harmful substances. Accordingly, the Board will establish policies and procedures in operating programs to support the social, emotional, and physical development of students in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1 et seq. The Board of Education will maintain a comprehensive substance abuse intervention, prevention, and treatment referral program in the schools of this district.

A. Definitions

N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3; 6A:16-4.1 et seq.

The definitions as outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:40A et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:16 et seq., and those terms defined in Regulation 5530 shall be used for the purposes of this Policy and Regulation.

B. Discipline N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-10; 18A:40A-11 N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(c)2.; 6A:16-6.3(a)

The Board prohibits the use, possession, and/or distribution of alcohol or other drugs on school ground- according to N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9, 10, and 11.

A student who uses, possesses, or distributes a alcohol or other drugs will be subject to discipline in accordance with the district's Code of Student Conduct. School authorities also have the authority to impose a consequence on a student for conduct away from school grounds in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.5. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion. The Board will establish consequences for a student not following through on the recommendations of an evaluation for alcohol or other drug abuse and related behaviors.

C. Instruction N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq. N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.1



The Board shall provide an instructional program on the nature of drugs, alcohol, anabolic steroids, tobacco, and controlled dangerous substances in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.1

D. Reporting, Notification and Examination

N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-11 through 18A:40A-17
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.1; 6A:16-4.1; 6A:16-4.2; 6A:16-4.3

1. Alcohol or Other Drugs

- a. Any educational staff member or other professional to whom it appears that a student may be currently under the influence of alcohol or other drugs as identified in N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(a), on school grounds shall report the matter in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(a)1.
- b. An immediate medical examination shall be conducted and a written report of the medical evaluation shall be furnished to the parent of the student, the Principal, and the Superintendent in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(a)2 through 4.3(a)8.
- c. If the written report of the medical examination is not provided within twenty-four hours of the referral of the student's, the student shall be allowed to return to school until such time as a positive determination of alcohol or other drug use is received from the examining physician, unless the student was also removed for violating the Code of Student Conduct.
- d. If the written report of the medical evaluation verifies that alcohol or other drugs do not interfere with the student's physical or mental ability to perform in school, the student shall be immediately returned to school. If there is a positive determination from the medical examination indicating the student's alcohol or other drug use interferes with his or her physical or mental ability to perform in school, the student shall be returned to the care of the parent as soon as possible. Attendance at school shall not resume until a written report has been submitted to the parent, Principal, and Superintendent from a physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy who has examined the student that



verifies the student's alcohol or other drug use no longer interferes with his or her physical and mental ability to perform in school.

- e. Removal of a student with a disability shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14.
- f. While a student is at home because of the medical evaluation or after the student returns to school, an appropriately certified school staff member(s) will conduct an alcohol and other drug assessment of the student and a reasonable investigation of the situation and may initiate referral alcohol or other drug abuse treatment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(a)12, 4.3(a)13, and 4.3(a)14.
- g. Disclosure to law enforcement authorities of the identity of a student in instances of alcohol and other drugs shall be in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(a)3.
- h. The Board may provide additional intervention and referral services for a student according to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-10 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.

2. Anabolic Steroids

- a. Whenever any teaching staff member, certified or non-certified school nurse, or other educational personnel has reason to believe a student has used or may be using anabolic steroids, the person shall report the matter in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(b)1.
- b. The Principal or designee upon receiving such report shall immediately notify the parent and Superintendent and shall arrange for an examination of the student as soon as possible to determine whether the student has been using anabolic steroids in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(b)2.
- c. Disclosure to law enforcement authorities of the identity of students in instances of anabolic steroids shall be in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(b)3.
- d. A written report of the examination shall be provided by the examining physician to the parent, Principal, and Superintendent.



- e. If it is determined the student has used anabolic steroids, an appropriately certified school staff member(s) shall interview the student and others to determine the extent of the student's involvement with and use of anabolic steroids and the possible need for referral for treatment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(b)5.
 - f. If the results of a referral for evaluation have positively determined the student's involvement with and use of anabolic steroids represents a danger to the student's health and well-being, an appropriately certified school staff member(s) shall initiate a referral for treatment to agencies and/or private practitioners as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(b)6.
3. A school employee who seizes or discovers alcohol or other drugs, or an item believed to be a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, or drug paraphernalia, shall comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.4.
 4. The Board will provide intervention, referral for evaluation, and referral for treatment services to those students that are affected by alcohol or other drug use in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(c)7.
 5. Refusal or failure by a parent to comply with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3 shall be treated as a policy violation of the Compulsory Education Act, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25 and 31, and child neglect laws, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 9:6-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.
 6. Refusal or failure of a student to comply with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3 shall be treated by the school district as a policy violation and handled in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(c)2.
- E. In-Service Training

N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-15(b)

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop a program of in-service training for all teaching staff members involved in the instruction of students in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-15. The Board will provide time for the conduct of the program during the usual school schedule. The in-service training program required in N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-15 shall be updated at regular intervals in order to ensure teaching staff members have the most current information available on this subject.



F. Parent Training Program/Outreach Program

N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-16; 18A:40A-17
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(c)8.

The Board will provide a parent training program/outreach program in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-16 and 17.

G. Records and Confidentiality of Records

42 CFR Part 2
N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-7.1; 18A:40A-7.2
N.J.A.C. 6A:3.2; 6A:32-7.1 et seq.

Notations concerning a student's involvement with substances may be entered on his/her records, subject to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.1 et seq. and Policy 8330 regarding confidentiality. Information concerning a student's involvement in a school intervention or treatment program for alcohol or other drug abuse shall be kept strictly confidential according to 42CFR part 2, N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-7.1 and 7.21 N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.2, and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.5.

If an elementary or secondary student who is participating in a school-based drug or alcohol abuse counseling program provides information during the course of a counseling session in that program which indicates that the student's parent or other person residing in the student's household is dependent upon or illegally using a substance as that term is defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9, that information shall be kept confidential and may be disclosed only in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-7.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.2.

H. Nonpublic School Students

N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-5; 18A:40A-17c

The Board has the power and duty to loan to students attending nonpublic schools located in this district and to the parent of such students all educational materials on the nature and effects of drugs, alcohol, anabolic steroids, tobacco and controlled dangerous substances developed and made available by the Commissioner of Education. The loan of such materials shall be at no cost to the district.



I. Civil Immunity

N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-13, 18A:40A-14;
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(c)

No ~~civil~~ action of any kind in any court of competent jurisdiction shall lie against any employee, officer or agent of the Board because of actions taken under the education statutes on substance abuse, N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq., provided the skill and care given is that ordinarily required and exercised by other such employees, officers and agents of the Board in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-13.

Any educational or non-educational Board employee who in good faith reports a student to the Principal or designee in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3 shall not be liable in civil damages as a result of making such a report, as specified in N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-13 and 14.

J. Reporting Students to Law Enforcement Authorities

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-41; 6A:16-6.3

The Superintendent, or designee, shall disclose to law enforcement authorities the identify of a student reasonably believed to be in possession of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, or related paraphernalia involved or implicated in distribution activities regarding controlled dangerous substances, including anabolic steroids pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(c)9. The Superintendent or designee shall not disclose the identity of the student who has voluntarily sought and participated in an appropriate treatment or counseling program for an alcohol or other drug abuse problem provided the student is not reasonably believed to be involved or implicated in a current drug distribution activities.

The Superintendent or designee may disclose to law enforcement authorities the identity of a student suspected to be under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(c)9.i. Law enforcement authorities shall not be notified of the findings if a student's alcohol or other drug test was obtained as a result of a district's voluntary random drug testing program pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-22 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.4.

K. Policy Review and Accessibility

N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-10; 18A:40A-11
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.2(a) and (b)



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS
5530/page 7 of 7
Substance Abuse

The Board will annually review the effectiveness of Policy and Regulation 5530 on student alcohol and drug abuse. The Board may solicit parent, student, and community input, as well as consult in the review process with local alcohol or other drug abuse prevention, intervention and treatment agencies licensed by the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

This Policy and Regulation shall be annually, disseminated to all school staff, students, and parents through the district website or other means.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq.; 18A:40A-7.1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1 et seq; 6A:16-4.1 et seq.; 6A:16-6.1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 5 May 2015



5533 STUDENT SMOKING

The Board of Education recognizes the use of tobacco presents a health hazard that can have serious implications both for the smoker and the nonsmoker and that smoking habits developed by the young may have lifelong harmful consequences.

For the purpose of this Policy, "smoking" means the burning of, inhaling from, exhaling the smoke from, or the possession of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco or any other matter that can be smoked, including the use of smokeless tobacco and snuff, or the inhaling or exhaling of smoke or vapor from an electronic smoking device.

For the purpose of this Policy, "electronic smoking device" means an electronic device that can be used to deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, cigar, cigarillo or pipe.

For the purposes of this Policy, "school buildings" and "school grounds" means and includes land, portions of land, structures, buildings, and vehicles owned, operated or used for the provision of academic or extracurricular programs sponsored by the district or community provider and structures that support these buildings, such as school wastewater treatment facilities, generating facilities, and any other central facilities including, but not limited to kitchens and maintenance shop. "School buildings" and "school grounds" also include athletic stadiums; swimming pools; any associated structures or related equipment tied to such facilities including, but not limited to, grandstands; greenhouses; garages; facilities used for non-instructional or non-educational purposes; and any structure, building or facility used solely for school administration. "School buildings" and "school grounds" also includes other facilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1.2, playgrounds, and other recreational places owned by the local municipalities, private entities, or other individuals during those times when the school district has exclusive use of a portion of such land.

The Board prohibits smoking by students at any time in school buildings and on any school grounds at events sponsored by the Board away from school, and on any transportation vehicle supplied by the Board.

Notice that smoking is prohibited in school buildings and on school grounds will be posted at each public entrance of a school building in accordance with law. The sign shall also indicate violators are subject to a fine. Students who violate the provisions of this Policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with the district's Student Discipline/Code of Conduct and may be subject to fines in accordance with law.



In the event a student is found to have violated this Policy and the law, the Principal or designee may file a complaint with the appropriate Municipal Court or other agency with jurisdiction as defined in N.J.A.C. 8:6-9.1(c).

The Board directs that the health curriculum include instruction in the potential hazards of the use of tobacco. Staff members shall, make every reasonable effort to discourage students from developing the habit of smoking.

The Board of Education will comply with any provisions of a municipal ordinance which provides restrictions on or prohibitions against smoking equivalent to, or greater than, those provided in N.J.S.A. 26:3D-55 through N.J.S.A. 26:3D-63.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40A -1
N.J.S.A. 26:3D-55 through 26:3D-63
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3
N.J.A.C. 8:6-72; 8:6-9.1 through 8:6-9.5

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 16 September 2014



5535 PASSIVE BREATH ALCOHOL SENSOR DEVICE

The Board of Education recognizes that a student's abuse of harmful substances seriously impedes that student's education and threatens the welfare of the entire school community. The Board is committed to the prevention of substance abuse and the rehabilitation of substance abusers by educational means, but will take additional necessary and appropriate steps to protect the school community from harm and from exposure to harmful substances.

In keeping with its commitment to protect all students and the school community from the harm of alcohol use, the Board of Education authorizes the use of a passive breath alcohol sensor device (PBASD) in certain circumstances. A PBASD enables school district staff to check an approximate alcohol level quickly and efficiently without requiring the student's active participation. A PBASD may be used in certain circumstances as defined in this Policy and as determined by the Building Principal or designee or the staff member(s) in charge of a school related or school sponsored event or activity. The purpose for using a PBASD is to protect students who may be under the influence of alcohol, other students, staff, and community members attending such events and to deter the use of alcohol by students.

The Board authorizes PBASD screening before, during, and after school activities/events including, but not limited to: dances, athletic events, proms, class trips, drama productions, graduation ceremonies, or school assemblies when the Building Principal or designee has reason to believe the use of alcohol by students may be present. When it is determined a PBASD will be used, every student or student participating in such event will be screened or the Building Principal or designee may determine to have students screened on a random basis (i.e. every fourth student entering an event).

If the PBASD screening indicates the presence of alcohol on a student, a second screening will be conducted. If the second screening indicates the presence of alcohol on a student, the matter shall be reported to the Building Principal or designee and the certified or noncertified school nurse, or the school physician according to the reporting, notification, and examination requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3, and Policy and Regulation 5530 – Substance Abuse.

In addition, a PBASD may be used to screen a student upon a report to the Building Principal or designee certified or noncertified school nurse, or the school physician if an educational staff member or other professional believes a student may be currently under the influence of alcohol on school property or at a school function provided an adult student and/or the student's parent/legal guardian consents to such screening. Notwithstanding the results of the PBASD screening under these circumstances, the Building Principal or designee must comply with the



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS

5535/page 2 of 2

Passive Breath Alcohol Sensor Device

reporting, notification, and examination procedures of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3 and Policy and Regulation 5530 – Substance Abuse.

A PBASD will only be used in accordance with the guidelines of this Policy. The Building Principal or designee shall be responsible for the proper training of school staff members in the use of the PBASD in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

N.J.S.A. 40A-12

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5550 DISAFFECTED STUDENTS

The Board of Education believes that the educational needs of all students should be served. The Board will make every reasonable effort to identify and serve disaffected students whose learning is impeded by environmental circumstances, the student's attitude, or an inappropriate instructional program.

For the purposes of this policy, "disaffected student" means the student who has instructional needs that are not being met by the regular instructional program and who is performing well below his/her social or academic capacity.

Disaffected students may include students unable to function properly within a traditional school program; students of average or above average intelligence and ability who achieve below their potential; students unable to establish occupational or future goals; students with a pattern of behavior problems, including problems with attendance and tardiness; students who lack motivation, direction, and decision making ability; students who possess a poor self-image; students suffering stressful family settings; students hostile toward adults and authority figures; students in difficulty with community and law enforcement agencies; and students lacking interest in school and avoiding involvement in school activities.

Teaching staff members shall be alert to students experiencing difficulty in their classes. Any such student who does not appear to be disabled may be referred to the Intervention Referral Team (IRT).

A disaffected student who may have disabilities shall be referred to the Child Study Team for evaluation in accordance with Policy No. 2460 and Regulations No. 2460.3 and 2460.7.

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

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5560 DISRUPTIVE STUDENTS

The Board of Education believes that the students of this district are entitled to an education free from undue disruption. Students who willfully disrupt the educational program shall be subject to the discipline procedures of this district. Every reasonable effort shall be made to determine and remediate the cause or causes of a chronically disruptive student's unacceptable conduct.

For the purposes of this policy, "disruptive student" means the student who has difficulty establishing good relationships with peers and adult authority figures and who exhibits a pattern of conduct which is in defiance of school rules or regulations and which hinders academic success for other students as well as for himself or herself.

Disruptive students may be disciplined in accordance with Policy No. 5600.

A disruptive student who does not appear to be disabled may be referred to the Intervention Referral Team (IRT) in accordance with Policy No. 2417.

A disruptive student who may have disabilities shall be referred to the Child Study Team for evaluation in accordance with Policy and Regulation Nos. 2460 et seq.

The Superintendent shall report regularly to the Board the incidence of acts of violence and vandalism in the school district and shall prepare a remedial plan whenever the report shows a significant increase in the number of such acts.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46 et seq.; 18A:37-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



STUDENTS

5561/page 1 of 3

Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion
Techniques for Students with Disabilities

Apr 18

M

Feb 11

5561 USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION TECHNIQUES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board of Education strives to provide a safe, caring atmosphere that supports all students in the least restrictive environment. On occasion, during an emergency, a situation may arise making it necessary to temporarily restrain or seclude a student with a disability in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:46-13.4 through 13.7.

A school district, an educational services commission, or an approved private school for students with disabilities (APSSD) that utilizes physical restraint on students with disabilities shall ensure that:

1. Physical restraint is used only in an emergency in which the student is exhibiting behavior that places the student or others in immediate physical danger;
2. A student is not restrained in the prone position, unless the student's primary care physician authorizes, in writing, the use of this restraint technique;
3. Staff members who are involved in the restraint of a student receive training in safe techniques for physical restraint from an entity determined by the Board of Education to be qualified to provide such training, and that the training is updated at least annually;
4. The parent of a student is immediately notified when physical restraint is used on the student. This notification may be by telephone or electronic communication. A full written report of the incident of physical restraint shall be provided to the parent with forty-eight (48) hours of the occurrence of the incident.
5. Each incident in which physical restraint is used is carefully and continuously visually monitored to ensure it was used in accordance with established procedures set forth in Policy and Regulation 5561 – Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities, developed in conjunction with the entity that trains staff in safe techniques for physical restraint, in order to protect the safety of the child and others; and



6. Each incident in which physical restraint is used is documented in writing in sufficient detail to enable staff to use this information to develop or improve the behavior intervention plan at the next IEP meeting.

A school district, an educational services commission, and an APSSD shall attempt to minimize the use of physical restraints through inclusion of positive behavior supports in the student's behavior intervention plans developed by the individualized education plan team.

A school district, an educational services commission, or an APSSD that utilizes seclusion techniques on students with disabilities shall ensure that:

1. A seclusion technique is used on a student with disabilities only in an emergency in which the student is exhibiting behavior that places the student or others in immediate physical danger;
2. Each incident in which a seclusion technique is used is carefully and continuously visually monitored to ensure it was used in accordance with established procedures set forth in Policy and Regulation 5561 – Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with disabilities, developed in conjunction with the entity that trains staff in safe techniques for physical restraint, in order to protect the safety of the child and others; and
3. Each incident in which a seclusion technique is used is documented in writing in sufficient detail to enable the staff to use this information to develop or improve the behavior intervention plan at the next IEP plan meeting.

A school district, an educational services commission, and an APSSD shall attempt to minimize the use of seclusion techniques through inclusion of positive behavior supports in the student's behavior intervention plans developed by the IEP team.

The New Jersey Department of Education shall establish guidelines for school districts, educational services commissions and APSSDs to ensure a review process is in place to examine the use of physical restraints or seclusion techniques in emergency situations, and for the repeated use of these methods for an individual child, within the same classroom, or by a single individual. The review process shall include educational, clinical, and administrative personnel. Pursuant to the review process the student's IEP team may, as deemed appropriate, determine to revise the behavior intervention plan or classroom supports, and a school district, educational services commission, or APSSD may determine to revise a staff member's professional development plan pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-13.7.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS

5561/page 3 of 3

Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion
Techniques for Students with Disabilities

Apr 18

The Superintendent or designee may gather input from school staff members and parents of students with disabilities on this Policy and Regulation. All students with disabilities and their parents shall be afforded the procedural safeguards provided by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The Superintendent or designee shall annually inform parents of students with disabilities about the Board's Policy regarding restraint and seclusion.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually inform parents of students

N.J.S.A. 18A:46-13.4; 18A:46-13.5; 18A:46-13.6; 18A:46-13-7

New Jersey Department of Education Restraint and Seclusion Guidance for Students with Disabilities – July 10, 2018

Adopted: June 28, 2011
Revised: September 25, 2018



5570 SPORTSMANSHIP

The Board of Education requires that all individuals involved in or attending the athletic and intramural programs sponsored by the Board exhibit sportsmanship when representing the school at any athletic event. Sportsmanship is defined as abiding by the rules of the contest as defined or accepted by the participating teams and the gracious acceptance of victory or defeat. In exhibiting sportsmanship all participants shall:

1. Understand and follow the rules of the contest;
2. Recognize skilled performance of others regardless of affiliation;
3. Display respect for all individuals participating in the athletic event;
4. Treat opponents in an empathetic manner; and
5. Congratulate opponents in victory or defeat.

Failure to exhibit good sportsmanship shall include, but not be limited to the following conduct:

1. Any person who strikes or physically abuses an official, coach, player or spectator;
2. Any person who intentionally incites participants or spectators to abusive action;
3. Any person who uses obscene gestures or unduly provocative language or action towards officials, coaches, opponents or spectators;
4. Any school or athletic staff member who is publicly critical of a game official or opposing coaches and/or players;
5. Any person who engages in conduct which exhibits bias based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation or sex, social or economic status, or disability; and
6. Schools or school organizations engaging in pre-event activities of an intimidating nature, e.g. use of fog machines, blaring sirens, unusual sound effects or lighting, or similar activities.
7. Other conduct judged by the Principal to be unsportsmanlike in character.

Failure to exhibit good sportsmanship may result in the Board denying the opportunity for any individual to participate in the athletic program or attend athletic events.

NJSIAA Guidelines

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5600 STUDENT DISCIPLINE/CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Education adopts this Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy to establish standards and procedures for positive student development and behavioral expectations on school grounds, including on a school bus or at school-sponsored functions, and as appropriate, for conduct away from school grounds. Every student enrolled in this district shall observe promulgated rules and regulations and submit to 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 in violation of the district's Policy and Regulation. Information on the Student Discipline/Code of conduct Policy and Regulation shall be incorporated into the orientation program 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), student discipline and the code of 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 123.1; 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 student's 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, considering 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 which 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 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 extra-curricular 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).



In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.8, 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 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: 15 December 2009
Revised: 16 August 2011
Revised: 29 March 2012
Revised: 5 May 2015
Revised: 30 April 2019



5610 SUSPENSION

The Board of Education recognizes that even the temporary exclusion of a student from the educational program of this district is a severe sanction and one that cannot be imposed without due process.

Any student who is guilty of continued and willful disobedience, or of open defiance of the authority of any teacher or person having authority over him, or of the habitual use of profanity or of obscene language, or who shall cut, deface or otherwise injure any school property, shall be liable to punishment and to suspension or expulsion from school. Conduct which shall constitute good cause for suspension or expulsion of a student guilty of such conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the conduct as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2 and the school district's Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation in accordance with the N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1 et seq.

For the purposes of this Policy, "suspension" means the temporary removal of a student from the regular instructional program.

For the purposes of this Policy, "short term suspension" means a suspension for one, but not more than ten consecutive school days and "long term suspension" means a suspension for more than ten consecutive school days.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-4, a student may be suspended only by the Principal, who shall report any suspension to the Superintendent as soon as possible. The Superintendent shall report the suspension to the Board at its next regular meeting. The suspended student may be reinstated by the Principal or by the Superintendent prior to the second regular meeting of the Board following the suspension, unless the Board reinstates the student at the first regular meeting. No student suspended for reasons of assault upon a person in authority may be reinstated before the Board has held a hearing, within thirty calendar days of the suspension, to consider that student's expulsion from school. At its second regular meeting after the suspension and thereafter, the Board alone may reinstate the student or continue the suspension.



In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2a, a student in Kindergarten through grade two shall not receive an out-of-school suspension, except when the suspension is based on conduct that is of a violent or sexual nature that endangers others. Students in preschool shall not receive an out-of-school suspension except as provided pursuant to the “Zero Tolerance for Guns Act,” N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.

The district shall implement an early detection and prevention program to identify students in preschool through grade two who are experiencing behavioral or disciplinary problems and provide behavioral supports for these students which may include, but not be limited to, remediation of problem behaviors, positive reinforcements, supportive interventions, and referral services. An early detection program may be incorporated into the intervention and referral services required to be established in each school pursuant to State Board of Education regulations.

The Board’s failure to take any such action at its second regular meeting after the suspension or at any regular meeting thereafter will terminate the suspension, and the student shall be readmitted to school.

In each instance of a short-term suspension, the student will be provided oral or written notice of the charges and an informal hearing conducted by the Principal or designee in accordance with the procedures outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2. To the extent the student’s presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the educational process, the student may be immediately removed from the student’s educational program and the informal hearing shall be held as soon as practical after the suspension.

In each instance of a long-term suspension, the district shall assure the rights of the student pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3.

The district will comply with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2 and 7.3, in addition to all the procedural protections set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:14, for each student with a disability who is subject to a short-term or long-term suspension.

In each instance of a short- or long-term suspension, the district shall provide academic instruction, either in school or out of school, that addresses the New Jersey Student Learning Standards pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1 et seq., which



may include a public education program provided in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9 or 10. These services shall be provided within five school days of the suspension. Educational services provided to a student with a disability shall be provided consistent with the student's Individualized Education Program, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

In the event a student has experienced multiple suspensions or may be subject to a proposed expulsion from school, the Principal shall convene a meeting, as soon as practicable, between the student and a school psychologist, a school counselor, a school social worker, a student assistance coordinator, or a member of the school's intervention and referral services team in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c.

Student records are subject to challenge by parents and adult students in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.7 and Policy and Regulation 8330. The name of a disciplined student will not appear in the agenda or minutes of a public meeting or in any public record of this district; any such student will be designated by code.

N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1; 18A:37-2 et seq.; 18A:37-4; 18A:37-5
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20g [vocational districts]
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2; 6A:16-7.3; 6A:32-7.7; 6A:14-2.8

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 24 February 2015
Revised: 12 January 2018
Revised: 24 November 2020



5611 REMOVAL OF STUDENTS FOR FIREARMS OFFENSES

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and secure school environment to all students attending the public schools. To provide this environment, the Board of Education will implement policies and procedures regarding student offenses involving firearms, as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1(f) and 18 U.S.C. §921, pursuant to The Zero Tolerance For Guns Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 through N.J.S.A. 37-12.

Policy and Regulation 5611 shall apply to a student who is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for possession of a firearm or committing a crime while in possession of a firearm on school grounds, convicted or adjudicated delinquent for committing a crime while in possession of a firearm on school ground, or found knowingly in possession of a firearm on school grounds. A student, other than a student with a disability, convicted or adjudicated delinquent for these firearm offenses shall be immediately removed from the school's general educational program for a period of not less than one calendar year and placed in an alternative education program according to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9 et seq. The Superintendent may modify on a case-by-case basis the removal of a general education student in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.5(b)1. A student with a disability convicted or adjudicated delinquent for these firearm offenses shall be immediately removed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and applicable Federal regulations and shall receive a placement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

The Principal or designee shall remove the student in accordance with the requirements outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.5(d), which includes notifying the appropriate law enforcement agency of a possible violation of the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice.

If it is found that the removed student did not commit these firearm offenses, the student shall be immediately returned to the program from which he or she was removed.

The Superintendent shall make the final determination on whether the general education student removed in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.5 and this Policy is prepared to return to the general education program or will remain in an alternative education program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.1 et seq., or receive home or other out-of-school instruction, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10 based on the criteria outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.5(i)

If a student, other than a student with a disability, is removed from the general education program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.5 and this Policy, and a placement in an alternative education program is not available, the general education student shall be provided home or other out-of-school instruction according to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.2 until placement is available.



STUDENTS
5611/page 2 of 2
Removal of Students
For Firearms Offenses

The Superintendent of Schools biannually shall submit to the Commissioner of Education a report on each incident under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.5 utilizing the Student Safety Data System (SSDS), pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3(d)1.

This Policy and Regulation 5611, implementing the requirements of N.J.A.C.6A:16-5.5, shall be annually disseminated to all school staff, students and parents.

N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.8 et seq.; 6A:16-5.5; 6A:16-7.1 et seq.;
6A:16-8.1 et seq.; 6A:16-9.1 et seq; 6A:16-10.2

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 24 February 2015

Revised: 30 April 2019



STUDENTS

5612/page 1 of 2

Assault on District Board of Education

Member or Employees

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5612 ASSAULTS ON DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS OR EMPLOYEES

Any student who commits an assault, as defined under N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1(a)1, not involving the use of a weapon or firearm, upon a teacher, administrator, other school district employee, or Board member acting in the performance of his or her duties and in a situation where his or her authority to act is apparent, or as a result of the victim's relationship to the school district, shall be immediately removed from school pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.7.

A student, other than a student with a disability, who commits an assault as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1(a)1, shall be immediately removed from school consistent with due process procedures, pending a hearing pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2 through 7.5. Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.1 or N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.7 shall be construed as prohibiting the expulsion of a general education student. A student with a disability who commits an assault as defined in this Policy, shall be removed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and due process proceedings in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14-2.7 and 2.8.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.1(a), said proceedings shall take place no later than thirty calendar days following the day on which the student is suspended. The decision of the Board shall be made within five days after the close of the hearing. Any appeal of the Board's decision shall be made to the Commissioner of Education within ninety days of the Board's decision. The provisions herein shall be construed in a manner consistent with 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.

The Principal or designee shall remove, isolate and place the student under the supervision of school staff until the student's parent or appropriate agency takes custody of the student. The Principal or designee will immediately report to the Superintendent the removal of the student and notify the student's parent of the removal action and the student's due process rights. The Principal or designee will notify the appropriate law enforcement official of a possible violation of the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.1(b), whenever a teacher, administrator, Board member, other school district employee, or a labor representative on behalf of an employee makes an allegation in writing that the Board member or employee has been assaulted by a student, the Principal shall file a written report of the alleged assault with the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall report the alleged assault to the Board at its next regular meeting; provided that the name of the student who allegedly committed the assault,



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS

5612/page 2 of 2

Assault on District Board of Education
Member or Employees

although it may be disclosed to the Board members shall be kept confidential at the public Board of Education meeting.

Any person who fails to file a report of an alleged assault as required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.7 may be liable to disciplinary action by the Board.

The Superintendent of Schools biannually shall submit to the Commissioner of Education a report on each incident under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.7 utilizing the Student Safety Data System(SSDS), pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3(e)1.

Policy and Regulation 5612, implementing the requirements of N.J.S.C. 6A:16-5.7, shall be annually disseminated to all school staff, students and parents.

N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.1

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.7' 6A:14-2.8; 6A:16-5.7; 6A:16-7.2; 6A:16-7.3; 6A:16-7.4; 6A:16-7.5

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 24 February 2015

Revised: 30 April 2019



5613 REMOVAL OF STUDENTS FOR ASSAULTS WITH WEAPONS OFFENSES

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and secure school environment to all students attending the public schools. To provide this environment, the Board of Education will implement policies and procedures regarding a student who commits an assault, as defined under N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1(a)1, with a weapon, which includes, but is not limited to, items enumerated in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1(r), except a firearm as defined by N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1(f) and 18 U.S.C. § 921, upon a teacher, administrator, other school Board employee, Board of Education member, or another student on school grounds, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.2 through 2.5.

A student, other than a student with a disability, who commits an assault as defined above shall be immediately removed from the school's general education program for a period not exceeding one calendar year and placed in an alternative education program according to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16.91 et seq. The Superintendent may modify on a case-by-case basis the removal of a general education student in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.6(b)1. A student with a disability who commits an assault as defined above shall be immediately removed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and applicable Federal regulations and shall receive a placement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

The Principal or designee shall remove the student in accordance with the requirements outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.6(d), which includes notifying the appropriate law enforcement agency of a possible violation of the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice.

If it is found that the removed student did not commit these offense(s), the student shall be immediately returned to the program for which he or she was removed.

If a student, other than a student with a disability, is removed from the general education program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.6 and this Policy, and a placement in an alternative education program is not available, the general education student shall be provided home or other out-of-school instruction, according to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.2, until placement is available.

The Superintendent shall make the final determination on whether the general education student removed, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.6 and this Policy, is prepared to return to the general education program or will remain in an alternative education program or receive home or other out-of-school instruction based on the criteria outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.6(i).



Removal of Students for Assaults with Weapons Offenses

The Superintendent of Schools biannually shall submit to the Commissioner of Education a report on each incident and the circumstance surrounding the removal of students pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.6 utilizing the Student Safety Data System (SSDS), pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3(e)1.

This Policy and Regulation 5613, implementing the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.6, shall be annually disseminated to all school staff, students and parents.

N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.8 et seq.; 6A:16-5.6; 6A:16-6.1 et seq.; 6A:16-7.1 et seq.;
6A:16-8.1 et seq.; 6A:16-9.1.; 6A:16-10.2

Adopted: 24 February 2015

Revised: 30 April 2019



5615 SUSPECTED GANG ACTIVITY

Students that initiate, advocate, or promote activities, openly or otherwise, and/or threaten the safety or well-being of others disrupt the school environment and are harmful to the educational process in this school district. Any physical or verbal harassing, intimidating, or bullying conduct by a student or group of students directed toward any school staff member or any other student or group of students anywhere on school grounds, at any school related or sponsored activity, on school buses, at school bus stops, and any other place where students are supervised by school district staff will not be tolerated.

In the event the Principal or designee, believe any physical or verbal harassing, intimidating, or bullying conduct was, or is being committed, for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a group of three or more persons, the school staff will investigate further to determine if the conduct was committed by those students representing a criminal street gang (hereinafter referred to as a “gang”) as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:44-3.h. If it is determined unacceptable conduct was committed by students representing a gang, the Principal or designee will assign appropriate disciplinary action and will notify the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the victim and the offender. The Principal or designee will also inform the Superintendent of Schools and local law enforcement.

To further ensure the safety and well-being of all students in the district and to increase awareness within the school community regarding potential gang activity, students are prohibited from wearing on school grounds, at any school related or sponsored activity, on school buses, and any other place where students are supervised by school district staff, any type of clothing or accessory that would indicate a student has membership in, or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-9.

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of any student identified as being potentially involved in gang-related activities shall be notified by the Principal or designee. A student identified as being potentially involved in gang-related activities shall be offered appropriate counseling by school district staff.

School staff members shall be provided in-service training on gangs and gang related conduct and activities including, but not limited to, recruitment procedures; threats/intimidation; clothing; insignia; hand signs; symbols; graffiti; terminology; or other indicia of gang association.

Information regarding gangs shall be shared by school district staff to local law enforcement officials and the school district’s administrative staff members will encourage local law enforcement to share gang related information with school officials.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS
5615/page 2 of 2
Suspected Gang Activity

Nothing in this Policy shall supersede or negate any existing New Jersey law or Board Policy regarding student discipline and/or the school district's student discipline code. This Policy shall be made available to school staff, students, and parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-9

N.J.S.A. 2C:44-3.h.

New Jersey State Police Street Gang Bureau – Know the Signs: A Guide to Gang Identification

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5620 EXPULSION

The Board of Education recognizes that expulsion from this district is the most severe sanction that can be imposed upon a student.

The Board may expel a general education student from school, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, only after the Board has provided the following:

1. The procedural due process rights set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(c) 3 and 7.3, and as outlined in Policy and Regulation 5610, subsequent to a long-term suspension pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3; and
2. An appropriate educational program or services, based on the criteria set forth under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3(f) and as outlined in Regulation 5610.
 - a. The educational program or service shall be consistent with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.2 – Program Criteria N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.2 - Home or Out-of-School Instruction for General Education Students; N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2,1 et seq. - Special Education, Procedural Safeguards and N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.3 et seq., - Special Education, Programs Options, whichever are applicable; or
 - b. The educational services provided, either in school or out of school, shall be comparable to those provided in the public schools for students of similar grades and attainments, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25.

An appeal of the Board’s decision regarding the cessation of the student’s general education program shall be made to the Commissioner of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.3 through 1.17. The Board shall continue to provide an appropriate educational program or services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4(a)2 until a final determination has been made on the appeal of the Board’s action to expel a student.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2a, a student in Kindergarten through grade two shall not be expelled from school, except as provided pursuant to the “Zero Tolerance for Guns At,” N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.

The district shall implement an early detection and prevention program to: identify students in preschool through grade two who are experiencing behavioral or disciplinary problems; and provide behavioral supports for these students which may include, but not be limited to, remediation of problem behaviors, positive reinforcements, supportive interventions, and referral services.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS
5620/page 1 of 2
Expulsion

An early detection program may be incorporated into the intervention and referral services required to be established in each school pursuant to State Board of Education regulations.

A student with a disability shall only be expelled from his or her current program in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14 et seq. An expulsion of a student with a disability from a receiving school shall be handled in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36A-9; 18A:37-2; 18A:37-2a; 18A:37-2b
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4; 6A:14 et seq.

Adopted: 24 February 2015
Revised: 2 January 2018



5700 STUDENT RIGHTS

The Board of Education recognizes that students possess both the right to a free public education and the rights of citizenship. In granting students the educational opportunities to which they are entitled, the Board shall provide them with the nurture, counsel, and custodial care appropriate to students' ages and maturity. At the same time, the Board will respect the right of each student to equal treatment and equal access to the educational program, the due process of law, freedom of expression and association, and the privacy of his/her own thoughts.

Attendant on the rights guaranteed to each student are certain responsibilities, which include respect for the rights of others, obedience to properly constituted school authority, and compliance with the policies and regulations of this district.

As students differ in age and maturity, so they differ in the ability to assume both the rights and the concomitant responsibilities of citizenship. Accordingly, the exercise of each right will be granted with due regard for the degree of responsibility possessed by the student and the student's need for continuing guidance and control.

N.J.S.A. 9:17B-1
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-20

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5701 PLAGIARISM

- A. Students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. This means that they will not engage in any of the following acts:
1. Cheating on examinations, including but not limited to, the non-authorized use of books or notes, the use of crib sheets, copying from other students' papers, exchanging information with other students orally, in writing, or by signals, obtaining copies of the examination illegally and other similar activities.
 2. Plagiarism is not permitted in term papers, themes, essays, reports, images, take-home examinations, and other academic work. Plagiarism is defined as stealing or use without acknowledgment of the ideas, words, formulas, textual materials, on line services, computer programs, etc. of another person, or in any way presenting the work of another person as one's own.
 3. Falsifications, including forging signatures, altering answers after they have been graded, the insertion of answers after the fact, the erasure of grader's markings, and other acts that allow for falsely taking credit.
- B. A student found guilty of academic dishonesty may be subjected to a full range of penalties including, but not limited to, reprimand and loss of credit for all of the work that is plagiarized.
- C. A teacher who believes that a student has been academically dishonest in his/her class should resolve the matter in the following manner:
1. Reprimand the student orally and/or in writing. The teacher is also authorized to withhold credit in the work tainted by the academic dishonesty.
 2. If warranted, the teacher shall file a written complaint against the student with the Principal, requesting a more stringent form of discipline. The complaint must describe in detail the academic dishonesty that is alleged to have taken place, and must request that the matter be reviewed by the Principal.
 3. The Principal will determine if further discipline of the student is appropriate, and will determine the nature of the discipline on a case-by-case basis.
 4. If the student is not in agreement with the disciplinary action of the Principal, he/she may appeal the action to the Superintendent. If the student is dissatisfied with the Superintendent's disposition of the case, he/she may grieve the action in accordance with Policy No. 5710, Student Grievance.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5710 STUDENT GRIEVANCE

The Board of Education believes that students are citizens who possess the right to request redress of grievances and that students should be encouraged to respect lawful procedures for the resolution of disputes. Accordingly, the Board will establish and observe procedures by which the grievances of students will be heard.

For the purposes of this policy, a student grievance means any complaint that arises out of the acts or policies of this Board or the acts of its employees.

A student grievance will be heard in the following manner:

1. A student should first make the grievance known to the staff member most closely involved or with a Principal, both shall attempt to resolve the matter informally and directly;
2. A grievance not resolved at the first step must be reduced to a written statement in which the student sets forth the specific nature of the grievance, the facts that gave rise to it, the relief sought, and the reasons why that relief is appropriate;
3. The written grievance may be submitted to the Building Principal, the Superintendent, and the Board of Education, in that order and within a suitable period of time to be allowed at each level for the hearing of the grievance and the preparation of a response;
4. At each step beyond the first, the school authority hearing the grievance may summon the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a grievant who is not an adult. The grievant may summon the assistance of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) at any step;
5. A student grievance that proceeds to the Board will be determined promptly and the Board will issue a decision in no more than ten calendar days. The student will be informed of the right to appeal a decision of the Board to the Commissioner of Education.

The Superintendent shall direct all staff members to respect the right of students to seek redress of grievances by lawful procedures without fear of reprisal.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5721 INDEPENDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Board of Education respects the right of students to express themselves in written word or picture, or video image or computer generated illustrations, and to distribute printed materials as part of that expression; at the same time, the Board recognizes that the exercise of that right is limited by the rights of other members of the school community.

For the purposes of this policy, “printed materials” include any written or printed cards, letters, circulars, books, pamphlets, notices, newspapers, and similar materials but do not include any publication that is sponsored by this Board.

Certain printed materials are not protected by a student’s right of free expression because they violate the rights of others. The Board may identify and prohibit the distribution on school premises of printed materials that are grossly prejudicial to an ethnic, national, religious, or racial group or to either gender; libel any person or persons; seek to establish the supremacy of a particular religious denomination, sect, or point of view over any other; advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material that constitutes a direct and substantial danger to the health of students; contain obscenity or material otherwise deemed to be harmful to impressionable students; incite violence, advocate the use of force, or urge the violation of law or school regulations; advertise goods or services for the benefit of profit-making organizations; fail to identify the student responsible for distribution and the agent responsible for reproduction; solicit funds for nonschool organizations when such solicitations have not been approved by the Board; or promote, favor, or oppose any candidate for election to the Board or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or questions submitted at any election.

The Board requires that the distribution of printed material take place only at the places and during the times established by rule in order not to disrupt the orderly operation of the educational program.

N.J.S.A. 2C:34-3
N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5750 EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The Board of Education directs that all students enrolled in the schools of this district shall be afforded equal educational opportunities in strict accordance with law. No student shall be denied access to or benefit from any educational program or activity or from a co-curricular or athletic activity on the basis of the student's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, or disability. The Board shall assure that all students are free from harassment, sexual or otherwise.

The Board directs the Superintendent to allocate faculty, administrators, support staff members, curriculum materials, and instructional equipment supplies among and between the schools and classes of this district in a manner that ensures equivalency of educational opportunity throughout this district. The school district's curricula in the following areas will eliminate discrimination, promote mutual acceptance and respect among students, and enable students to interact effectively with others, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, or disability:

1. School climate/learning environment;
2. Courses of study, including Physical Education;
3. Instructional materials and strategies;
4. Library materials;
5. Software and audio-visual materials;
6. Guidance and counseling;
7. Extra-curricular programs and activities;
8. Testing and other assessments.

The school district's curricula will include Multi-cultural Education content and practices, instruction on African-American History in the teaching of U.S. History and instruction on the Holocaust and genocide.



Affirmative action shall be taken to ensure that students are protected from the effects of discrimination, in accordance with Policy 2260. Students who experience less than equal educational opportunities or experience discrimination shall use the procedure established by Regulation 5750 to report and appeal any harassment or discriminatory practice.

The conduct of teaching staff members shall exemplify the highest principles of equality and democracy. Conduct and attitudes that display discrimination are contrary to the policies of this Board and, further, are destructive to the self esteem that this Board wishes to encourage in all students. A teaching staff member's act of derision or enmity, in any form, against a person or persons on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, or disability shall be considered to be conduct unbecoming to a professional staff member of this district and shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

The Superintendent shall develop and promulgate a procedure by which a student or parent may appeal Board policy, district practice, or the act or omission of any district employee that allegedly violates this policy.

42 U.S.C.A. 12101
N.J.S.A. 10:5-1
N.J.S.A. 18A:4A-1, et seq.; 18A:6-5 et seq.; 18A:36-20
N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1 et seq.; 6A:14-1.2

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 19 July 2016



5751 SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS

The Board of Education will not tolerate sexual harassment of students by school employees, other students, or third parties. Sexual harassment of students is a form of prohibited sex discrimination. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 34 CFR §106, the school district adopts this Policy and implement practices to investigate and resolve allegations of sexual harassment of students engaged in by school employees, other students, or third parties pursuant to 34 CFR §106.3(c). In addition, reports of sexual harassment shall also be investigated in accordance with the requirements of New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and Policy 5512.

For the purposes of Policy 5751 and in accordance with 34 CFR §106:

1. "Sexual harassment" (34 CFR §106.30(a)) means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:
 - a. An employee of the school district conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the school district on a student's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
 - b. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a student equal access to the school district's education program or activity; or
 - c. "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. §1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(30).

Sexual harassment may take place electronically or on an online platform used by the school, including, but not limited to, computer and internet networks; digital platforms; and computer hardware or software owned or operated by, or used in the operations of the school.

In accordance with 34 CFR §106.8(a), any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report.



A school district with “actual knowledge” of sexual harassment in the educational program or activity of the school district against a student, must respond promptly in a manner that is not “deliberately indifferent”.

Any school employee who receives a complaint of sexual harassment or is aware of behavior that could constitute sexual harassment is required to report that information to the Title IX Coordinator in accordance with the provisions of 34 CFR §106.8(a) and B.1. of Regulation 5751. The district must report any potential child abuse in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-24; N.J.S.A. 18A:36-25; N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1; and Policy and Regulation 8462.

The Title IX Coordinator shall notify persons entitled to a notification pursuant to 34 CFR §106.8(a)(1) that the school district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activity that it operates, and that it is required by Title IX and Policy and Regulation 5751 not to discriminate in such a manner in accordance with 34 CFR §106.8(b)(1).

The Title IX Coordinator shall prominently display the contact information required to be listed for the Title IX Coordinator pursuant to 34 CFR §106.8(b)(2)(i) on the school district’s website and in each handbook or catalog the school district makes available to persons entitled to a notification in accordance with 34 CFR §106.8(a). Policy and Regulation 5751 shall be prominently displayed on the district’s website and accessible to anyone.

Supportive measures shall be available to the Complainant, Respondent, and as appropriate, witnesses or other impacted individuals.

The school district shall use the grievance process outlined in 34 CFR §106.45 and Regulation 5751 to address formal complaints of sexual harassment. The school district shall offer both parties an appeal process as outlined in 34 CFR §106.45 and Regulation 5751 from a determination regarding responsibility for sexual harassment and from the Title IX Coordinator’s dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations of sexual harassment.

The Title IX Coordinator shall be responsible for effective implementation of any remedies in accordance with 34 CFR §106.45(b)(7)(iv). The appropriate school official designated by the Superintendent, after consultation with the Title IX Coordinator, will determine sanctions imposed and remedies provided, if any.



Consistent with the laws of New Jersey a student's parent must be permitted to exercise the rights granted to their child under this Policy, whether such rights involve requesting supportive measures, filing a formal complaint, or participating in a grievance process.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, appeal officer, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process, receive training in accordance with 34 CFR §106.45(b)(1)(iii).

The school district or any employee of the school district shall not intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or Policy 5751, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this Policy, in accordance with 34 CFR §106.71(a).

For each school district response to sexual harassment required under 34 CFR §106.44, the school district shall create and maintain for a period of seven years, records in accordance with 34 CFR §106.45(b)(10).

The Superintendent or designee shall consult with the Board Attorney to ensure the school district's response to allegations of sexual harassment and the school district's grievance process are in accordance with 34 CFR §106.44 and 34 CFR §106.45.

Any time a report is made to the Title IX Coordinator or formal complaint is filed pursuant to this Policy and in accordance with 34 CFR §106, the Title IX Coordinator shall forward the report or complaint to the Principal of the school building attended by the alleged victim for the Principal to follow the requirements of New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and Policy 5512.

34 CFR §106

United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights – Questions and Answers on the Title IX Regulations on Sexual Harassment (July 20, 2021)

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 15 March 2022



5755 EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Equity In Student Access

It is the policy of the Board of Education to ensure equal and bias-free access to all school facilities, courses, programs, activities, and services, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, or disability.

The school district administration will ensure: that all student will have equal and barrier-free access to all school and classroom facilities, that minority and female students are not under-represented in gifted and talented or accelerated/advanced courses and that minority and male students are not over-represented in detentions, suspensions, expulsions, dropouts, or special needs classifications. Support services will be available to all students and that all limited English-proficient students and students with disabilities will have equal and bias-free access to all school programs and activities. The school district will ensure equal and bias-free access for all students to computers, computer classes, vocational education classes, and technologically-advanced instructional assistance, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, or disability.

The Board of Education will refrain from locating new facilities in areas that will contribute to imbalanced, isolated, or racially identifiable school enrollments. The school district administration will assign students to ensure that the racial/national origin composition of each school's enrollment reflects the composition of the district-wide enrollment and so that school and classroom enrollments are not identifiable on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, or disability.

Students will not be separated or isolated by race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, or disability within schools, courses, classes, programs, or extracurricular activities. Bias-free multiple measures for determining the special needs of language-minority students and students with disabilities will be utilized. Pregnant students will be permitted to remain in the regular school program and activities and if not permitted to attend school by her doctor, the student will be provided equivalent instruction.



Equity in Guidance Programs and Support Services

The school district will ensure the guidance program and support services provides access to adequate and appropriate counseling services for all students, including, but not limited to, minority students, limited English-proficient students, non-college bound students, and students with disabilities. A full range of possible career, professional, and/or vocational choices will be presented to all students.

Equity in Physical Education Training

All school district physical education programs will be co-educational, with any exceptions to be in accordance with Federal and State laws and regulations.

Equity in Athletic Programs

The school district's athletic program will provide equitable opportunities for female and male students to participate in athletics and equitable support for cheerleading programs and comparable facilities for male and female teams. The athletic program will have relatively equal numbers of varsity and sub-varsity teams for male and female teams and equitable scheduling of night games, practice times, and numbers of games for male and female teams.

Appeal Procedure

Any student or their parent may appeal school practices involving equity through the procedure established in Regulation 5750.

N.J.A.C. 6:4-1 et seq.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 19 July 2016



5756 TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students. The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (NJLAD), N.J.S.A. 10:5-12(11)(f), generally makes it unlawful for schools to subject individuals to differential treatment based on gender identity or expression. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”) specifically prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in Federally-funded education programs and activities [20 U.S.C. § 1681 (a)].

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-41 directs the Commissioner of Education to establish guidelines outlined in this Policy to provide direction for schools in addressing common issues concerning the needs of transgender students, and to assist schools in establishing policies and procedures that ensure a supportive and nondiscriminatory environment for transgender students.

Definitions/Terms

A safe and supportive environment within a school begins with understanding and respect. The Board believes students, teachers and administrators should be provided with common terminology associated with gender identity. The terms listed below are commonly used by advocacy and human rights groups, however students may prefer other terms to describe their gender identity, appearance or behavior. It is recommended school personnel discuss with the student the terminology and pronouns each student has chosen.

“Gender expression” means external manifestations of gender, expressed through a person’s name, pronouns, clothing, haircut, behavior, voice and/or body characteristics. Society identifies these cues as masculine and feminine, although what is considered masculine or feminine changes over time and varies by culture.

“Assigned sex at birth (ASAB)” refers to the biological sex designation recorded on a person’s birth certificate upon the initial issuance of that certificate, should such a record be provided at birth.

“Transgender” is a term for an individual whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from those typically associated with the sex and gender assigned at birth.

“Transition” is the process by which a transgender person recognizes that their authentic gender identity is not the same as the gender assigned at birth, and develops a more affirming gender expression that feels authentic. Some individuals socially transition, for example, through dress,



use of names and/or pronouns. Some individuals may undergo physical transition, which might include hormone treatments and surgery. School district personnel should avoid the phrase “sex change,” as it is an inaccurate description of the transition process; the process is more accurately described as “gender-confirming.”

“LGBTQ” is an acronym for lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning.”

“Gender nonconforming” describes a person whose gender expression does not conform to the gender expectations of their family or community. Gender nonconformity is not necessarily an indication that a youth is transgender, many non-transgender youth do not conform to stereotypical expectations,.

“Gender expansive, Gender diverse, Gender fluid, Gender non-binary, A gender, Gender queer” are terms that convey a wider, more flexible range of gender identity and/or expression than typically associated with the binary gender system. For example, students who identify as gender queer or gender fluid might not identify as boys or girls; for these students, the non-binary gender identity functions as the student’s gender identity.

“Cisgender” refers to individuals whose gender identity, expression or behavior conforms with those typically associated with their sex assigned at birth.

Student-Centered Approach

The school district shall accept a student’s asserted gender identity; parental consent is not required. A student need not meet any threshold diagnosis or treatment requirements to have his or her gender identity recognized and respected by the school district, school, or school staff members. In addition, a legal or court-ordered name change is not required. There is no affirmative duty for any school district staff member to notify a student’s parent of the student’s gender identity or expression.

There may be instances where a parent of a minor student disagrees with the student regarding the name and pronoun to be used at school and in the student’s education records. In the event a parent objects to the minor student’s name change request, the Superintendent or designee should consult the Board Attorney regarding the minor student’s civil rights and protections under the NJLAD. School staff members should continue to refer to the student in accordance with the student’s chosen name and pronoun at school and may consider providing resource information regarding family counseling and support services outside of the school district. School districts should be mindful of disputes between minor students and parents concerning the student’s gender identity or expression. Many support resources are available through advocacy groups



STUDENTS
5756/page 3 of 8
Transgender Students
Jan 19

and resources from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families and New Jersey Department of Education's "Child Abuse, Neglect, and Missing Children" webpage.

The Principal or designee should have an open, but confidential discussion with the student to ascertain the student's preference on matters such as chosen name, chosen pronoun to use, and parental communications. A transgender student shall be addressed at school by the name and pronoun chosen by the student, regardless of whether a legal name change or change in official school records has occurred. The school shall issue school documentation of a transgender student, such as student identification cards, in the name chosen by the student. A transgender student shall be allowed to dress in accordance with the student's gender identity.

The Principal or designee should also discuss with the student, and any other individuals at the student's request, the risks associated with the student's transgender status being inadvertently disclosed. For example, the Principal or designee should inform the student the transgender status may be revealed due to other student's discussions at home. The Principal or designee should work with the transgender student to ensure awareness of activities and events that may inadvertently disclose the transgender student's status.

Safe and Supportive Environment

The Board developed and adopted this Policy to ensure that its schools provide a safe and supportive learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment for transgender students, including students going through a gender transition. Gender-based policies, rules and practices can have the effect of marginalizing, stigmatizing and excluding students, whether they are gender nonconforming or not.

The Superintendent or designee shall review and update existing policies and procedures, including those regarding classroom activities, school ceremonies, school photographs and dress codes, to certify transgender students are not excluded. In addition, the school district shall take the following steps to establish and maintain a nondiscriminatory environment for all students, including transgender and transitioning students:

The school district must comply with N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7, which prohibit harassment, intimidation and bullying. The Board is required to develop, adopt and implement a Policy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7 that prohibits harassment, intimidation or bullying on school property, at a school-sponsored function, or on a school bus. If harassment, intimidation, or bullying based on gender identity creates a hostile environment, the



STUDENTS
5756/page 4 of 8
Transgender Students
Jan 19

- school must take prompt and effective steps to end the harassment, intimidation or bullying prevent its recurrence, and, as appropriate, remedy its effects.
- The Superintendent or designee should ensure training is provided to school staff members on sensitivity and respect towards transgender students.
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) concepts should be incorporated into school culture and curricula.
- The school district may seek a variety of professionals, including counselors and school psychologists to provide emotional supports for all students who demonstrate a need. The superintendent or designee shall ensure school counselors are knowledgeable regarding issues and concerns relevant to transgender students, students facing other gender identity issues or students who may be transitioning.
- Student dress codes should not be enforced more strictly for transgender and gender nonconforming students than for other students.
- The school district shall honor and recognize a student's asserted gender identity, and shall not require any documentation or evidence in any form, including diagnosis, treatment or legal name change.
- A school's obligation to ensure nondiscrimination on the basis of gender identity requires schools to provide transgender students equal access to educational programs and activities, even in circumstances in which other students, parents or community members raise objections or concerns.

Confidentiality and Privacy

School staff members may not disclose information that may reveal a student's transgender status except as allowed by law. The Principal or designee is advised to work with the student to create an appropriate confidentiality plan regarding the student's transgender or transitioning status.

The school district shall keep confidential a current, new or prospective student's transgender status. Schools should address the student using a chosen name and the student's birth name should be kept confidential by school and school staff members.



Due to a specific and compelling need, such as the health and safety of a student or an incident of bias-related crime, the school district may be obligated to disclose a student's status. In this event, the Principal or designee should inform the student the school or school district intends to

disclose the student's transgender status for the student's protection and well-being. Prior to disclosure, the student should be given the opportunity to personally disclose that information. The school district should make every effort to ensure any disclosure is made in a way that reduces or eliminates the risk of re-disclosure and protects the transgender student from further harassment. Those measures may include the facilitation of counseling for the student and the student's family to facilitate the family's acceptance and support of the student's transgender status.

During a harassment, intimidation or bullying investigation the school district is obligated to develop a procedure to report, verbally and in writing, an act of harassment, intimidation and bullying committed by an adult of youth against a student, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7(a)2viii. In this instance, the Principal or designee should inform the student of the school's obligation to report the findings of the harassment, intimidation and bullying investigation in accordance with Federal and State law and regulation. Under harassment, intimidation and bullying legal requirements, parents are entitled to know the nature of the investigation; whether the district found evidence of harassment, intimidation, or bullying; or whether disciplinary action was imposed or services provided to address the incident of harassment, intimidation or bullying.

The Principal or designee shall take into account the circumstances of the incident when providing notification to parents of all students involved in the reported harassment, intimidation, or bullying incident and when conveying the nature of the incident, including the actual or perceived protected category motivating the alleged offense, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7(a)2viii(2).

Disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's education record to other school officials within the school district, whom the school district has determined have a legitimate educational interest in the information, may be permissible under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(1)). The school district shall make a concerted effort to ensure school officials obtain access to only those education records in which they have legitimate educational interests.

The school district shall comply with all laws and regulations regarding the confidentiality of student records and student privacy, including the requirements set forth at 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 34 CFR Part 99, Family Educational Rights and Privacy; 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, Protection of Pupil Rights; 34 CFR Part 160, General



Administrative Requirements; 20 U.S.C. § 7917, Transfer of school disciplinary records; 42 CFR Part 2, Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records; N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-7.1, Confidentiality of certain information provided by pupils, exceptions; N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.2, Confidentiality of student alcohol and other drug information; N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19, Pupil Records, creation, maintenance and retention, security and access, regulations, nonliability; N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-60, Disclosure of juvenile information, penalties for disclosure; N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7, Student Records; N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.9, Student records; as well as all other existing Federal and State laws and rules pertaining to student records and confidentiality.

School Records

If a student has expressed a preference to be called by a name other than their birth name, permanent student records, containing the student's birth name should be kept in a separate, confidential file. This file should only be shared with appropriate school staff members after consultation with a student. A separate file containing records bearing the student's chosen name may also be kept. If the student has previously been known at school or in school records by a birth name, the Principal or designee should direct school staff members to use the student's chosen name and not the student's birth name.

To ensure consistency among teachers school administrators, substitute teachers, and other school staff members, every effort should be made to immediately update student education records (for example, attendance records, transcripts, Individualized Education Programs (IEP), etc.) with the student's chosen name and gender pronouns, consistent with the students gender identity and expression, and not circulate records with the student's birth name, unless directed by the student.

- The school district shall report to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) through NJ SMART a student's name or gender based upon that student's chosen name and corresponding gender identity. Changing the name or gender identity from what was reported in previous years will not affect the reliability of the data reported.
- If the school district changes a student's name or gender identity, it must also maintain locally a separate record reflecting the student's legal name and sex assigned at birth until receipt of documentation of a legal change of name or gender.

Activities



Jan 19 With respect to gender-segregated classes or athletic activities, including intramural and interscholastic athletics, all student must be allowed to participate in a manner consistent with their gender identity.

The school district shall:

- Provide transgender student with the same opportunities to participate in physical education as other students in accordance with their gender identity;
- Permit a transgender student to participate in gender-segregated school activities in accordance with the student's gender identity;
- Permit and support the formation of student clubs or programs regarding issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) youth; and
- Offer support in the creation of peer led educational groups.

Use of Facilities

All students are entitled to have access to restrooms, locker rooms and changing facilities in accordance with their gender identity to allow for involvement in various school programs and activities.

In all cases, the Principal or designee must work with the student and school staff members so all parties are aware of facility policies and understand the student may access the restroom, locker room, and changing facility that corresponds to the student's gender identity. While some transgender students will want this arrangement, others may be uncomfortable with it. Transgender students who are uncomfortable using a sex-segregated restroom should be provided with a safe and adequate alternative, such as a single "unisex" restroom or the nurse's restroom. Similarly, some transgender students may be uncomfortable using the changing facilities that correspond to the student's gender identity. Non-transgender students should also be afforded the option to use a private facility, such as a unisex facility or the nurse's restroom, should they feel uncomfortable.

- The school district shall allow a transgender student to use a restroom or locker room based on the student's gender identity.



STUDENTS
5756/page 8 of 8
Transgender Students
Jan 19

- Reasonable alternative arrangement shall be made if needed to ensure a student's safety and comfort. This direction for accommodations should come from the student.

The Superintendent or designee will make available to school staff members a variety of resources regarding professional development opportunities as sourced by the NJDOE as well as developmentally appropriate information for students regarding LGBTQ issues.

The Board adopts this Policy to help school and district administrators take steps to create an inclusive environment in which transgender and gender nonconforming students feel safe and supported, and to ensure each school provides equal opportunities for all students, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-41; 18A:37-15
N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1 et seq.; N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7
New Jersey Department of Education – October 2018
Transgender Student Guidance for School Districts

Adopted: 30 April 2019



5770 STUDENT RIGHT OF PRIVACY

The Board of Education recognizes that a student's right of privacy may not be violated by unreasonable search and seizure and directs that no student be searched without reason or in an unreasonable manner.

Teaching staff members are charged with the responsibility of maintaining order and discipline in the schools and of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, a teaching staff member may search or request the search of the person or property of a student as authorized by this policy, with or without the student's consent, whenever he/she has reasonable grounds to suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of law or of school rules. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction, the student's age, and the student's disciplinary history. Except in exigent circumstances, an intrusive search of a student's person or intimate personal belongings shall be conducted by a person of the student's gender.

The Board acknowledges the need for the in-school storage of students' possessions and shall provide storage places, including desks and lockers, for that purpose. Where locks are provided for such storage places, students may lock them against incursion by other students. In no storage place provided by the Board shall students have such an expectation of privacy as to prevent examination by a school official. Students shall be notified in writing at the beginning of each school year that inspections of their lockers, desks, and other storage facilities on school district property may be conducted. The school Principal or designee is directed to conduct, without further notice, the regular inspection of such facilities provided to students for the storage of property.

Except as required by exigent circumstances, a request for the search of a student or a student's private possessions will be directed to the Building Principal or designee who shall, whenever feasible, first request the freely offered consent of the student to the inspection.

The Superintendent shall be notified of the proposed search of a student's person or intimate personal belongings.

Whenever possible, a search will be conducted by the Principal in the presence of the student, the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or a representative of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and a teaching staff member other than the Principal. Under no circumstances shall any student be subjected to a strip search or a body cavity search.



A search prompted by the reasonable belief that the circumstances are exigent and pose an immediate threat, will be conducted by any teaching staff member with as much speed and dispatch as may be required to protect persons and property.

The Principal shall conduct a student search on the request of a law enforcement officer only on presentation of a duly authorized search warrant or on the voluntary and knowing consent of the student or when the Principal has independent grounds to suspect the presence of an incriminating object.

The Principal shall be responsible for the prompt recording in writing of each student search, including the reasons for the search; information received that established the need for the search and the name of the informant, if any; the persons present when the search was conducted; any substances or objects found; and the disposition made of them. The Principal shall be responsible for the custody, control, and disposition of any illegal or dangerous substance or object taken from a student.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.2, 18A:37-6

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5810 STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

The Board of Education believes that students should be encouraged to participate appropriately in the governance of various school activities. As institutions fundamental to the operation of a democratic society, the schools should strive to exemplify the democratic ideal of citizen participation in decision making.

The Board directs that students be invited to participate, as appropriate to the students' ages and interests, in deliberations and decisions regarding student conduct and the disciplinary code, curriculum planning, co-curriculum planning, grading systems, safety programs, the selection of resource materials, and the scheduling of the school day. Student participation should fairly represent the interests of the entire student body.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5820 STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of offering students the opportunity to participate in representative self-government and to develop leadership skills. Students shall have the right to organize, conduct meetings, elect officers and representatives, and petition the Board of Education.

The Board recognizes the Student Council as the official voice of the student body for students in grades four through six, provided the constitution and bylaws of that organization have been duly approved by the students it represents and by the Board and provided that all students have equal access to their student government and an equal opportunity to vote and hold office.

The Board shall appoint a qualified teaching staff member to serve as advisor to student government activities.

The Board directs that decisions made and actions duly taken by the official student government, in accordance with and within the scope of its constitution and bylaws, may not be voided or vetoed by any staff member.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5830 STUDENT FUND RAISING

The Board of Education will limit the solicitation of funds by and from the students of this district in order to protect students from unnecessary pressures and the instructional program from disruption.

“Student fund raising” means the solicitation and collection of money by students, on or off school premises, for any purpose associated directly or indirectly with the school district or under circumstances in which the solicitors are identified as students of this district.

Students may solicit and collect money on behalf of approved school organizations, provided the fund raising has been approved by the Superintendent.

No fund raising activity involving door to door solicitation shall be permitted.

Out-of-school solicitation of money for school organizations must be approved by the Superintendent.

Students may solicit and collect money on behalf of nonschool organizations, provided the fund raising has been approved by the Superintendent.

Out-of-school solicitation of money for nonschool organizations must be approved by the Superintendent.

No student will be permitted to solicit and collect money on school premises or at a school-sponsored event for the student’s own benefit.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations regarding student fund raising that establish times and places in which student fund raising may be conducted and ensure adequate accounting of funds collected. The Building Principal shall distribute this policy and the Superintendent’s regulations to each recognized student organization.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5842 EQUAL ACCESS OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education will permit the use of school facilities by student-initiated organizations for non-curricular student activities. A student-initiated organization, regardless of the size of the group, will not be denied an opportunity to meet and use school facilities on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at their meeting.

An application for permission to meet on school premises shall be made to the Principal, who shall grant permission provided that he/she determines that:

1. The activity has been initiated by students;
2. Attendance at the meeting is voluntary;
3. No agent or employee of the district will promote, lead, or participate in the meeting;
4. The meeting is for a lawful purpose;
5. The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of instructional activities in the school;
6. Nonschool persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend the activity; and
7. The activity is adequately supervised by appropriately certified school district staff.

A student-initiated group granted permission to meet on school premises shall be subject to the same rules and regulations that govern the meetings of student organizations sponsored by this Board, except as provided by this policy. Participation in a student-initiated meeting must be available to all students who wish to attend and cannot be denied on the basis of a student's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation or sex, social or economic status, or disability. The Board will not permit the organization of a fraternity, sorority, or secret society. A student-initiated meeting may be attended by no more than one outside resource person.

Access to school facilities by student organizations will be provided within the governing principles of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS

5842/page 2 of 2

Equal Access of Student Organizations

An appropriately certified staff member shall be assigned to attend a student-initiated meeting in a custodial capacity and shall not participate in the activity while serving in this custodial capacity. No teaching staff member shall be compelled to attend a student-initiated meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to his/her beliefs.

The Building Principal may take such actions as may be necessary to maintain order and discipline on school premises and to protect the safety and well-being of students and staff members.

20 U.S.C.A. 1701 et seq.

United State Department of Education - Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5850 SOCIAL EVENTS AND CLASS TRIPS

The Board of Education recognizes the value of social events and class trips that will enhance and enrich the school experience for the students of this district.

For purposes of this policy, a "social event" is a party, celebration, or dance organized for the participation of students, and "class trips" are trips taken by students in a single graduating class, students who share a particular interest in an activity, or students who are enrolled in a particular subject area. Social events and class trips are not related or are only indirectly related to the curriculum.

The Board will make school facilities available and assign staff members as appropriate for the conduct of social events on school premises that have been approved by the Principal and for social events and class trips away from school premises that have been approved by the Superintendent. A social event or class trip may be considered to have been approved by this Board only when the Board has duly assigned one or more chaperones to supervise participating students. The Board will assume no responsibility for a student social event or trip that has not been approved in accordance with this policy.

The Board will not approve a social event or class trip that has the effect of reducing the school year for participating students to fewer than one hundred eighty days.

The Board reserves the right to cancel any scheduled trip.

Social events or class trips are not part of the thorough and efficient system of education provided by the Board. Participation in them is therefore not a right and may be denied to any student without the due process of notice and an opportunity to be heard. A student who demonstrates disregard for school rules may summarily be denied participation in social events and class trips.

Students who participate in approved social events and class trips are subject to district rules for student conduct and must submit to the authority of assigned chaperones. Infractions of the rules will be subject to discipline in the same manner as are infractions of rules during the regular school program.

A student who possesses or consumes alcohol or drugs in the course of an approved social event or class trip will be deemed to have placed all other participating students at risk and shall be immediately dismissed from the event or trip. Any such student will be returned home by appropriate and safe means of transportation in the company of a chaperone, the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or a representative of the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS
5850/page 2 of 2
Social Events and Class Trips

Any expenses incurred by the dismissal will be the responsibility of the student and/or the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

The Superintendent will develop regulations governing the conduct and safety of all participants in social events and class trips and will distribute them to student and adult participants.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



5880 PUBLIC PERFORMANCES BY STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes the value to students and to the community of the demonstration of student talents and skills in performances of student organizations in public events. The Board endorses such performances when they contribute to the instructional program, do not interfere with scheduled school activities, and do not exploit or endanger participating students.

Public performances of student organizations must be approved in advance by the Principal. The members of a student organization invited to perform shall be polled for their willingness to perform. No student may be compelled to participate in an elective public performance or penalized for his/her failure to participate. Approval for a public performance will not be granted unless the staff advisor determines that the number of students who agree to participate is sufficient to represent the school fairly.

No student, student organization, or employee of this Board shall receive compensation for the performance in public of students organized for a school activity.

N.J.S.A. 18A:42-2

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6100 PURCHASING PROCEDURES

The Board of Education wishes to establish and carry out a careful system of purchasing and accounting to help provide an effective program of education while guarding against loss due to carelessness, inefficiency, theft, or improper maintenance of records.

The duties of purchasing are to be centralized under the Business Administrator, who shall be familiar with and perform all his/her activities within the limitations prescribed by law, Board policy and legal opinions.

All requisitions for instructional and educational items shall come through the Principal's or Superintendent's office to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who shall expeditiously check for availability of funds, proper prices and possible suppliers before making purchases. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary and, in his/her absence, the Superintendent shall be the only district employees empowered to order any materials or services for the district.

Until all these requirements are fulfilled, no action shall be taken by any employee on any requisition. Nothing is to be ordered independently by school personnel unless pre-approved by the Business Administrator or, in his/her absence, the Superintendent.

All awarding of contracts must be authorized by the Board of Education prior to the beginning of contracted work, except in emergency situations.

All contracts are subject to attorney review as requested by the Board of Education, Superintendent, or Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

The Board of Education encourages the administration to seek advantages in savings through joint agreements for the purchase of work, materials or supplies with the governing body(ies) of other contracting units within this county or adjoining counties or by other cooperative pricing arrangements. The administration shall also evaluate any savings which may result from the purchase of any materials, supplies or equipment under contracts entered into by the State Treasury Department, Division of purchase and property.

Items not in the budget must be reviewed by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary and presented for Board Approval.

Purchasing Jointly

Agreements for joint purchasing are subject to ratification of the Board and the participating contracting body(ies) and shall specify the categories of work, materials and supplies to be



purchased; the manner of advertising for bids and of awarding contracts; the method of payment by each participating party and such other matters as may be deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of the agreement. Purchases through the township, county or state may be made without bid upon approval of the Board.

The Board may use competitive contracting instead of public bidding for purchasing specialized goods and services, the price of which exceeds the bid threshold, for the purposes and with the conditions specified in law.

All purchases shall be approved by the Superintendent and the Business Administrator.

In addition, the Board Secretary is authorized to maintain one credit card for a major gasoline company. This credit card is to be used for the operation and maintenance of district vehicle(s) and machinery.

The Board of Education shall not knowingly enter into contract with any company which does not subscribe to and implement an affirmative action policy. The Board Secretary shall be responsible for so informing all prospective suppliers of work or materials.

N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 10:5-31-35 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 52:32-44
N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.8
N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.6
N.J.A.C. 6A:23-6.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:23-7.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:27-9.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-14.1

20 U.S.C.A. 1681 et seq. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
42 U.S.C.A. 2000e et seq. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunities Act of 1972

29 U.S.C.A. 794 et seq. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Date Reviewed: 21 November 1995

24 March 1998

19 October 2010



6111 SPECIAL EDUCATION MEDICAID INITIATIVE (SEMI) PROGRAM

Every New Jersey school district, with the exception of any district that obtains a waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 pursuant to the procedures set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(b), shall take appropriate steps to maximize its revenue from the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program by following policies and procedures to maximize participation in the program as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(d) and to comply with all program requirements as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(e).

The school district may seek, in the prebudget year, a waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 in accordance with the procedures as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(b). As part of the annual budget information, the Department of Education shall provide each school district with a projection of available SEMI reimbursement for the budget year, as determined by the State Department of Treasury's third party administrator for SEMI.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, the school district shall recognize as revenue in its annual school district budget no less than ninety percent of the projection provided by the Department of Education. The district may seek approval from the Executive County Superintendent to use its own projection of SEMI reimbursement upon demonstration that the numbers it used in calculating the projection are more accurate than the projection provided.

The school district shall strive to achieve maximum participation in the SEMI program. "Maximum participation" means obtaining a ninety percent return rate of parental consent forms for all SEMI eligible students. Districts shall enter all students following their evaluations into the third-party system to identify the district's universe of eligible students. This can be done without parental consent.

Districts participating in the SEMI reimbursement program shall comply with program requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(e).

Each school district that has less than ninety percent participation of SEMI eligible students in the 2007-2008 school year or has failed to comply with all program requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(e) shall demonstrate a good faith effort to achieve maximum participation and to maximize available SEMI revenue during the 2008-2009 school year by submitting a SEMI action plan to the Executive County Superintendent for review and approval by September 1, 2008. In subsequent years, each school district that has less than ninety percent participation of SEMI eligible students in the prebudget year or that has failed to comply with all program requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3(e) shall submit a SEMI action plan to the



FINANCES

6111/page 2 of 2

Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program

Executive County Superintendent for review and approval as part of the school district's proposed budget submission. The district's SEMI action plan shall include the components as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A:5.3(g).

Districts that did not achieve ninety percent participation or achieve their approved benchmarks in the SEMI program for a given budget year and cannot demonstrate that they fully implemented their Department of Education approved SEMI action plan, shall be subject to review for the withholding of State aid by the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:55-3 in an amount equal to the SEMI revenue projection based on their approved benchmark for the budget year, if applicable, less actual SEMI reimbursements for the budget year. The State aid deduction shall be made in the second subsequent year after the budget year.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3

Adopted: 15 December 2009



FINANCES
6112/page 1 of 2
Reimbursement of Federal and Other
Grant Expenditures
Aug 19

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), and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006, 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 (3) 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 (3) business days of receipt of funds and that the expenditures are allowable and appropriate to the cost objective(s) of the subgrant.

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 (10%) level of fiscal change.

FINANCES
6112/page 2 of 2
Reimbursement of Federal and Other
Grant Expenditures
Aug 19

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 request 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 (3) 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: 19 October 2010
Revised: 7 January 2020



6115.01 FEDERAL AWARDS/FUNDS INTERNAL CONTROLS – ALLOWABILITY OF COSTS

The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (UGG), 2 CFR §200.302(b)(7) requires written procedures for determining the allowability of costs in accordance with 2 CFR §200 – Cost Principles. Determining the allowability of costs shall be in accordance with the requirements outlined in 2 CFR §200.403 – Factors Affecting Allowability of Costs. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall be responsible for determining the allowability of costs are in accordance with the provisions of 2 CFR §200.403.

The following procedures shall be used to determine the allowability of costs in accordance with 2 CFR §200.403:

Except where otherwise authorized by statute, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will ensure costs meet the following general criteria in order to be allowable under Federal awards:

1. Be necessary and reasonable for the performance of the Federal award and be allocable thereto under these principles.
2. Conform to any limitations or exclusions set forth in these principles or in the Federal award as to types or amount of cost items.
3. Be consistent with policies and procedures that apply uniformly to both Federally-financed and other activities of the non-Federal entity.
4. Be accorded consistent treatment. A cost may not be assigned to a Federal award as a direct cost if any other cost incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances has been allocated to the Federal award as an indirect cost.
5. Be determined in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), except for State and local governments, which includes school districts, as otherwise provided for in 2 CFR §200.403.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

FINANCES

6115.01/page 2 of 2

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls –
Allowability of Costs

6. Not be included as a cost or used to meet cost sharing or matching requirements of any other Federally-financed program in either the current or a prior period. (See also 2 CFR §200.306 – Cost Sharing or matching 2. above).
7. Be adequately documented. (See also 2 CFR §200.300 – Statutory and National Policy Requirements through 2 CFR §200.309 – Period of Performance).

In the event the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee is not sure if a cost is allowable under 2 CFR Subpart E - §200.403, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will contact the New Jersey Department of Education or the United States Department of Education for assistance.

2 CFR §200.302(b)(7)

2 CFR §200.403

Adopted: 15 March 2022



FINANCES

6115.02/page 1 of 4

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls –

Mandatory Disclosures

Aug 21

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6115.02 FEDERAL AWARDS/FUNDS INTERNAL CONTROLS – MANDATORY DISCLOSURES

The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principals, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (UGG), 2 CFR §200.113 – Mandatory disclosures requires a non-Federal entity or applicant (a New Jersey Board of Education) for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or to the New Jersey Department of Education all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award.

If the Board of Education receives a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined below as per 2 CFR §200 – Appendix XII – Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters shall report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to the System for Award Management (SAM). Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR §200.338 - Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment. (See also 2 CFR §180, 31 USC 3321, and 41 USC 2313)

A. General Reporting Requirement

1. If the total value of all Board of Education currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then the Superintendent or designee, on behalf of the Board of Education as the recipient during that period of time, must maintain the currency of information reported to the SAM that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings described in B. below.
2. This is a statutory requirement under section 872 of Public Law 110-417, as amended (41 USC 2313).



3. As required by section 3010 of Public Law 111-212, all information posted in designated integrity and performance system on or after April 15, 2011, except past performance reviews required for Federal procurement contracts, will be publicly available.
- B. Proceedings About Which the Board of Education Must Report
1. The Superintendent or designee must disclose to the Federal awarding agency or to the New Jersey Department of Education information required about each proceeding that:
 - a. Is in connection with the award or performance of a grant, cooperative agreement, or procurement contract from the Federal Government;
 - b. Reached its final disposition during the most recent five-year period; and
 - c. Is one of the following:
 - (1) A criminal proceeding that resulted in a conviction, as defined in E. below;
 - (2) A civil proceeding that resulted in a finding of fault and liability and payment of a monetary fine, penalty, reimbursement, restitution, or damages of \$5,000 or more;
 - (3) An administrative proceeding, as defined in E. below, that resulted in a finding of fault and liability and the payment of either a monetary fine or penalty of \$5,000 or more or reimbursement, restitution, or damages in excess of \$100,000; or
 - (4) Any other criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding if:



- (a) It could have led to an outcome described in B.1.c.(1), (2), or (3) above of this award term and condition;
- (b) It had a different disposition arrived at by consent or compromise with an acknowledgment of fault on the school district's part; and
- (c) The requirement in this award term and condition to disclose information about the proceeding does not conflict with applicable laws and regulations.

C. Reporting Procedures

- 1. The Superintendent or designee shall enter in the SAM Entity Management area the information that the SAM requires about each proceeding described in B. above.
- 2. The Superintendent or designee does not need to submit the information a second time under assistance awards the Board of Education received if the Superintendent or designee already provided the information through the SAM because the Board of Education was required to do so under Federal procurement contracts the Board of Education was awarded.

D. Reporting Frequency

- 1. During any period of time when the Board of Education is subject to the requirement in A. above, the Superintendent or designee must report proceedings information through the SAM for the most recent five year period, either to report new information about any proceeding(s) the Board of Education has not reported previously or affirm that there is no new information to report.
- 2. If the Board of Education has Federal contract, grant, and cooperative agreement awards with a cumulative total value greater than \$10,000,000, the Board of Education must disclose semiannually any information about the criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings.



E. Definitions

1. For purposes of this Policy:

- a. “Administrative proceeding” for the purposes of 2 CFR §200 - Appendix XII and this Policy means a non-judicial process that is adjudicatory in nature in order to make a determination of fault or liability. This includes proceedings at the Federal and State level but only in connection with performance of a Federal contract or grant. It does not include audits, site visits, corrective plans, or inspection of deliverables.
- b. “Conviction” for the purposes of 2 CFR §200 - Appendix XII and this Policy, means a judgment or conviction of a criminal offense by any court of competent jurisdiction, whether entered upon a verdict or a plea, and includes a conviction entered upon a plea of nolo contendere.
- c. Total value of currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts includes:
 - (1) Only the Federal share of the funding under any Federal award with a Board of Education cost share or match; and
 - (2) The value of all expected funding increments under a Federal award and options, even if not yet exercised.

2 CFR §200.113

Adopted: 15 March 2022



6115.03 FEDERAL AWARDS/FUNDS INTERNAL CONTROLS – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (UGG), 2 CFR §200.318 – General Procurement Standards addresses standards of conduct covering conflict of interest and governs the actions of school district employees, officers, and agents in the selection, award, and administration of contracts supported by a Federal award.

The Board of Education must use its own documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable State and local laws and regulations, provided that the procurements conform to the applicable Federal law and the standards identified in 2 CFR §200.

The Board of Education must maintain oversight to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders.

The Board of Education must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts supported by a Federal award.

1. No employee, officer, or agent of the Board of Education may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a Federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest.
 - a. Such a conflict of interest would arise when a Board of Education employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.
2. The Board of Education officers, employees, and agents must neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts.
3. However, a Board of Education may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value.



4. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the non-Federal entity.

The Board of Education's procedures must avoid acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items. Consideration should be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase. Where appropriate, an analysis will be made of lease versus purchase alternatives, and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach.

To foster greater economy and efficiency, and in accordance with efforts to promote cost-effective use of shared services across the Federal government, the Board of Education is encouraged to enter into State and local intergovernmental agreements or inter-entity agreements where appropriate for procurement of use of common or shared goods and services.

The Board of Education is encouraged to use Federal excess and surplus property in lieu of purchasing new equipment and property whenever such use is feasible and reduces project costs.

The Board of Education is encouraged to use value engineering clauses in contracts for construction projects of sufficient size to offer reasonable opportunities for cost reductions. Value engineering is a systematic and creative analysis of each contract item or task to ensure that its essential function is provided at the overall lower cost.

The Board of Education must award contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources. (See also 2 CFR §200.213 – Suspension and Debarment).

The Board of Education must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price.



The Board of Education may use a time and materials type contract only after a determination that no other contract is suitable and if the contract includes a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Time and materials type contract means a contract whose cost to a Board of Education is the sum of:

1. The actual cost of materials; and
2. Direct labor hours charged at fixed hourly rates that reflect wages, general and administrative expenses, and profit.

Since the time and material formula generates an open-ended contract price, a time-and-materials contract provides no positive profit incentive to the contractor for cost control or labor efficiency. Therefore, each contract must set a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Further, the Board of Education awarding such a contract must assert a high degree of oversight in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the contractor is using efficient methods and effective cost controls.

The Board of Education alone must be responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgement, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the Board of Education of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. The Federal awarding agency will not substitute its judgement for that of the Board of Education unless the matter is primarily a Federal concern. Violations of law will be referred to the local, State, or Federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

The Board of Education and its employees shall be required to comply with all New Jersey statutes and administrative codes regarding school ethics and internal controls.

2 CFR §200.318

Adopted: 15 March 2022



6141 TAX REVENUES

The Board of Education believes that the interests of district taxpayers as well as the interests of the educational program are best served by the orderly, planned transfer of tax revenues to the school district as such funds are required to pay the debts of the district.

The Board Secretary shall request the Municipal Treasurer to transfer tax revenues in anticipation of district expenditures in accordance with law and as approved by this Board of Education.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-34

N.J.S.A. 54:4-75

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6150 TUITION INCOME

The Board of Education will charge and assess tuition for students attending this school district that are not entitled to receive a free public education in this district or from a student's sending district for the student attending this school district as provided for by State statute.

A receiving public school district Board and a sending public school district Board will establish a written contractual agreement for the ensuing school year with a tentative tuition charge multiplied by the estimated average daily enrollment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-17.1(f). The sending district is required in the contractual agreement to pay ten percent of the tentative tuition charge no later than the first of each month from September through June of the contract year. Adjustments will be made in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-17.1(f).

The Board will, with consent of the Board upon such terms, admit nonresident students on a tuition basis pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3.

The School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary shall be responsible for the assessment and collection of tuition. Tuition assessment and billing will be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-3.1 et seq.

The Executive County Superintendent in the county in which the receiving district is located should be consulted to mediate disputes that arise from tuition matters as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-17.1(f)5.

N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3; 18A:38-19; 18A:46-21
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-17.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-7.8

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 16 August 2011



6160 GRANTS FROM PRIVATE SOURCES

The Board of Education encourages the development of proposals to private foundations and other sources of financial aid to subsidize such activities as innovative projects, feasibility studies, long-range planning, and research and development. Any such activity must:

1. Be based on a specific set of project objectives that relate to the established goals of the district;
2. Provide measures for evaluating whether or not project objectives are being achieved; and
3. Conform to applicable state and federal laws and to Board policies.

All grant proposals must be approved by the Board before being submitted to the funding agency. The Superintendent shall establish regulations for the processing of proposal ideas throughout the district.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6164 ADVERTISING ON SCHOOL BUSES

The Board of Education authorizes the sale of advertising space on the exterior of school buses that are owned or leased by the Board in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-31 and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.10, 7.11 and 7.12.

All advertisements shall require the prior approval of the Board of Education. The advertiser will be considered an independent contractor and shall not be deemed to be an agent, servant, employee or representative of the Board. In the event the advertiser fails to provide service in accordance with the bid specifications and contract for advertisements, the advertiser shall be considered in breach of contract. Cancellation of the advertisement and/or enforcement of advertiser's performance bond may result.

The Board of Education reserves the right, at its discretion and at any time, to reject any advertising copy, whether or not it has previously acknowledged and/or advertised the exact or similar copy. No advertising space may be used or re-sold by the advertiser for the promotion, either directly or indirectly, of any business, organization, or enterprise other than the one defined in the original contract for advertisement. The advertiser will protect, defend and save harmless the Board of Education from any suits or actions of every nature and description brought against it by reason of the advertisement.

Fifty percent of the funds generated from the placement of advertisements on the outside of school buses shall be used to offset fuel costs associated with the provision of student transportation services and fifty percent shall be used to support any programs or services deemed appropriate by the Board.



6210 FISCAL PLANNING

The Board of Education shall collect and assemble the information necessary to discharge its responsibility for the fiscal management of the school district and to plan for the financial needs of the educational program. The Board will strive toward maintaining both short and long range perspectives of district financial requirements.

Accordingly, the Board directs the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to include cost estimates in all ongoing district studies of the educational program, to prepare a long range year-by-year plan for the maintenance and replacement of facilities and equipment, to forecast an estimated expenditure budget for one year in the future, to maintain a plan of anticipated state and federal revenues, to meet periodically with the municipal governing board to review planned expenditures and the joint effect of school and community costs on tax rates, and to report to the Board any serious financial forecast that emerges from the district's fiscal planning.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6220 BUDGET PREPARATION

The annual budget is the financial plan for the effectuation of the educational plan for the district; its preparation is, therefore, one of the most important functions performed by the Board of Education. The budget shall be designed to carry out that plan in a thorough and efficient manner, to maintain school district facilities, and to honor continuing obligations of the district.

A proposed budget requires the critical analysis of every member of the Board during its preparation. The administration shall work with the Board to ensure Board members have a thorough understanding of the budget appropriations, budget revenue, the proposed educational program and the budget's impact to the local tax levy. The Board shall also provide for community input during the budget development process.

The Board shall prepare and maintain a budget in which budgeted anticipated revenues and fund balances equal budgeted appropriations. Only those expenses reasonably required to provide a thorough and efficient educational program shall be approved for the budget. Surplus/fund balance remaining from the prior year's budget may be applied against taxes to be raised locally. The amount of surplus/fund balance appropriated into the budget will be in accordance with New Jersey Department of Education regulations.

The annual school district budget and supporting documentation shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.1 et seq. The Board will obtain approval of the local funding for a non-referendum capital project (school facility project or other capital project) in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.4.

The Board will submit its proposed budget and supporting documentation as prescribed by the Commissioner to the Executive County Superintendent for approval. The budget will be presented to the Board of Education to allow adequate time for review and adoption. The budget should evolve primarily from the needs of the individual schools as expressed by the Building Principals and the district educational program as expressed by the central administrative staff and be compatible with approved district plans.

The Board shall include in the budget application to the Executive County Superintendent a complete reporting of revenues and appropriation and other requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5 through 63.

The Board, upon submission of its budget application to the Executive County Superintendent or by the statutory submission date, whichever is earlier, shall make available upon request for public inspection all budget and supporting documentation contained in the budget application



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

FINANCES
6220/page 2 of 2
Budget Preparation

and all other documents listed in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.1 once the budget application has been submitted to the Executive County Superintendent for approval.

The budget as adopted for the school year pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5 shall be provided for public inspection on the district's Internet site, if one exists, and made available in print in a "user-friendly" plain language budget summary format in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.1(c).

All budgetary and accounting systems used in the school district must be in accordance with double entry bookkeeping and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles as required in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7F et seq.; 18A:22-7 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.1 et seq; 6A:23A-16.1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 28 June 2011



6230 BUDGET HEARING

The annual budget adopted by the Board of Education and approved by the County Superintendent represents the Board's position on the allocation of resources required to operate a thorough and efficient system of education. All reasonable means shall be employed by the Board to present and explain that position to residents and taxpayers of the community. A public budget hearing will be conducted in accordance with law. Each member of the Board and each district administrator shall be sufficiently acquainted with the budget and its underlying purposes to answer questions from members of the public.

The approved budget will be made available to the public in the form and at the places required by law. A simplified form of the budget may also be prepared annually and may be sent to each district resident, each parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student in public school, and representative of community organizations and distributed to each person attending the annual budget hearing.

The simplified budget may include the expenditure in each major category of current expense, capital items, and debt service; any anticipated change in tax rates; a summary of anticipated receipts; information that voters may use in comparing budget provisions in this school district with those in comparable districts; brief explanations of significant increases and decreases from the preceding budget and important transfers of expenditures from one classification to another; and a letter of transmittal from the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-51; 18A:22-10 et seq.; 18A:22-37 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



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) 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.

Continuation of current contracts and restrictions on subcontracting with vendors who are on the SAM list or proposed for disbarment 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.

2 CFR §200



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

FINANCES
6311/page 2 of 2
Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by
Federal Grants

Adopted: 28 June 2011
Revised: 15 March 2022



6320 PURCHASES SUBJECT TO BID

The Board of Education directs the establishment and conduct of bidding procedures that serve the public interest and provide each qualified vendor an equal opportunity to furnish goods and services to the district.

Every contract for the performance of work or the purchase or lease of materials or supplies not exempted by law will be subject to public bidding whenever the aggregate value of such a contract within one contract year exceeds the bid threshold established by law and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3.(a). Whenever possible, purchases will be aggregated; purchases may not intentionally be divided to avoid the requirements for competitive bidding as required in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-8. The purchase of textbooks and materials that exceed the bid threshold and are approved by the Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1 shall not require the further adoption of a resolution for purchase.

Bid specifications will be prepared and/or coordinated by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. Each bid specification will offer a common standard of competition and will assert the Board's right to accept reasonable equivalents and to reject all bids and readvertise. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to advertise for bids in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-21 without the prior approval of the Board, but shall inform the Board of any such advertisement at the Board meeting next following. Records of advertisements will be kept in detail sufficient to show that a reasonable number of qualified vendors were invited to bid.

Bids shall be opened publicly by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee before one or more witnesses at a previously designated time and place. Contracts will be awarded, on a resolution duly adopted by the Board, to the lowest responsible bidder who submits the lowest responsible bid, except that the Board may choose to reject all bids, to readvertise, or to purchase under a State contract. The Board may disqualify a bidder who would otherwise be determined to be the lowest responsible bidder in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4. Whenever two or more bids are the lowest bids submitted by responsible bidders, the Board shall determine to which bidder the contract will be awarded.

The bid of a vendor who claims, before bids are opened, a mistake or omission in its preparation will be returned unopened. A bidder who discovers a mistake or omission after bids have been opened may withdraw the erroneous bid provided he or she gives immediate written notice of the mistake or omission and certification, supported by clear evidence, that he or she exercised reasonable care in the examination of the specifications and preparation of the bid. Any bidder who withdraws an opened bid shall forfeit any bid security deposited with the bid in accordance with law.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

FINANCES
6320/page 2 of 2
Purchases Subject to Bid

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.4, pursuant to the authority granted the Commissioner of Education under N.J.S.A. 18A:55-2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-60, the Commissioner shall subject to review for the withholding of State funds any school district that fails to obey the provisions of the Public Contract law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq. The amount of funds to be withheld shall equal the amount of the contract awarded in violation of the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq. except for violations related to the award of contracts under the extraordinary unspecifiable services (EUS) provision which shall be governed by the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-46.1.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.4; 6A:27-9.1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 28 June 2011



6340 MULTIPLE YEAR CONTRACTS

The Board of Education may enter a multiple year contract for goods and services permitted by law whenever the extended contract will serve the needs of the district and yield greater return for the expenditure.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is directed to investigate the advantage to the district of multiple year contracts. Investigation should include, but need not be limited to, a comparison of the costs of multiple year and single year contracts, an analysis of trends in the costs and availability of the goods or services to be provided, the projected needs of the district, and an inquiry into the reliability and stability of the vendor.

Except for those contracts exempted from the requirement by law, all multiple year contracts will contain a cancellation clause or a clause conditioning annual extension of the contract on the appropriation of sufficient funds to meet the Board's obligation.

All multiple year contracts must be approved by the Board. When the estimated annual cost of a multiple year contract exceeds the bid threshold established by law and the subject of the contract is not exempt from bidding, the contract shall be advertised in accordance with law and the bidding procedures of this district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5; 18A:18A-42

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6350 COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING

Competitive contracting may be used in lieu of public bidding for specialized goods or services that exceed the bid threshold provided the process is administered by a purchasing agent, by legal counsel of the Board of Education, or by the School Business Administrator and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.1. et seq. Competitive contracting may only be used for the purposes provided in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.1. Unless an exception is provided for under N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42 permitting a longer contract duration, contracts awarded under competitive contracting may be for a term not to exceed five years.

The purchasing agent will prepare a request for proposal documentation, which will include all requirements deemed appropriate and necessary to allow for full and free competition between vendors, information necessary for potential vendors to submit a proposal, and a methodology by which the Board will evaluate and rank proposals received from vendors. The methodology for the awarding of competitive contracts will be based on an evaluation and ranking and will be developed in a way that is intended to meet the specific needs of the district and where such criteria will not unfairly or illegally discriminate against or exclude otherwise capable vendors. The methodology for awarding competitive contracts will comply with such rules and regulations as the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs may adopt in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A-4.4.

Request for Proposal documentation will be published in an official newspaper of the Board at least twenty days prior to the date established for the submission of proposals. The Board may charge a fee for the proposal documentation that will not exceed \$50.00 or the cost of reproducing the documentation, whichever is greater.

Each interested vendor will be required to submit a proposal which will include all the information required by the request for proposals. Failure to meet the requirements of the request for proposals may result in the Board disqualifying the vendor from further consideration. Under no circumstances will the provisions of a proposal be subject to negotiation by the Board.

If the Board, at the time of solicitation, utilizes its own employees to provide the goods or perform the services, or both considered for competitive contracting, the Board will, at any time prior to, but no later than the time of solicitation for competitive contracting proposals, notify affected employees of the Board's intention to solicit competitive contracting proposals pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.5.c. Employees or their representatives will be permitted to submit recommendations and proposals affecting wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment in such a manner as to meet the goals of the competitive contract. If employees are represented by an organization that has negotiated a contract with the Board, only the



bargaining unit will be authorized to submit such recommendations or proposals. When requested by such employees, the Board will provide such information regarding budgets and the costs of performing the services by such employees as may be available. Nothing will prevent such employees from making recommendations that may include modifications to existing labor agreements in order to reduce such costs in lieu of award of a competitive contract, and agreements implementing such recommendations may be considered as cause for rejecting all other proposals.

The purchasing agent will evaluate all proposals only in accordance with the methodology described in the request for proposals. After proposals have been evaluated, the purchasing agent will prepare a report evaluating and recommending the award of a contract or contracts. The report will be prepared pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.5.d. The report will be made available to the public at least 48 hours prior to the awarding of the contract, or when made available to the Board, whichever is sooner. The Board will have the right to reject all proposals for any of the reasons set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22.

Award of a contract will be made by resolution of the Board within sixty days of the receipt of the proposals, except that the proposals of any vendors who consent thereto, may, at the request of the Board, be held for consideration for such longer period as may be agreed.

The report prepared pursuant to this Policy and Regulation No. 6350 will become part of the public record and will reflect the final action of the Board. Contracts will be executed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-40.

The Secretary of the Board will publish a notice in the official newspaper of the Board summarizing the award of a contract pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.5g.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6360 POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Political Contribution Disclosure Requirements

In accordance with the requirements of Section 2 of P.L. 2005, Chapter 271 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26), the Board of Education shall have on file, to be maintained with other documents related to a contract, the following documents to award a contract to any business entity receiving a contract with an anticipated value in excess of \$17,500.00, regardless of the basis upon which the contract is awarded:

1. A Political Contribution Disclosure (PCD) form submitted by the business entity (at least ten days prior to award); and
2. A Business Registration Certificate (anytime prior to award).

“Business entity” means a for-profit entity that is natural or legal person, business corporation, professional services corporation, limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, business trust, association or any other legal commercial entity organized under the laws of New Jersey or any other State or foreign jurisdiction.

The \$17,500.00 contract amount is not related to the Board’s bid threshold and does not exempt the district from the requirements of the Public School Contracts Law or other applicable purchasing statutes.

The \$17,500 contract amount threshold is subject to the principle of aggregation rules in accordance with the Division of Local government Services guidance. Unlike the Public School Contracts Law, aggregation thresholds for this Policy and Chapter 271 purposes shall be calculated at the vendor level – meaning, when a vendor received more than \$17,500 in a school district’s fiscal year, a PCD form shall be required.

The disclosure provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26 do not apply in cases where there is a “public emergency” that requires the immediate delivery of goods or services.

Insurance companies and banks are prohibited under State law from making political contributions. However, because the PCD form reflects contributions made by partners, boards of directors, spouses, etc., PCD forms are required ten days prior to the approval of a depository designation resolution or insurance company contract awarded by the Board. A PCD form is also required when a contract in excess of \$17,500 is made to an insurance broker. A PCD form



is required from the company receiving the contract, regardless of the entity issuing an insurance policy.

PCD forms are required for Board of Education contracts in excess of \$17,500 with a New Jersey Department of Education “Approved In-State Private School for the Disabled.” Chapter 271 also applies to in-State private special education schools, educational services under any Federally funded program, early childhood school providers – DHS approved, and other similar programs.

If the school district spends more than \$17,500 in a school year with a newspaper, the selection of the newspaper is subject to the provisions of Chapter 271.

PCD forms are not required for regulated public utility services, as the Board is required by the Board of Public Utilities to use a specific utility. This exception does not apply to non-regulated public utility services, such as generated energy (not tariffed), or long-distance telephone services where other procurement practices are used.

PCD forms are not required for membership to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

A non-profit organization having proper documentation from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) showing it is registered with the IRS as a 501(c) type corporation is not required to file a PCD form.

A PCD form is not required for contracts with governmental agencies, including State Colleges and Universities.

If the original contract provided for the possibility of an extension(s), Chapter 271 compliance is not required if the extension/continuation on that original contract.

N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Local Finance Notices – 6/4/07 and 1/15/10

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 17 August 2010

Revised: 16 August 2011

Revised: 21 July 2021



6362 CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTRACT AWARDS

As a condition of receiving State aid, the school district shall comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3 to ensure the school district maintains honest and ethical relations with vendors and shall guard against favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, and corruption in its contracting processes and practices.

For the purposes of this Policy, “business” means any corporation, partnership, firm, enterprise, franchise, trust, association, sole proprietorship, union, political organization, or other legal entity but shall not include a local public school district or any other public entity. “Business entity” means any natural or legal person, business corporation, professional services corporation, limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, business trust, association or any other legal commercial entity organized under the laws of this State or of any other state or foreign jurisdiction. “Interest” means the ownership or control of more than ten percent of the profits or assets of a business entity or ten percent of the stock in the case of a business entity that is a corporation for profit, as appropriate.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3:

1. No Board of Education will vote upon or award any contract in the amount of \$17,500 or greater to any business entity which has made a contribution reportable by the recipient under P.L. 1973, c. 83 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) to a member of the Board of Education during the preceding one-year period.
2. Contributions reportable by the recipient under P.L. 1973, c. 83 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) to any member of the Board of Education from any business entity doing business with the school district are prohibited during the term of a contract.
3. When a business entity referred to in 2. above is a natural person, a contribution by that person’s spouse or child that resides therewith shall be deemed to be a contribution by the business entity. Where a business entity is other than a natural person, a contribution by any person or other business entity having an interest therein shall be deemed to be a contribution by the business entity.
4. The disclosure requirement set forth in section 2 of P.L. 2005, c. 271 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26) also shall apply when the contract is required by law to be publicly advertised for bids.



Contributions to Board Members and Contract Awards

A Business Entity Disclosure Certification (BED-C) shall be submitted by the business entity for all contracts of \$17,500 or greater in order to facilitate disclosure of contributions to Board members by a business entity. The BED-C shall be reviewed prior to the award of any contract in excess of \$17,500 to ensure the Board of Education's compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3(a).

The requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3 shall not apply to a contract when a district emergency requires the immediate delivery of goods or services. With the exception of districts previously subject to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-2.1(e), N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3 shall not apply to contributions made prior to its effective date.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.3

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 16 August 2011



6421 PURCHASES BUDGETED

The Board of Education directs the establishment of procedures for the purchase of budgeted goods and services that will make prudent use of district resources and yield the maximum value for the school district. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall authorize all purchases that are within a budget line item and are consistent with the purpose for which the funds were appropriated.

No purchase order may be placed until the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and/or designee has determined whether the proposed purchase is subject to bid, whether sufficient funds exist in the line item, and whether the goods are available elsewhere in the district.

Whenever the estimated value of a purchase or contract for goods or services other than professional services N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(1) and work by employees of the Board N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(3) is fifteen percent or more of the bid threshold established in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 and is not made under a state contract, the purchasing agent shall, whenever practicable, solicit at least two quotations from independent vendors. All quotations received will be attached to and retained with a copy of the voucher used to pay the vendor.

All contracts that are in the aggregate less than fifteen percent of the bid threshold may be awarded by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary without soliciting competitive quotations.

The purchase or contract may be awarded on the basis of the lowest responsible quotation received or to the vendor who submits the quotation most advantageous to the Board on the basis of price and other factors. If it is determined that it is impractical to seek quotations for an extraordinary, unspecifiable service or that the purchase or contract for which quotations were sought should not be awarded on the basis of the lowest quotation received, the reasons for that determination will be set forth in writing and attached to the resulting purchase order or contract.

Supplies commonly used in the various schools will be standardized to the extent that it is educationally feasible to do so. Alternate suggestions will be made to a requisitioner if better service, delivery, economy, or utility can be achieved by a change in the proposed order.

When a purchase order is placed or a contract entered, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall commit the expenditure against a specific budget line item or project category in order to guard against the creation of liabilities in excess of appropriations.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.; 18A:18A-37; 18A:22-8
N.J.A.C. 5:34-2.1; 5:34-2.2



POLICY

**NORTH CALDWELL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6422 BUDGET TRANSFERS

Except as otherwise provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.1 et seq., whenever the school district desires to transfer amounts among line items and program categories, the transfers shall be by resolution of the Board approved by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the Board. Each resolution shall indicate the exact amount of the transfers and from the applicable accounts or fund balance.

However, this Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.12 and this Policy as adopted by the Board, designates the Superintendent of Schools and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to approve such transfers, up to the amount of \$21,000, as are necessary between meetings of the Board. Transfers approved by the Superintendent shall be reported to the Board, ratified and duly recorded in the minutes at a subsequent meeting of the Board, but not less than monthly.

Transfers from line accounts that include waiver amounts approved by the Commissioner and expenditures and/or reallocations directed by the Commissioner are prohibited unless approved in writing by the Executive County Superintendent and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1. The Board shall submit written requests for transfers including the amount to be transferred, the account(s) to be reduced, the account(s) to be increased, the purpose, and justification. These transfers shall not be requested or made prior to December 1 of the applicable budget year and shall only be approved for an emergent circumstance(s).

Where actual audited undesignated general fund balance at the fiscal year-end exceeds the estimated amount reflected in the school district's originally approved budget that contained an adjustment to the tax levy limitation approved by the Commissioner, any excess amount shall be reserved for the offset of the Commissioner's waiver requests, if any, in the second subsequent year's budget and reflected as such in the CAFR for the budget year.

Whenever the Executive County Superintendent shall, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7-8, disapprove a portion of the school district's proposed budget because the district has not implemented all potential efficiencies in its administrative operations or because the budget includes excessive non-instructional expenses, the school district shall not transfer funds back into those accounts during the budget year.

Transfers of surplus amounts or any other unbudgeted or underbudgeted revenue to line items and program categories shall require the approval of the Commissioner of Education and shall only be approved between April 1 and June 30 for line items and program categories necessary to achieve the thoroughness standards established pursuant to section 4 of P.L. 2007, c.260



(N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-46) except that upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the Board, the Board may petition the Commissioner of Education for authority to transfer such revenue prior to April 1 due to an emergent circumstance and the Commissioner may authorize the transfer if he determines that the transfer is necessary to meet such emergency.

Transfers from any general fund appropriation account that, on a cumulative basis, exceed 10% of the amount of the account included in the school district's budget as certified for taxes shall require the approval of the Commissioner of Education. In a school district wherein the Commissioner of Education has directed an in-depth evaluation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14, the Board shall obtain the written approval of the Executive County Superintendent of Schools prior to implementing any Board authorized transfer of funds.

No transfer may be made under N.J.S.A 18A:22-8.1 from appropriations or surplus accounts for interest and debt redemption charges, capital reserve account or items classified as general fund expenses except to other items so classified, or to the capital projects fund to supplement the proceeds from a bond authorization or lease purchase agreement upon application to and a formal finding by the Commissioner that the transfer is in the best interest of both the students and taxpayers of the district after consideration of alternative corrective actions.

N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1; 18A:22-8.2

N.J.S.A. 6A:23A-13.1; 6A:23A-13.2; 6A:23A-13.3

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 14 September 2010



6423 EXPENDITURES FOR NON-EMPLOYEE ACTIVITIES, MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS

There may be school district activities where expenditures for non-employee activities, meals, and refreshments may occur. Expenditures for non-employee activities, meals, and refreshments for school district activities are allowed provided the expenses are in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8. For the purposes of this Policy, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, “activities” means events or functions provided or held for the benefit of students, dignitaries, and other “non-district” employees (e.g. parents) which are paid from public funds. “Dignitary” means a notable or prominent public figure; a high level official; or one who holds a position of honor. A dignitary, for purposes of this Policy, is not a school district employee or Board of Education member.

Allowable expenditures for non-employee school district activities shall include:

1. All reasonable costs, including light meals and refreshments, directly related to activities that benefit students and are part of the instructional program including expenditures for field trips and extracurricular programs that are not solely for entertainment. Nothing in this Policy or N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8 shall preclude the district from using student activity funds or accepting donations to support student activities that are solely for student entertainment;
2. All reasonable costs directly related to activities of dignitaries and other “non-district” employees (e.g. parents), including light meals and refreshments and any other directly related expense. Expenditures for this purpose shall be minimal and infrequent;
3. All reasonable costs of commencement and convocation activities for students; and
4. Expenditures related to district employees to the extent such employees are essential to the conduct of the activity.

The Board shall, at a minimum, take actions regarding student activities as follows:

1. Pre-approve field trip destinations;
2. Establish dollar thresholds for awards to recognize special accomplishments; and



3. Establish a budget supported by general fund revenues for each category of activity in a non-discriminatory manner (e.g. football, boys soccer, girls soccer, photography club). Student activity funds are excluded.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12 and State of New Jersey Department of Treasury, Office of Management and Budget Circular 08-19-OMB and 06-14-OMB, the following costs shall not be permitted using public funding:

1. Receptions, dinners, or other social functions held for or honoring any employee or group of employees of the district (e.g. breakfast, luncheon, dinner, or reception for retirees or award recipients). This does not prohibit the district from honoring employees without a social function or using public funds to support reasonable costs of employee recognition awards (e.g. teacher of the year awards, years of service awards). Use of public funds for reasonable costs of employee awards is a local discretionary expenditure;
2. Meals or refreshments served to guests at any athletic event or other games or contests; and/or
3. Expenses for alcoholic beverages.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and/or designee shall maintain documentation to support activities, meals, and refreshments at district events. The documentation shall include a description of the activity, the purpose/justification of the activity, expressed in terms of the goal(s) or objective(s) of the district, the make-up of the group participating in the activity, and the names and titles of Board members or employees included in the group.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6424 EMERGENCY CONTRACTS

Any contract may be negotiated or awarded for a Board of Education without public advertising for bids and bidding notwithstanding that the contract price will exceed the bid threshold when an emergency affecting the health or safety of occupants of school property requires the immediate delivery of goods or the performance of services.

An actual or imminent emergency must exist requiring the immediate delivery of the goods or the performance of the service. Emergency contracts may not be used unless the need for the goods or services could not have been reasonably foreseen or the need for such goods or services has arisen notwithstanding a good faith effort on the school district to plan for the purchase of any goods or services required by the school district. Under no circumstances shall emergency purchasing procedures be used to enter into a multi-year contract.

If the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is satisfied that an emergency exists, he/she shall be authorized to award a contract or contracts for such purposes as may be necessary to respond to the emergent needs pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-7 et seq.

If conditions permit, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall seek quotations from more than one source. If the expenditures are expected to be in excess of the bid threshold, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall attempt to obtain no fewer than three quotations.

As soon as possible, but within three (3) days of declaring the emergency, the Superintendent of Schools shall notify the Executive County Superintendent of the nature of the emergency and the estimated need for goods or services necessary to respond to it.

When emergency conditions have eased, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall utilize the regular purchasing system to obtain estimates from suppliers, vendors, and contractors for materials and/or services that will eliminate the circumstances that created the emergency.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall prepare and submit a final report to the Board on every occasion an emergency contract is negotiated or awarded in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-7.

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

N.J.A.C. 5:34-6.1

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 31 January 2012



6440 COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

The Board of Education recognizes that centralized, cooperative purchasing tends to maximize the value received for each dollar spent. The Administration is encouraged to seek savings that may accrue to this district by means of joint agreements for the purchase of goods or services with the governing body of the municipality or the county within whose boundaries the school district is wholly or partly located, or by means of contracts entered into by the New Jersey State Treasury Department, Division of Purchase and Property.

A cooperative pricing system is a purchasing system in which the lead agency advertises for bids, awards a master contract to the vendor providing for its own needs and for the prices to be extended to registered members, and notifies them of the bid prices awarded. The registered members then contract directly with the vendor for their own needs, subject to the specifications in the master contract.

A joint purchasing system is a cooperative purchasing system in which the lead agency has complete purchasing responsibility for the registered members, and the only contractual relationship is between the lead agency and the vendor.

A cooperative purchasing system is either a joint purchasing or cooperative pricing system.

When the lead agency is a Board of Education or Educational Service Commission and the entire membership of the cooperative purchasing system established and properly registered with the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services are Boards of Education, the purchase of work, materials or supplies shall be conducted pursuant to the Public Schools Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11 et seq.)

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to negotiate such joint agreements for goods and services which the Board may determine to be required and which the Board may otherwise lawfully purchase for itself with such approved contracting units as may be appropriate in accordance with State law, the policies of this Board, and the dictates of sound purchasing procedures.

No cooperative or joint purchase may be entered without Board approval of an agreement that specifies the categories of work, materials and supplies to be purchased; the manner of advertising for bids and the awarding of contracts; the method by which payment will be made by each participating Board of Education, municipality or county, and such other terms deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of the agreement. Agreements for cooperative and joint purchasing will be subject to all bidding requirements imposed by law. Purchases made through the State Treasury Department may be made without bid.



Each participant's share of expenditures for purchases under any such agreement shall be appropriated and paid in the manner set forth in the agreement and in the manner as for other expenses of the participant.

The Board may by contract or lease provide electronic data processing services for the Board of Education of another school district; and may undertake with such other Board, the joint operation of electronic data processing of their official records and other information relative to their official activities, services and responsibilities. The records and other information originating with any Board participating in such contract or lease may be combined, compiled, and conjoined with the records and other information of any and all participating local units for the purposes of such electronic data processing; and any provisions of law requiring such records to be kept confidential or to be retained by any Board or any officer or agency thereof shall be deemed to be isolated thereby.

A contract or lease to provide electronic data processing services shall set forth the charge for all services provided, or in the case of a joint undertaking the proportion of the cost each party thereto shall assume and specify all the details of the management of the joint undertaking, and any other matters that may be deemed necessary for insertion therein, and may be amended from time to time by the contracting parties.

Any party to a contract for joint operation of electronic data processing services may act as agent for any or all parties in acquiring, by lease, purchase or otherwise, any property, facilities or services, in appointing such officers and employees as may be necessary and directing its activities, to the same extent as a Board of Education is authorized to do separately.

In the event that any controversy or dispute shall arise among the parties (except a municipality or a county) to any such agreement, the same shall be referred to the County Superintendent of the county in which the districts are situated for determination and the determination shall be binding, subject to appeal to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board pursuant to law. In the event the districts are in more than one county, the controversy or dispute shall be referred to the County Superintendents of the counties for joint determination, and if they shall be unable to agree upon a joint determination within thirty days, the controversy or dispute shall be referred to the Commissioner of Education for determination.

In a cooperative purchasing system established and properly registered with the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services where the lead agency is a Board of Education or Educational Service Commission and the membership of the system is Boards of Education and local contracting units as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(1), the purchase of any work, materials or supplies shall be conducted pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10 through 14

N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 5:34-7



POLICY

**NORTH CALDWELL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

N.J.A.C. 6A:23-7.4

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 28 April 2021



6450 CHOICE OF VENDOR

The Board of Education recognizes its position as a major purchaser of goods and services in the community served by the school district. It is the intention of the Board to purchase goods and services of the requisite quality at the lowest possible cost and to invite widespread competition in order to achieve this end. Where all other considerations are equal, however, the Board will exercise a preference for dealing with established local merchants and service providers from within the boundaries of the school district.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to place purchase orders with local merchants and providers when their prices and terms are competitive with other vendors. Nothing in this policy shall be deemed to circumvent the requirements of law regarding public purchasing.

All vendors shall supply assurances that they do not practice discrimination as described in the administrative code. All vendors shall be informed that harassment of any kind, of district students or employees by their representatives is prohibited.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8; 18A:12-2; 18A:18A-15(b)

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6470 PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

The Board of Education directs the prompt payment of legitimate claims by suppliers of goods and services to the school district, provided that each bill or obligation of this Board is fully itemized and verified before a warrant is drawn for its payment.

When an invoice is received, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall verify the voucher is properly submitted, acceptable goods were received or satisfactory services rendered, the expenditure is included in the Board's budget and funds are available for its payment, and the amount of the invoice is correct.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall identify and investigate, if necessary, the reason for any increase to a purchase order. If it is found by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary that an increase to a purchase order is warranted, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall either approve a revision to the original purchase order with the reason noted, approve the issuance of a supplemental purchase order for the difference, or cancel the original purchase order and issue a new purchase order. If it is found an increase is not warranted, the purchase order shall be cancelled and the goods returned. In no instance shall an adjustment be made to a purchase order that changes the purpose or vendor of the original purchase order or a bid award price.

The school district's financial systems shall be programmed to:

1. Limit system access so that only appropriate Business office staff may make purchase order adjustments;
2. Reject adjustments in excess of any established approval thresholds;
3. Prevent unauthorized changes to be processed;
4. Reject payments where the sum of the invoice amount plus any previous invoices charged to the purchase order exceeds the sum of the original purchase order amount plus any authorized adjustments;
5. Reject duplicate purchase order numbers;
6. Reject duplicate invoice numbers; and
7. Prepare an edit/change report listing all payments made in excess of the originally approved purchase order amount.



The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall review on a monthly basis edit/change reports listing all payments made in excess of the originally approved purchase order amount to ensure that all payments made are properly authorized.

If funds are not available in the budget line account to which the expenditure will be charged, funds may be transferred in accordance with Policy 6422.

The Board must approve all claims for payment, except, such payments that are to be paid from funds derived from athletic events or other activities of student organizations.

All claims shall be fully itemized, verified and shall be submitted for Board review and approval or ratification. Claims must be submitted to the Board in the form of a list that includes the number, amount, and date of the warrant; the payee; the reason for the expenditure; and the account charged. All claims that equal or exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the bid threshold amount established pursuant of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3, except for payrolls and debt service, shall be verified by affidavit or by signed declaration in writing in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:19-3.

The list of claims must be accompanied by the original records that include copies of the purchase order, the receiving report, the vendor's invoice, and the purchase requisition. The list of approved warrants will be included in the minutes of the Board meeting.

When a claim for payment is duly approved in accordance with this policy, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and/or a designated staff member shall promptly prepare a warrant for payment, cancel the commitment placed against the appropriate account, and post the actual expenditure. All warrants shall be signed by the Board President, Board Secretary, Superintendent of School, and/or Treasurer of School Moneys as appropriate to the district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-36; 189A:18A-3; 18A:19-1 et seq.; 18A:19-3; 18A:19-4; 18A:19-4.1;
18A:22-8.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.10

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 10 June 2014



6470.01 ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER AND CLAIMANT CERTIFICATION

The Board of Education permits the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to use standard electronic funds transfer (EFT) technologies for EFTs for payment of claims pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq. and 5:31-4.1, implementing N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16.5.

“Electronic funds transfer” for the purpose of Policy and Regulation 6470.01 means any approved method of transferring moneys permitted by N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq. that does not involve the physical presentation of a paper check, draft, or similar paper instrument including, but not limited to, wire transfers, e-checks, automated clearing house (ACH) transfers, and transactions initiated by phone or fax.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16.5.b.(1), the Board of Education authorizes the use of only the forms of standard EFT technologies that are approved to be used by a Board of Education for EFTs for payment of claims. A Board of Education may not utilize procurement cards, charge cards, charge accounts, or any payment services such as PayPal or Venmo.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16.5.b.(2), the Board designates the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary as being responsible for the oversight and administration of the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16.5, N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq.; N.J.A.C. 5:31-4.1, and Policy and Regulation 6470.01.

The Board of Education will only initiate and approve electronic funds in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq. Standard EFT technologies shall incorporate, at a minimum, the features and safeguards outlined in N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.4(a). The Board will only utilize standard EFT technologies upon instituting, at a minimum, the fiscal and operational controls outlined in N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.4(b).

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall initiate a claim for payment by presenting a claim that has been approved by the Board, to be paid using an EFT technology. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall submit the claim for payment with all supporting documentation to the Superintendent of Schools or a designee who is not under the direct supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who shall review the claim for payment and authorize, in writing, the EFT claim using an EFT method.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

FINANCES

6470.01/page 2 of 2

Electronic Funds Transfer and
Claimant Certification

The Board of Education shall annually approve the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary as the person authorized to initiate a claim for payment and the Superintendent of Schools or a designee not under the direct supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary as the person responsible to review a claim for payment presented by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and authorize payment using an approved EFT method.

On no less than a weekly basis, activity reports on all transactions utilizing standard EFT technologies shall be reviewed by an individual designated and approved by the Board that is not under the direct supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and is not empowered to initiate or authorize EFTs.

Claimant certification for a Board of Education shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:19-3 and rules promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Education.

Providers of ACH and wire transfer services must be financial institutions chartered by a State or Federal agency, with the further requirement that these financial institutions providing ACH and wire transfer services be covered under the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act (GUDPA), N.J.S.A. 17:9-41 et seq.

EFTs through ACH must utilize Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) technology, which provide transaction related details including invoice numbers, pay dates, and other identifying information as appropriate for each transaction. The Board must approve an ACH Origination Agreement with the financial institution(s).

N.J.S.A. 18A:19-3

N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16.5

N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq.

Adopted: 28 April 2021



6471 SCHOOL DISTRICT TRAVEL

The Board of Education shall ensure the effective and efficient use of funds by adopting and implementing policies and procedures that are in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12 and State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Office of Management and Budget (NJOMB) Circulars 08-19-OMB and 06-14-OMB (OMB Circulars) and any superseding circulars pertaining to travel, meals, events and entertainment, and the additional requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7. If any superseding circulars of the Office of Management and Budget conflict with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7, the provisions of the superseding circulars shall govern.

A. Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Policy, “travel expenditures” means those costs paid by the school district using local, State, or Federal funds, whether directly by the school district or by employee reimbursement, for travel by school district employees and district Board of Education members, to the following five types of travel events:
 - a. Training and seminars - means all regularly scheduled, formal residential or non-residential training functions conducted at a hotel, motel, convention center, residential facility, or at any educational institution or facility;
 - b. Conventions and conferences - means general programs, sponsored by professional associations on a regular basis, which address subjects of particular interest to a school district or are convened to conduct association business. The primary purpose of employee attendance at conferences and conventions is the development of new skills and knowledge or the reinforcement of those skills and knowledge in a particular field related to school district operations. These are distinct from formal staff training and seminars, although some training may take place at such events;
 - c. School district sponsored events - means conferences, conventions, receptions, or special meetings where the school district plans, develops, implements, and coordinates the event and is the event’s primary financial backer. School district employees are actively involved in working the event and other employees may attend as participants;



- d. Regular school district business - means all regular official business travel, including attendance at meetings, conferences, and any other gatherings which are not covered by the definitions included in a., b., and c. above. Regular school district business travel also includes attendance at regularly scheduled in-State county meetings and Department of Education sponsored or association sponsored events provided free of charge and regularly scheduled in-State professional development activities with a registration fee that does not exceed \$150 per employee or Board member. Beginning in 2009-2010 the \$150 limit per employee or Board member may be adjusted by inflation; and
- e. Retreats - means meetings with school district employees and school Board members, at which organizational goals and objectives are discussed.

B. School District Travel Expenses

- 1. Any sections in either the State or Federal Circulars that conflict with New Jersey school law (N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1 et seq.) shall not be included in this Policy nor authorized under N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq. This includes, but is not limited to, the authority to issue travel charge cards as allowed under the State Circular, but not authorized for school districts under New Jersey school law.
- 2. School district travel expenditures shall include, but are not limited to, all costs for transportation, meals, lodging, and registration or conference fees directly related to participation in the event.
- 3. School district travel expenditures in accordance with this Policy and N.J.A.C. 6A:23-7.1 et seq. shall include costs for all required training and all travel authorized in school district employee contracts and school Board policies. This includes, but is not limited to, required professional development, other staff training and required training for Board members, and attendance at specific conferences authorized in existing employee contracts, provided that such travel meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-7.1 et seq.
- 4. All such expenditures are subject to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-7.1 et seq., including but not limited to, inclusion in the annual travel limit, prior Board approval, separate tracking, and per diem reimbursements.



C. School District Travel Requirements

1. All travel by Board of Education employees and Board members must be educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and all school district travel expenditures shall be:
 - a. Directly related to and within the scope of the employee's or Board member's current responsibilities and, for school district employees, the school district's professional development plan, the school building professional development plan, and an employee's individual professional development plan;
 - b. For travel that is critical to the instructional needs of the school district or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and
 - c. In compliance with State travel payment guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and with guidelines established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget; except those guidelines that conflict with the provisions of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes shall not be applicable, including, but not limited to, the authority to issue travel charge cards. The Board specifies in this Policy the applicable restrictions and requirements set forth in the State and Federal guidelines including, but not limited to, types of travel, methods of transportation, mileage allowance, subsistence allowance, and submission of supporting documentation including receipts, checks, or vouchers.
2. Reimbursement for all in-State and out-of-State travel shall be made pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.9:
 - a. Out-of-State travel events shall be limited to the fewest number of Board members or affected employees needed to acquire and present the content offered to all Board members or staff, as applicable, at the conclusion of the event. Where the event is sponsored by a New Jersey-based organization and targeted to employees and/or Board members of New Jersey school districts, reimbursement for lodging may be permitted only where the sponsoring organization obtains a waiver pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.11. Where the event is national or regional in scope and targeted to school district employees and/or Board members from multiple States, reimbursement for lodging may only be provided if the event occurs on two or more consecutive days and where home to event commute exceeds fifty miles.



- b. Where a travel event has a total cost that exceeds \$5,000, regardless of the number of attendees, or where more than five individuals from the district are to attend a travel event out-of-State, the school district shall obtain the prior written approval of the Executive County Superintendent. The Executive County Superintendent shall promptly review the request and render a decision within ten working days.
- c. For all employee and Board member travel events out of the country, regardless of cost or number of attendees, the school district shall obtain the prior written approval of the Executive County Superintendent. Such requests must be supported by detailed justification. The Executive County Superintendent shall promptly review the request and render a decision within ten working days. It is expected that approvals will be rare.

D. Travel Reimbursements

- 1. Travel reimbursements will be paid only upon compliance with all provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 and the Board's procedures and approval requirements. The Board will not ratify or approve payments or reimbursements for travel after completion of the travel event, except as provided at N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.4(d).

E. Board Member Voting On School District Travel

- 1. A Board member shall recuse him/herself from voting on travel if the Board member, a member of his/her immediate family, or a business organization in which he/she has an interest, has a direct or indirect financial involvement that may reasonably be expected to impair his/her objectivity or independence of judgment.
- 2. A Board member shall not act in his/her official capacity in any matter in which he/she or a member of his/her immediate family has a personal involvement that is or creates some benefit to the school official or member of his/her immediate family; or undertake any employment or service, whether compensated or not, which may reasonably be expected to prejudice his/her independence of judgment in the execution of his/her official duties.



F. Maximum Travel Budget

1. Annually in the prebudget year, the Board shall establish by Board resolution, a maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year which the school district shall not exceed. The Board resolution shall also include the maximum amount established for the prebudget year and the amount spent to date.
 - a. The maximum school district travel expenditure amount shall include all travel supported by local and State funds.
 - b. The Board may elect to exclude travel expenditures supported by Federal funds from the maximum travel expenditure amount. If Federal funds are excluded from the established maximum amount, the Board shall include in the resolution the total amount of travel supported by Federal funds from the prior year, prebudget year, and projected for the budget year.
 - c. Exclusion of Federal funds from the annual maximum travel budget does not exempt such travel from the requirements applicable to State and local funds.
2. The Board of Education, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3(b), authorizes an annual maximum amount per employee not to exceed \$1,500 for regular business travel only for which prior Board approval is not required.
 - a. The annual maximum shall not exceed \$1,500 and shall be subject to the approval requirements in N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1.
 - b. Regular school district business travel as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.2 includes attendance at regularly scheduled in-State county meetings and Department of Education sponsored or association sponsored events free of charge. It also includes regularly scheduled in-State professional development activities for which the registration fee does not exceed \$150 per employee or Board member.
 - c. Regular school district business travel as authorized in this Policy requires approval of the Superintendent prior to obligating the district to pay related expenses and prior to attendance at the travel event.



- (1) The Superintendent shall designate an alternate approval authority to approve travel requests in his/her absence when necessary to obtain timely Board approval.
- (2) Regulation 6471 provides the procedures for the internal levels of approval required prior to Superintendent or designee approval of the travel event, as applicable.

G. Travel Approval Procedures

1. All travel requests for employees of the district shall be approved in writing by the Superintendent of Schools and approved by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board, except where the Board has excluded regular business travel from prior approval pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3(b), prior to obligating the school district to pay related expenses and prior to attendance at the travel event.
 - a. The Superintendent shall designate an alternate approval authority to approve travel requests in his/her absence when necessary to obtain timely Board approval.
 - b. Regulation 6471 provides the procedures for the internal levels of approval required prior to the Superintendent's or designee's approval of the travel event, as applicable.
2. All travel requests for Board members shall require prior approval by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board, except where the Board has excluded regular business travel from prior approval pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3(b), and the travel shall be in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24 and N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1.
3. The Board may approve, at any time prior to the event, travel for multiple months as long as the Board approval, as detailed in Board minutes, itemizes the approval by event, total cost, and number of employees and Board members attending the event. General or blanket pre-approval is not authorized.
4. Where occasional unforeseen emergent situations arise wherein a travel request cannot obtain prior approval of the Board, justification shall be included in the text of the travel request. Such requests shall require prior written approval of the Superintendent or designee and the Executive County Superintendent or designee. The Board shall ratify the request at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Travel to conferences, conventions, and symposiums are not considered to be emergencies and shall not be approved after the fact.



5. The Board, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.4(d) excludes from the requirements of prior Board approval any travel caused by or subject to existing contractual provisions, including grants and donations, and other statutory requirements, or Federal regulatory requirements.
 - a. For the exclusion of prior Board approval to apply, the required travel event must be detailed, with number of employee(s), Board member(s), and total cost in the applicable contract, grant, donation, statute, or Federal regulation.
 - (1) This does not include general grant guidelines or regulations that are permissive but do not require the travel event, unless the specific travel event, number of employee(s), Board member(s) and total cost is detailed in the approved grant, donation, or other fund acceptance agreement.
 - (2) This does not include general contractual provisions in labor agreements for continuing education or professional development, except where the Board has included in its policy, a maximum amount per employee for regular business travel that does not require prior Board approval pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3.

H. Required Documentation for Travel

1. Neither the Superintendent or designee, nor the Board shall approve a travel request unless the written request for travel includes the following information:
 - a. Name and dates of event;
 - b. A list of Board members and/or employees to attend either by name or title;
 - c. Justification of the importance of these individuals attending the event;
 - d. Estimated cost associated with travel (if lodging is shared with others, the fact must be stated);
 - e. Copy of agenda or itinerary for travel and subsequent schedule of events;



- f. A brief statement that includes the primary purpose for the travel and the key issues that will be addressed at the event and their relevance to improving instruction or the operation of the school district;
 - g. For training events, whether the training is needed for a certification required for continued employment, continuing education requirements, requirements of Federal or State law, or other purpose related to the programs and services currently being delivered or soon to be implemented in the school district, or related to school district operations;
 - h. Account number and funding source – Federal, State, private, or local; and
 - i. In the case of annual events, total attendance and cost for the previous year.
 2. Detailed documentation shall be maintained on file in the school district which demonstrates compliance with the Board's travel policy, including travel approvals, reports, and receipts for all school district funded expenditures, as appropriate.
- I. Accounting for School District Travel
 1. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall prepare itemized travel budgets by function and object of expense for each cost center, department or location maintained in the school district's accounting system, as applicable, as part of the preparation of and documentation for the annual school district budget:
 - a. The aggregate amount of all travel budgets shall not exceed the Board approved maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3.
 2. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall maintain separate accounting for school district travel expenditures as necessary to ensure compliance with the school district's maximum travel expenditure amount. This may include, but need not be limited to, a separate or offline accounting of such expenditures or expanding the school district's accounting system. The tracking system shall be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the Board's policy and N.J.A.C. 6A:23-7, and shall be in a detailed format suitable for audit.



3. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee, shall review and approve all requests for travel expenditure reimbursement submitted for expenses incurred in the course of school district business as to cost and support documentation required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7:
 - a. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall not approve or issue payment of travel expenditures or reimbursement requests until all required documentation and information has been submitted to support the payment and shall not approve any travel expenditure that when added to already approved travel expenditures would exceed the Board approved maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year.
 4. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be responsible for the adequacy of documentation of transactions processed by their staff and the retention of that documentation to permit audits of their records.
 5. An employee of the Board, a Board member, or organization, shall not receive payment, either partial or full, for travel and travel-related expenses in advance of the travel pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1 et seq. The payment of travel and travel-related expenses shall be made personally by a school district employee or Board member and reimbursed at the conclusion of the travel event. This applies to travel-related purchases for which a purchase order is not applicable. This provision does not preclude the district from paying the vendor directly with the proper use of a purchase order (e.g., for registration, airline tickets, hotel).
- J. Sanctions for Violations of Travel Requirements
1. Any Board of Education that violates its established maximum travel expenditure as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, or that otherwise is not in compliance with the travel limitations set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 may be subject to sanctions by the Commissioner as authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-23 and N.J.S.A. 18A:4-24, including reduction of State aid in an amount equal to any excess expenditure pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-60.
 2. A person who approves any travel request or reimbursement in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 shall be required to reimburse the school district in an amount equal to three times the cost associated with attending the event pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12:



- a. As required in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.7(b)(1) the Board designates the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary as the person(s) with the final approval authority for travel and therefore shall be subject to this penalty.
 3. An employee or Board member who violates the school district's travel policy or these rules shall be required to reimburse the school district in an amount equal to three times the cost associated with attending the event pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12.
 4. In the event it is determined a violation of the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 has occurred after Board payment has been made, the Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible to ensure the sanctions as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.7 are imposed. If a violation is determined prior to payment or reimbursement of the travel event, no consequences as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.7 shall be imposed; however, the Superintendent may impose disciplinary action as necessary.
 5. The annual audit conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 shall include test procedures to ensure compliance with this Policy and travel limitations set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7 and N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12.
- K. Prohibited Travel Reimbursements
1. The following types of expenditures are not eligible for reimbursement:
 - a. Subsistence reimbursement for one-day trips, except for meals expressly authorized by and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.12;
 - b. Subsistence reimbursement for overnight travel within the State, except where authorized by the Commissioner in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.11;
 - c. Travel by Board members or employees whose duties are unrelated to the purpose of the travel event or who are not required to attend to meet continuing education requirements or to comply with law or regulation;
 - d. Travel by spouses, civil union partners, domestic partners, immediate family members, and other relatives;



- e. Costs for employee attendance for coordinating other attendees' accommodations at the travel event;
- f. Lunch or refreshments for training sessions and retreats held within the school district including in-service days and for employee participants traveling from other locations within the school district;
- g. Training to maintain a certification that is not required as a condition of employment (example: CPE credits to maintain a CPA license if the employee is not required to be a CPA for continued school district employment);
- h. Charges for laundry, valet service, or entertainment;
- i. Limousine services and chauffeuring costs to or during the event;
- j. Car rentals, either utilized for airport transportation or transportation at a conference, convention, etc., unless absolutely necessary for the conduct of school district business. Justification must accompany any request for car rentals. If approved, the most economical scheduling of car rental is to be used, including the use of subcompacts, discounted, and special rates. An example of the justified use of car rental is when an employee is out of State, making inspections at various locations, and the use of public transportation is impracticable. When car rental is authorized, the employee shall not be issued an advance payment for the anticipated expense associated with the rental;
- k. Alcoholic beverages;
- l. Entertainment costs including amusement, diversion, and social activities and any costs directly associated with such costs (such as tickets to shows or sports events, meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and gratuities);
- m. Gratuities or tips in excess of those permitted by Federal per diem rates;
- n. Reverse telephone charges or third party calls;
- o. Hospitality rooms;
- p. Souvenirs, memorabilia, promotional items, or gifts;



- q. Air fare without documentation of quotes from at least three airlines and/or online services; and
- r. Other travel expenditures that are unnecessary and/or excessive.

L. Travel Methods

1. For the purposes of this Policy, “transportation” means necessary official travel on railroads, airlines, shuttles, buses, taxicabs, school district-owned or leased vehicles, and personal vehicles.
2. The purchase or payment of related transportation expenses shall be made by purchase order or personally by a school district employee or Board member and reimbursed at the conclusion of the travel event. An actual invoice or receipt for each purchase or expense shall be submitted with a claim for reimbursement.
3. Pursuant to OMB Circulars, the following travel methods requirements apply:
 - a. Air and rail tickets shall be purchased via the Internet, if possible, using airline or online travel services such as Travelocity, Expedia, or Hotwire;
 - b. Air travel shall only be authorized when determined that it is necessary and advantageous to conduct school district business:
 - (1) The most economical air travel should be used, including the use of discounted and special rates;
 - (2) The following options should be considered when booking tickets:
 - (a) Connecting versus nonstop flights;
 - (b) Departing earlier or later compared to the preferred departure time;
 - (c) Utilizing alternative airports within a city, i.e. Chicago, Illinois – Midway Airport versus O’Hare Airport;
 - (d) Utilizing alternative cities, i.e. Newark versus Philadelphia;
 - (e) Utilizing "low cost" airlines; and



- (f) Exploring alternate arrival and/or departure days.
- (3) No employee or Board member can earn benefits as a result of school district funded travel. Employees and Board members are prohibited from receiving "Frequent Flyer" benefits accruing from school district funded travel;
- (4) Airfare other than economy (i.e., Business or First Class) shall not be fully reimbursed by the school district except when travel in such classes:
 - (a) Is less expensive than economy;
 - (b) Avoids circuitous routings or excessive flight duration; or
 - (c) Would result in overall transportation cost savings.
- (5) All airfare other than economy and not covered by the above exceptions purchased by an employee or Board member shall only be reimbursed at the economy rate for the approved destination;
- (6) Cost estimates on travel requests and associated authorizations shall be consistent with current airline tariffs, with consideration of available special fares or discounts, for the requested destination;
- (7) Airline tickets shall not be booked until all necessary approvals have been obtained;
- (8) Justification shall be required when actions by a traveler result in additional expenses over and above the authorized travel request. Sufficient justification shall be considered only for factors outside the control of the purchaser. Additional expenses without sufficient justification shall not be reimbursed; and
- (9) Justification shall accompany requests for airline ticket reimbursement when purchased by employees or Board members



contrary to the above regulations. Sufficient justification shall be considered only for factors outside the control of the purchaser. Noncompliant purchases without sufficient justification shall not be reimbursed. Reimbursement of purchases with sufficient justification shall be otherwise permitted and reimbursed in accordance with the above procedures.

- c. Rail travel shall only be authorized when determined that it is necessary and advantageous to conduct school district business:
 - (1) The most economical scheduling of rail travel shall be utilized, including excursion and government discounts, whenever applicable;
 - (2) When one employee or Board member is traveling within the Northeast Corridor, NJ Transit shall be used as the rail option. Use of Amtrak will not be authorized unless it is the only means of travel available;
 - (3) The use of high speed rail services, such as Acela, shall not be authorized;
 - (4) When two or more employees and/or Board members are traveling to the same event in the Northeast Corridor (between Boston, MA and Washington, DC), rail travel shall not be authorized. In those cases, the travelers must use a school district vehicle or, if not available, a personally-owned vehicle must be used; and
 - (5) All rail travel, including rail travel in the Northeast Corridor must be processed in the same manner as prescribed for air travel above.

- d. Use of a school district-owned or leased vehicle shall be the first means of ground transportation. Use of a personally-owned vehicle on a mileage basis shall not be permitted for official business where a school district-owned or leased vehicle is available:
 - (1) Mileage allowance in lieu of actual expenses of transportation shall be allowed at the rate authorized by the annual State Appropriations Act, or a lesser rate at the Board's discretion for



an employee or Board member traveling by his/her personally-owned vehicle on official business:

- (a) In accordance with the OMB circular, if any condition in an existing negotiated contract is in conflict with the circular, such as the mileage reimbursement rate, the provision of the contract will prevail;
- (b) Parking and toll charges shall be allowed in addition to mileage allowance;
- (c) Reimbursement for travel to points outside the State by automobile shall be permitted when such arrangements prove to be more efficient and economical than other means of public transportation;
- (d) In determining the relative costs of private and public transportation, all associated costs (i.e., tolls, taxicabs, airport, or station transfers, etc.) shall be considered;
- (e) All employees and Board members using privately-owned vehicles in the performance of their duties for the school district shall present a New Jersey Insurance Identification Card indicating that insurance coverage is in full force and effect with companies approved by the State Department of Banking and Insurance. The card shall be made available to the Superintendent or designee before authorization to use privately-owned vehicles;
- (f) Employees and Board members who are out-of-State residents must provide appropriate insurance identification in lieu of the New Jersey Insurance Identification Card;
- (g) School district-owned or leased vehicles shall be utilized in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.12;
- (h) Necessary taxicab charges are permitted. However, travel to and from airports, downtown areas, and between hotel and event site shall be confined to regularly scheduled shuttle service, whenever such service is complimentary or



is less costly. If shuttle service is not available, taxicabs may be used; and

- (i) Cruises are not permitted for travel events or transportation.

M. Routing of Travel

1. Pursuant to OMB Circulars:

- a. All travel shall be by the most direct, economical, and usually-traveled route. Travel by other routes as a result of official necessity shall only be eligible for payment or reimbursement if satisfactorily established in advance of such travel.
- b. In any case where a person travels by indirect route for personal convenience, the extra expense shall be borne by the individual.
- c. Reimbursement for expenses shall be based only on charges that do not exceed what would have been incurred by using the most direct, economical, and usually traveled route.

N. Subsistence Allowance – Overnight Travel

- 1. Pursuant to the OMB Circulars, one-day trips that do not involve overnight lodging shall not be eligible for subsistence reimbursement, except for meals expressly authorized by and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.12.
- 2. Pursuant to the OMB Circulars, generally, overnight travel shall not be eligible for subsistence reimbursement if travel is within the State. Overnight travel is permitted if such travel is authorized pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.11(c), or is a required component of a grant, donation, or other funding agreement with the district. The specific required overnight in-State travel event must be detailed in the approved grant, donation, or other fund acceptance agreement along with the number of employee(s), Board member(s), and total cost. All reimbursements are subject to these rules unless the funding acceptance agreement specifies otherwise.
- 3. The Commissioner is authorized to grant waivers for overnight travel for school Board members and school district employees to attend in-State conferences in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.11(c). If a waiver is granted by the Commissioner, it shall permit reimbursement for travel expenses for only those individuals whose home to the convention commute exceeds fifty miles.



4. Overnight travel within the State shall not be eligible for subsistence reimbursement if travel is on the day prior to the start of the conference. Reimbursement shall be prohibited for lodging prior to check-in time for the first day of the event or after check-out time on the last day of the event.
5. The United States General Services Administration publishes a schedule of Federal per diem rates in the Federal Register for approved overnight travel by the event location. The latest Federal per diem rates schedule for lodging, meals, and incidental expenses by location can be found at www.gsa.gov. The following restrictions apply to allowable per diem reimbursements.
 - a. Allowable per diem reimbursement for lodging, meals, and incidentals shall be actual reasonable costs, not to exceed the Federal per diem rates for the event location. Registration and conference fees are not subject to the Federal per diem rate caps. If the event location is not listed, the maximum per diem allowance shall be \$31 for meal/incidental expenses and \$60 for lodging, or amounts listed in any superseding NJOMB circular.
 - b. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12(o), reimbursement for lodging expenses for overnight travel, out-of-State or in-State as authorized by the Commissioner, may exceed the Federal per diem rates if the hotel is the site of the convention, conference, seminar or meeting, and the going rate of the hotel is in excess of Federal per diem rates.
 - (1) If the hotel at the site of the current travel event is not available, lodging may be paid for similar accommodations at a rate not to exceed the hotel rate at the site of the current event.
 - (2) If there is no hotel at the site of the current travel event (e.g. Atlantic City Convention Center), then reimbursement for lodging shall not exceed the Federal per diem rate.
 - c. If the meal is not part of a one-sum fee for a travel event, reimbursement may be approved for the full cost of an official convention meal that the employee or Board member attends, when such meal is scheduled as an integral part of the convention or conference proceedings.
 - (1) Receipts shall be submitted in order to obtain reimbursement in such situations. The amount of the Federal per diem rate for the



corresponding meal shall be deducted from that day's subsistence allowance.

- d. The allowance for a meal or meals, or incidentals shall not be eligible for reimbursement when included and paid in the registration fee, the cost of lodging or transportation charge.
 - e. Receipts shall be required for all hotel and incidental expenses.
 - (1) Meal expenses under the Federal per diem allowance limits do not require receipts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12.o.(3).
 - f. In any case in which the total per diem reimbursement is greater than the Federal per diem rates, the costs shall be considered excessive in the absence of substantial justification accompanying the travel voucher submitted by the employee or Board member. In such cases, receipts shall be submitted for all costs including meals.
 - g. Employees and Board members shall patronize hotels and motels that offer special rates to government employees unless alternative lodging offers greater cost benefits or is more advantageous to the conduct of school district business.
 - h. Actual subsistence expenses shall not be reimbursable if paid by the traveler to a member of his/her family, to another school district employee, or to a member of the family of another school district employee.
- O. Meal Allowance – Special Conditions – And Allowable Incidental Travel Expenditures
- 1. Meals for in-State travel shall not be eligible for reimbursement except as expressly authorized within N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.
 - 2. Meals during one-day, out-of-State trips required for school business purposes may be authorized for breakfast, lunch, and/or dinner in an amount permitted by NJOMB. The Commissioner shall post the most current rates on the Department of Education website for reference.
 - 3. Lunch for training sessions and retreats may be authorized for an amount up to \$7 per person only when it is necessary that employees or Board members



remain at a site other than their school district and there are no viable options for lunch at the off-site location.

- a. If lunch is included in a one-sum registration fee for the training session, the full amount is eligible for reimbursement if reasonable.
 - b. Refreshments for breaks may also be provided at training sessions and retreats held at a site other than the school district. Providing lunch for staff meetings and in-service days or for staff that come from other parts of the school district shall not be permitted (See N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.12(d)).
 - c. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12a(1)(d), employee and Board member retreats shall be held onsite unless there is no school district site available.
4. Subsistence expenses for an employee or Board member shall not be allowed at the school district or within a radius of ten miles thereof, except for meals expressly authorized by and in accordance with the provisions of Section O of this Policy and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.12. Non-allowed expenses include, but are not limited to, meals and refreshments for staff meetings and in-service days.
 5. Reimbursement may be approved for the cost of an official luncheon or dinner, up to \$7 and \$10, respectively, that an employee or Board member is authorized to attend, where such a meal is scheduled as an integral part of an official proceeding or program related to school district business and the employee's responsibilities.
 - a. School district business above refers to the management operations of the district and does not refer to activities that benefit students and are part of the instructional program. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8(b)(4), all reasonable expenditures related to district employees that are essential to the conduct of a student activity are permitted.
 6. Regular meetings, special meetings, and work sessions of the Board of Education shall be limited to light meals and refreshments for all Board members.
 - a. The meals may be served to employees who are required to attend the event and where it is impractical for the employee to commute to and from his or her residence between the end of the work day and the beginning of the event, or where the employee is required to remain at the school district to prepare for the event.



- b. The school district shall acquire the light meals and refreshments by the solicitation of at least three quotes. Quotes may be on a monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or annual basis.
 - c. Where the school district's food service program can prepare comparable meals at a lower cost, the food service program shall be used.
 - d. The average cost per meal shall not exceed \$10.
 - e. The school district shall purchase or prepare foods that are sufficient to provide each Board member, dignitary, non-employee speaker, or allowable staff member one meal. Meals should be carefully ordered to avoid left-over food. Unintended left-over food should be donated to a charitable shelter or similar facility, if at all possible.
7. Allowable incidental travel expenses are defined as those that are essential to transacting official business.
- a. Charges for telephone calls on official business may be allowed. The voucher must show the dates on which such calls were made, the points between which each call was made and the cost per call.
 - b. Employees and Board members using their personally-owned telephone for business may request reimbursement, less Federal Communications Tax. Calls for business are tax exempt and the telephone company will make allowances for the tax if the employee or Board member certifies to the telephone company when paying bills for personally-owned phones that said calls were business calls.
 - c. Incidental expenses, when necessarily incurred by the traveler in connection with the transaction of official business, may be submitted for reimbursement only when the necessity and nature of the expense are clearly and fully explained on the travel voucher and the voucher is approved. Travel vouchers shall be supported by receipts showing the quantity and unit price.
- P. Records and Supporting Documentation
- 1. All persons authorized to travel on business must keep a memorandum of expenditures chargeable to the school district, noting each item at the time the expense is incurred, together with the date incurred.



2. The travel voucher shall be completed by the employee or Board member to document the details of the travel event. The travel voucher must be signed by the employee or Board member to certify to the validity of the charges for which reimbursement is sought. The form must also bear the signatures of approval officials for processing.
3. Sufficient documentation shall be maintained centrally by the school district to support payment and approval of the travel voucher.
4. Each person authorized to travel shall submit a brief report that includes the primary purpose for the travel, the key issues addressed at the event and their relevance to improving instruction or the operations of the school district. This report shall be submitted prior to receiving reimbursement.
5. Documentation for requests for travel reimbursement shall show:
 - a. The dates and individual points of travel, number of miles traveled between such points, and kind of conveyance used;
 - b. If the distance traveled between any given points is greater than the usual route between these points, the reason for the greater distance must be stated;
 - c. The hours of the normal work day and actual hours worked must be shown when requesting meal reimbursement for non-overnight travel;
 - d. Original receipts shall be required for all reimbursable expenses, except for meals that qualify for per diem allowances and for parking meters;
 - e. Actual vendor receipts for personal credit card charges shall be attached to reimbursement requests. Credit card statements shall not be accepted as documentation of expenses;
 - f. Personal charges on a hotel bill shall be deducted and shown on the bill;
 - g. When lodging is shared jointly, the fact must be stated on the travel voucher;
 - h. Where travel is not by the most economical, usually-traveled route, the employee or Board member reimbursement request shall set forth the details of the route, the expenses actually incurred, the hour of departure,



- the hour of arrival, and an explanation for the use of costlier travel arrangements;
- i. When travel is authorized in the employee's or Board member's own automobile on a mileage basis, the points between which travel was made and the distance traveled between each place must be shown. A statement as to ownership of the auto or other conveyance used, as well as a certification that liability insurance is in effect, must be documented;
 - j. Reimbursement requests must be supported by other receipts as required;
 - k. The voucher shall be itemized; and
 - l. Reimbursement requests shall be rendered monthly when in excess of \$25. Travel for a single travel event must be reported as soon as possible after the trip.
6. All outstanding travel vouchers for the school year ending June 30 shall be submitted as soon as possible after June 30 regardless of amount, notwithstanding N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.13(e)(12).
 7. Travel mileage reimbursement requests of the just completed school year, that are not submitted by July 30 or the date approved by the district for the closing of books, whichever is earlier, for the just completed school year shall not be approved or paid.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.9; 6A:23A-7 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 16 November 2021



6472 TUITION ASSISTANCE

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of advanced educational experience, coursework, and degrees for employees. The Board of Education may provide tuition assistance to an employee in accordance with contract provisions in a collective bargaining agreement, an individual employment contract, or as per any other employment agreement or contract approved by the Board.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.5, in order for the Board of Education to provide tuition assistance to an employee for coursework taken at an institution of higher education or additional compensation upon the acquisition of additional academic credits or completion of a degree program at an institution of higher education, the institution shall be a duly authorized institution of higher education as defined in Section 3 of P.L. 1986, c.87 (C.18A:3-15.3).

The employee shall be required to obtain approval from the Superintendent of Schools prior to enrollment in any course for which tuition assistance is sought. In the event Superintendent denies the approval, the employee may appeal denial to the Board of Education. In the case of tuition assistance for the Superintendent of Schools, the approval shall be obtained from the Board of Education.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.5.c, tuition assistance or additional compensation shall be provided only for a course or degree related to the employee's current or future job responsibilities.

Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.,5 shall be construed to limit the authority of the Board to establish more stringent requirements for the provision of tuition assistance or additional compensation. The provisions of this Policy and N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.5 shall not be deemed to impair an obligation set forth in a collective negotiations agreement or an individual contract of employment in effect on May 6, 2010.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8.5

Adopted: 31 January 2012



6510 PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION

The most substantial allocation of public funds for the operation of the school district is that made to the employees of the Board of Education for their services. Compensation will be tendered only to persons duly employed by this Board and only for services rendered.

Each Board resolution to employ or reemploy a person will include the person's name, position, and tenure status; the salary or rate of pay the person is to receive, the method of payment, the wage guide from which wages are derived, and the budget category to which the wages are to be charged; the period of time for which employment is authorized; and the school, grade, class or special assignment, as appropriate.

No person may be assigned duties as a substitute employee whose employment has not been approved by the Board. The list to be approved by the Board will include the names of recommended substitutes, the duties to which each may be assigned, and the rate of pay. Substitute authorization will ordinarily be valid for one school year.

The minutes of Board meetings will record personnel actions of the Board, to include, but not limited to, the appointment, promotion, resignation, retirement, death, discharge, compensation, or leave of absence for each employee. The minutes will also include effective dates for personnel action.

Certain categories of staff members designated by the Superintendent of Schools, shall be required to use a time clock or sign in and out of work daily in order to verify days and hours worked. The service of extra-duty personnel must be certified by the appropriate supervisor before payment can be made.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to withhold salary or wages for services not rendered, in accordance with Board policy.

Staff members shall be paid in accordance with the provisions in their collective bargaining agreement and/or in accordance with a schedule provided to all employees prior to the beginning of the contract or school year.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.7, beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, at least once every three years, between the months of September through May, the Superintendent of Schools shall require each district employee to report to a central location and produce picture identification and sign for release of his or her paycheck or direct deposit voucher. The accepted picture identification shall be in the form of a district-issued identification card, valid drivers' license, official passport, or other picture identification issued by a State, county, or other local government agency.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

FINANCES
6510/page 2 of 2
Payroll Authorization

The Superintendent of Schools shall designate an appropriately qualified staff member to match the picture identification to the position control roster maintained by the office of personnel or human resources prior to release of the pay check or direct deposit voucher. If the district elects to conduct this payroll verification prior to the district's required implementation of the position control roster pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.8, the district may use similar and suitable office of personnel or human resources generated listing of employees. Where no appropriate identification can be produced, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall withhold paychecks or stop direct deposits until such time the payee/district employee can produce appropriate identification or until an investigation and corrective action is concluded, as appropriate to the circumstances.

Upon completion of the payroll check distribution verification procedures set forth in this Policy and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.7, the Superintendent of Schools shall submit a certification of compliance, in a form prescribed by the Department of Education, to the Executive County Superintendent. Verification of the district's compliance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.7 will be required as part of the annual audit.

The payroll journal will be certified by the Board Secretary, the President of the Board, and approved by the Superintendent.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-35; 18A:19-9 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.7

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6511 DIRECT DEPOSIT

The Board of Education may determine to have the net pay of all school district employees directly deposited in a specific banking institution in a checking account, savings account, or share account designated in writing by the employee in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:14-15h.

If the Board approves a direct deposit program, compliance by an employee shall be mandatory. However, the Board may grant an exemption from the mandatory requirements of N.J.S.A. 52:14-15h on such terms and conditions as the Board deems necessary.

The Board shall make available for those employees required to have their net pay direct deposited in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:15-15h, all information concerning net pay, any accompanying information approved for distribution with net pay, and W-2 forms in accordance with applicable Federal law, only on the Internet with restricted access and policies and procedures to protect the integrity and confidentiality of the information. The Board will continue to complete the payroll check distribution verification process as required in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.7 and Policy 6510.

In the event the Board of Education determines to implement a mandatory direct deposit program in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-15h, the Board shall annually adopt a resolution to implement the direct deposit requirements of N.J.S.A. 52:14-15h. The Board approved resolution shall designate the school district's banking institution that shall be used to implement the direct deposit program and shall indicate any employee group or category that are exempt from the Board's direct deposit requirements.

N.J.S.A. 52:14-15h
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.7

Adopted: September 16, 2014



6520 PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

The Board of Education shall, in accordance with law or employee authorization, make deductions from an employee's paycheck and remit the amounts deducted to the agent designated by the employee.

Deductions will routinely be made as required for federal income tax, social security and medicare; New Jersey income tax, unemployment assistance, and other miscellaneous taxes; and by the New Jersey Division of Pensions.

Deductions may also be made, provided they have been duly authorized by the employee in writing, for contributions on the employee's behalf for:

1. The payment of premiums for group life, accidental death or dismemberment, hospitalization, medical, surgical, major medical, health and accident, and legal insurance plans, N.J.S.A. 18A:16-13;
2. The employee's participation in a summer payment plan;
3. Tax sheltered annuities or custodial accounts, N.J.S.A. 18A:66-127;
4. Bona fide organizational dues, N.J.S.A. 52:14-15.9e.

Contributions shall be made as soon as is reasonably possible after the funds have been deducted from an employee's salary. No contribution shall be made on behalf of an employee until the amount contributed has been deducted from the employee's salary.

No more than five accounts will be approved for remittance at any one time.

An employee who wishes to pay into a tax sheltered annuity or mutual fund offered by a firm not approved by this Board for payroll deductions must make his/her payment individually.

No Board employee shall withhold or pay to another or purchase or have assigned, other than by court order, any compensation for the services rendered by an employee of this district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-9; 18A:66-19; 18A:66-30; 18A:66-78; 18A:66-128

N.J.S.A. 43:3C-9

N.J.S.A. 52:14-15.9; 52:18A-107 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 54:8A-9

N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.8; 6A:23-2.10

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6620 PETTY CASH

The Board of Education authorizes the establishment of petty cash funds in accordance with this policy. The Board directs the implementation of appropriate controls to protect the funds from abuse.

The Board hereby establishes imprest petty cash funds in the care of the following persons and in the following amounts:

<u>Responsible Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Maximum Single Expenditure</u>
Superintendent	\$100.00	\$50.00
School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary	\$150.00	\$50.00
Grandview School Principal	\$ 50.00	\$25.00
Gould School Principal	\$ 50.00	\$25.00
Director of Special Services	\$ 50.00	\$25.00

Petty cash funds may be disbursed only for the immediate payment of comparatively small expenditures and may not be used to circumvent the regular purchasing procedures of this district. Each request for petty cash funds must be in a written document that is signed by the person making the request; supporting documents, if any, will be affixed to the request.

Each responsible person shall insure that:

1. Petty cash funds are spent only for postage, delivery charges, office supplies, and miscellaneous purchases;
2. Each request for funds is made in writing signed by the requestor and any confirming papers attached; and
3. The petty cash box is secured daily.

The custodian of a petty cash fund shall submit to the Board Secretary a request for replenishment when the moneys available in the fund have declined to fifty percent or less of the authorized amount of the fund. The Board Secretary shall prepare a voucher for approval by the Board. The voucher will include disbursement slips to support the amount of the replenishment and its allocation to any account.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

FINANCES
6620/page 2 of 2
Petty Cash

The petty cash box must be secured daily. All petty cash funds will be closed out for audit at the end of the school year, and unused funds will be returned to the depository. The custodian of each fund will report to the Board on amounts disbursed from the fund not less than once each year.

N.J.S.A. 2C:21-15

N.J.S.A. 18A:19-13; 18A:23-2

N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.9 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6660 STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND

The Board of Education directs the establishment of a student activity fund for the financial administration of co-curricular activities operated for the benefit of students and duly approved by the Board.

The student activity fund will include moneys collected for and dedicated to the purposes of student government, clubs, publications, school trips, the school band and orchestra, and other school activities.

The Building Principal shall be responsible for the administration of the student activity fund. The fund will be audited annually and will be administered under appropriate accounting controls. The books of account will record income and expenses separately for each approved co-curricular program.

All funds collected must be turned in to the Main office within forty-eight hours of collection and must be deposited on the day they are received. Copies of checks are to be made and the date received should be written on the copies.

All payments for supplies, equipment, and services for the co-curricular program will be made in accordance with established purchasing procedures of the district. Purchase orders for goods and services purchased through the student activity fund will be approved by the Building Principal. Disbursements will be made by check and only upon the request of a staff advisor and the approval of the Building Principal.

All moneys accumulated in the account of a specific class or activity will, upon the graduation of that class or the discontinuance of the activity, revert to the student activity fund.

N.J.S.A. 18A:19-14; 18A:23-2

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 3 December 2013



6660.1 COLLECTION AND HANDLING OF SIXTH GRADE ACTIVITY FUNDS

It is recognized that in the sixth grade, program monies are collected and deposited for the purpose of supporting the outdoor education program and other sixth grade activities. It is further recognized that a balance may occur in any given year in the sixth grade activity fund. These funds shall be subject to the following regulations:

1. All funds shall be deposited in the sixth grade activity fund account and designated for the camp program and other sixth grade activities. Such funds shall be filed for audit.
2. If a balance of over \$2,500.00 should occur in the sixth grade activity account, these funds shall be used for expenses incurred in the execution of the camping program the following school year.
3. Withdrawal of all money shall be properly receipted. The camping director will authorize the expenditures to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and/or Superintendent, who will sign all checks.
4. The director shall submit, annually prior to December 1, a budget to the Board for approval. In addition, student fees for the outdoor education program shall be determined by April 1 and submitted to the Board for approval.
5. The director shall report annually by June 30, a program and fiscal report to the Board.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6700 INVESTMENTS

The Board of Education directs the prompt investment at interest of any unencumbered funds available for the discretionary use of the Board. Such funds may be invested in:

1. Bonds or other obligations of the United States;
2. New Jersey Cash Management Fund;
3. FDIC insured deposits having maturities of not more than one hundred eighty days issued by any domestic commercial bank, the long term debt of which is rated A-2 or the equivalent thereof by Standard and Poor's; and
4. Securities issued by the U.S. Treasury that are guaranteed by the direct full faith and credit pledge of the U.S. government having maturities of not more than one hundred eighty days from date of acquisition which securities are to be purchased at no more than their "par" value.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to invest funds in accordance with this policy.

Any interest earned on the investment of district funds will be combined with general district revenues.

The Treasurer shall report to the Board each month the cash in all accounts on deposit and all investment assets. The Board Secretary shall report to the Board each month the amount of funds in investment, investment interest earned and all investment transactions.

N.J.S.A. 17:9-41 et seq.; 17:12B-241
N.J.S.A. 18A:17-34; 18A:17-36; 18A:20-37; 18A:24-47
N.J.S.A. 40:3-7
N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14; 40A:5-15.1

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6740 RESERVE ACCOUNTS

The Board of Education or Board of School Estimate, as appropriate, may at any time establish by Board resolution a capital reserve account, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and 3, and 18A:7G-31.

Funds in the capital reserve account shall not be used for current expenses, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.2, and shall only be used for purposes as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(b). The Board of Education may increase the balance in the capital reserve account by appropriating funds in the annual general fund budget certified for taxes to meet the needs of the Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) that are not met by State support. The balance in the account may also be increased by requesting approval from the Executive County Superintendent, as the Commissioner's designee, to appropriate any excess unreserved general funds balance as calculated in the supporting documentation of the proposed budget into capital reserve in the proposed budget pursuant to N.J.S.A. 6A:26-2. The Board of Education, at its option, may satisfy the withdrawal approval requirements set forth in N.J.A.S. 6A:23A-14.1(h) in accordance with the procedures as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(d).

The Board of Education may request express approval of the voters for appropriation of additional amounts into the capital reserve in accordance with the procedures as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(e). The Board of Education shall not deposit into a capital reserve account audited excess undesignated, unreserved general fund balance. The Board of Education shall reserve and designate such funds in the subsequent year's budget pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.5(b). The Board of Education shall maintain an amount of funds in the capital reserve account that does not exceed the amount needed to implement capital projects in the school district's LRFP that are not met by State support.

The Board of Education may withdraw funds from the capital reserve account at any time in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(h). However, the Board of Education or Board of School Estimate, as appropriate may at any time, apply to the Commissioner for approval to withdraw funds from its capital reserve account for uses authorized in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(b). The Board of Education or Board of School Estimate, as appropriate, may make a withdrawal pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(i) only upon receipt of written approval of the Commissioner and the Board of Education shall establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that an emergent condition exists necessitating an immediate withdrawal of capital reserve account funds.

The Board of Education shall administer and account for the capital reserve account in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(j). Funds in capital reserve



accounts in existence prior to July 18, 2000, are subject to the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act (EFCFA), P.L. 2000, c. 72, and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14, and the Board of Education shall only use such funds for the original purpose for which the funds were deposited and as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(k) 1. and (k) 2.

The Board of Education shall establish by resolution, a maintenance reserve account in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2 to be used to implement required maintenance of the school district's facilities. The Board of Education is prohibited from using such funds for routine or capital maintenance and the account shall be established and maintained in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and shall be subject to annual audit pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 et seq. The balance in the maintenance reserve account may be increased by appropriating funds in the annual general fund budget certified for taxes. Funds may be withdrawn from the maintenance reserve account and appropriated into the required maintenance account lines at budget time or any time during the year for use on required maintenance plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26A-4 in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(d). In any year that maintenance reserve account funds are withdrawn, the Board of Education shall restore any unexpended required maintenance appropriations, up to the amount of maintenance reserve account funds withdrawn, to the maintenance reserve account at year-end.

The Board of Education shall, by resolution transfer to the general fund on an annual basis any interest earned on the investments in the maintenance reserve account. Such interest may be transferred on a more frequent basis at the discretion of the Board of Education. The Board of Education shall ensure the maintenance reserve account balance does not, at any time, exceed four percent of the replacement cost of the school district's school facilities for the current year. If the account exceeds this maximum amount at June 30, the Board of Education shall reserve and designate such excess in the subsequent year's budget.

The Board of Education or Board of School Estimate, as appropriate, may supplement a capital reserve account in accordance with requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.3. The Board of Education or a Board of School Estimate, as appropriate, may through the adoption of a Board resolution, establish a current expense emergency reserve account in accordance with requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.4.

All reserve accounts shall be recorded in accordance with GAAP and subject to annual audit. Any capital gains or interest earned shall become part of the reserve account. A separate bank account is not required; however, a separate identity for each reserve account shall be maintained.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-31; 18A:21-2
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1; 6A:23A-14.2; 6A:23A-14.3; 6A:23A-14.4; 6A:23A-14.5



POLICY

**NORTH CALDWELL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Adopted: 17 August 2010



6810 FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to the taxpayers of the district and the State to expend public moneys wisely and prudently for the maintenance of a thorough and efficient system of public education and to institute appropriate controls and accounting procedures.

The Board shall use accounting and reporting directives as prepared, published and distributed by the Commissioner of Education in addition to any books, materials or bulletins, for the guidance of school officials in establishing and maintaining the double entry bookkeeping and accounting system mandated in N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.1.

The Board shall develop a system of accounting and reporting objectives that make it possible to present fairly and with full disclosure the funds and activities of the district and to determine and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual matters. The Board shall develop an accounting system that is organized and operated on a fund basis and shall report governmental, proprietary and fiduciary funds in the fund financial statements to the extent they have activities that meet the criteria for using those funds. The Board shall establish and maintain those funds required by law and sound financial administration (only the minimum number of funds consistent with legal and operating requirements should be established) and use the modified accrual or accrual basis of accounting as appropriate in measuring financial position and operating results in accordance with GAAP and regulatory provisions. Transfers shall be recognized in the accounting period in which the interfund receivable and payable arise.

The Board shall adopt an annual budget and include the adopted annual budget in the minutes of the Board. A detailed budget statement, which includes the classification of expenditures by program and function shall be prepared on a fund basis in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and on a form prescribed by the Commissioner. A detailed budget shall be prepared for each special project, capital project, and Federal or State grant. This budget shall be maintained, along with all authorized revisions, on file in the district Board of Education or Charter School Board of Trustees business office. The Board shall take appropriate action, as necessary, to maintain a balanced budget.

The Board shall ensure the accounting system provides the basis for appropriate budgetary control, and that budgetary comparison schedules are included in the appropriate financial statements and schedules for governmental funds in accordance with GAAP.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

FINANCES
6810/page 2 of 2
Financial Objectives

The Board shall use a common terminology and classification consistently throughout the budget, the accounts, and the financial reports of each fund, and shall adopt a chart of accounts prepared in conformity with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(g)1.

N.J.S.A. 18A:4-14; 18A:4-14.1; 18A:18A-1 et seq.;
18A:19-1 et seq.; 18A:22-7 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2 et seq.

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6820 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Board of Education directs the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys, or designee, to make such accurate and timely reports to county, State, and federal offices as required by law and rules of the State Board of Education. In addition, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Treasurer, or designee, shall report to the Board on the financial condition of the school district in accordance with law and in the manner and form required by the State Department of Education. There shall be a common terminology and classification system used consistently throughout the budget, the accounts, and the financial reports of each fund. The district will establish and implement an adequate internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting.

The School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary shall prepare monthly financial statements, reports of financial condition, operating results and other pertinent information in accordance with directions issued by the Commissioner of Education, to facilitate management control of financial operations, legislative oversight and, where necessary or desired, for external reporting purposes.

In the event the Board has approved a budget with an expanded coding structure, the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary shall present the financial report in two forms. One form shall use the minimum level chart of accounts established by the State Department of Education and the other shall use the expanded chart of accounts approved by this Board in accordance with Policy No. 6220.

If no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures that in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(a), the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary shall so certify to the Board each month. If a violation has occurred, corrective action as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3.1 shall be taken by the Board.

The Board of Education, after review of the monthly financial reports and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, shall certify in the minutes of the Board each month that no fund has been overexpended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. If the Board is unable to make such a certification, the Superintendent of Schools shall initiate the steps outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(b) and shall reflect such directive in the minutes of the Board. If the Board makes such certification but one or more Board members vote no to the certification, the Board shall provide to the Executive county Superintendent the Board vote, names of the members that voted no, and the reason for the no vote.



If the reports of the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary and the Treasurer differ in cash receipts or expenditures, the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary shall resolve the difference prior to the next meeting of the Board. Any difference that cannot be rectified shall be referred immediately to the Auditor. In the event the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is more than two months behind in submitting the financial report to the Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9, the Superintendent of Schools shall report this non-compliance to the Executive County Superintendent.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-9; 18A:17-36

N.J.S.A. 54:4-75

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2; 6A:23A-16.9; 6A:23A-16.10

Cross reference: Policy guide No. 1320

Adopted: 15 December 2009

Revised: 28 June 2011



6830 AUDIT AND COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board of Education will prepare and publish a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 through 18A:23-7 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2(i).

The Board shall annually cause an audit to be made of the district's accounts and financial transactions. The audit will be conducted in accordance with law by the public school accountant appointed by the Board. The Board will engage only a licensed public school accountant to conduct the audit in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 et seq. who has an external peer/quality report performed in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2(i).

The audit shall include test measures to assure that documentation prepared for income tax purposes complies fully with the requirements of Federal and State laws and regulations regarding the compensation which is required to be reported and the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-4.2 and 6A:23A-4.3.

The Board Secretary will receive the audit report and recommendations of the public school accountant and prepare or have prepared a synopsis or a summary of the annual audit and recommendations prior to the holding of the Board meeting where the Board will take action on the report. Copies of the synopsis or summary will be available for distribution to interested parties at the meeting.

Within thirty days of the receipt of the audit report, the Board will, at a regularly scheduled public meeting, cause the recommendations of the public school accountant to be read and discussed and the discussion duly noted in the minutes of the Board meeting.

The Board will implement the audit recommendations and report such implementation to the Commissioner.

In the event the district has repeat audit findings in the Auditor's Management Report submitted with the CAFR in any year shall, within thirty days of the CAFR submission, submit to the Executive County Superintendent or State fiscal monitor, as applicable, a specific corrective action plan for addressing the repeat audit findings in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-4.4.

The Board directs the Superintendent and other appropriate district officers and employees to cooperate fully with the public school accountant and to keep faithfully such records and reports as will assist in the audit process.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

FINANCES
6830/page 1 of 2
Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 18A:23-2; 18A:23-2.1; 18A:23-2.3; 18A:23-2.4; 18A:23-2.5; 18A:23-8
N.J.A.C. 6A:23-A-4.2; 6A:23A-4.3

Adopted: 15 December 2009
Revised: 19 October 2010



6831 WITHHOLDING OR RECOVERING STATE AID

In the event the New Jersey Department of Education identifies ineffective or inefficient expenditure(s) by any school district, including, but not limited to the practices prohibited in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2 through 5.9, the Commissioner shall, except as otherwise provided in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.1(h) provide the school district the opportunity to be heard as to why the amount of the ineffective or inefficient expenditure(s) shall not be withheld from State aid or refunded to the Department of Education.

The proceeding shall be instituted by an Order to Show Cause filed by the petitioner. The filing shall include a statement of factual findings along with a letter memorandum setting forth the basis for the position that the expenditure(s) was ineffective or inefficient. The respondent(s) to whom the order is directed shall file, within fifteen days, a response to the letter memorandum and an answer that meets the filing, service, and format requirements for answers as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes. The petitioner may file a reply to the response within ten days.

Upon review of the filings, the Commissioner may decide to hear the matter directly pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14F-8 or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. If the Commissioner decides to transmit the matter to the Office of Administrative Law, such transmission shall be done on an expedited basis. If the Commissioner is hearing the matter directly, upon receipt of the filings set forth above, or upon expiration of the time for their submission, the Commissioner shall review the total record before him or her and render a written decision. The Commissioner's decision shall include a determination of whether the expenditure was ineffective or inefficient and, if so, the amount of funds to be withheld from State aid or refunded by the district.

Nothing shall preclude the Commissioner from immediately and summarily withholding State aid, consistent with N.J.S.A. 18A:55-2, if, at any time, it is determined that the fiscal practices, actions, or expenditures of a school official, Board member, Board, or any other party under the Commissioner's jurisdiction are in violation of any statute, regulation, rule, or directive of the State Board of Education or Commissioner of Education.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.1

Adopted: 15 December 2009



6832 CONDITIONS OF RECEIVING STATE AID

The school district, as a condition of receiving State Aid, will comply with the standards set forth at N.J.S.A. 18A:55-3 and the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6 concerning nepotism, contributions to Board members and contract awards, and the internal control requirements in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.

In addition, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.1, the school district shall be required to examine, no less than once every three years, all available group options for every insurance policy held by the district, including the self-insurance plan administered by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) Insurance Group on behalf of districts, and the district shall participate in the most cost-effective plan. This examination shall include the review of annual claims data and other experience rating information, as applicable.

The district shall also: take steps to maximize participation in the Federal Universal Service Program (E-rate) and the ACT telecommunications program offered through the New Jersey School Business Officials; participate in the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) Program offered through NJSBA, unless the school district is able to demonstrate to the Commissioner of Education that it receives goods or services at a cost less than or equal to the cost achieved by participants of the program based on an analysis of the prior two years; and take appropriate steps to maximize the local public school district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3.

The district shall refinance all outstanding debt in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61.1 et seq. for which a three percent net present value savings threshold is achievable. This refinance provision of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.1(b)5 shall also be monitored by the Executive County Superintendent or State Monitor, if applicable, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.11.

N.J.S.A. 18A:55-3
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.1

Adopted: 15 December 2009



7100 LONG-RANGE FACILITIES PLANNING

The Board of Education recognizes that sound planning based on accurate information is essential to the provision of suitable educational facilities. In order to ensure that future district construction is planned on the basis of need, the Board, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-4 and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2.1 et seq., will maintain and submit a Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) to the New Jersey Department of Education. Except as provided in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.14, no school facilities project will be considered or approved unless the district's LRFP has been submitted to and approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Long-range facilities planning by the school district shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2 et seq.

6A:26-2.1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 27 February 2018



7101 EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital projects that affect any of the criteria for educational adequacy shall be reviewed and approved by the Division of Administration and Finance (Division) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5 et seq. The criteria are the number, configuration, size, location or use of educational spaces within a school facility. The review for educational adequacy shall take into consideration the suitability of the number, configuration, size, location, and use of educational spaces; built-in furniture and equipment; and provisions for the disabled.

Projects requiring approval for educational adequacy, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.1 are: new school facilities including pre-fabricated facilities; additions to existing school facilities; alterations to the total number, dimension in volume and/or area, configuration or location of educational spaces or the number of any one kind of educational space;

New Jersey Schools Development Authority (Development Authority), and non-authority Regular Operating District (ROD), along with other capital projects, are subject to educational adequacy reviews pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.1(b). The Executive County Superintendent shall approve any change of use of instructional space that is not a capital project.

Educational specifications for educational adequacy reviews shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.2. Educational specifications shall detail the educational program activities and requirements for each space proposed in the capital project, and shall refer to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards wherever appropriate. The educational specifications shall include an itemized list of furniture, equipment, and support spaces required to conduct the educational program specified for each space, together with their net areas in square feet, as well as an estimate of the total room area required for each space. The educational specifications shall also include specific technical and environmental criteria, adjacencies and other requirements for the educational program and a building space program that indicates the number and net area in square feet of each instructional, specialized instructional, administrative, and support space in each existing or proposed building included in the capital project and/or temporary facility.

Schematic plans and other related project documents will be prepared and submitted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.3.

A project cost estimate on a form provided by the Commissioner of Education, a project schedule, a copy of the dated transmittal letter to the Executive County Superintendent indicating project document submission to the Division, and a copy of the transmittal letter indicating the date of plan submission to the local planning board shall be submitted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.3(b)4.



In the case of Development Authority school facilities project, upon completion of detailed plans and specifications, the Development Authority on behalf of the district shall apply, upon completion of detailed plans and specifications, for final approval of the project's educational adequacy of the project in accordance with N.J.A.C.6A:26-5.4(a). In the case of a ROD school facilities project or another capital project, the school district shall apply upon the completion of final plans and specifications for final approval of the educational adequacy of the project in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.4(b). In the case of a temporary facility, the school district or the Development Authority on behalf of the school district for Development Authority school facilities projects, shall apply upon the completion of detailed plans and educational specifications for approval of the temporary facility's adequacy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.4(c).

The Division shall collect fees for its reviews according to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.5.

For a Development Authority school facilities project not subject to educational adequacy review, the Division shall issue a preliminary project report and shall forward the report to the Department of Community Affairs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.6(a). The review shall require the documentation required by the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.15.

For a ROD school facilities project or other capital project, not subject to educational-adequacy review, the Division shall make a determination of the project's final eligible costs and shall forward their determination to the Department of Community Affairs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.6(b). The review shall include the documentation required by the UCC in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.15.

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 27 February 2018



7102 SITE SELECTION AND ACQUISITION

The Board of Education may need to select and acquire new sites for school district facilities. Site acquisition for school purposes and every acquisition of land will be made pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.12 and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.1 through 7.3.

Every acquisition of land, whether by purchase, condemnation, or by gift or grant, to be used as a school site shall comply with the requirements of N.J.A.C.6A:26-7.1 et seq. The school district, or the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (Development Authority) on behalf of the district, shall submit information to the Division of Administration and Finance (Division) to obtain approval for land in connection with a school facilities project in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:7.1(b).

In the event the school district intends to acquire and not in connection with a school facilities project, the district shall submit all of the information required under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.1(b) except N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.1(b)ii and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.1 (b)iii, and shall further be excepted from the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7(d) and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.1(e). If the school district later intends to change the use of the land and use as a school site, the school district shall be required to submit all of the information required under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.1 and the exceptions outlined above shall no longer apply.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.1(d), school site sizes shall be directly related to the acreage required for the structures and activities to be situated thereon. Except where specifically noted for multiple or shared use, the acreage shall be considered for single use.

All school sites shall have sufficient acreage for the placement of the school facility; expansion of the building to its maximum potential enrollment; the placement of all other structures such as greenhouses, storage buildings, school bus maintenance buildings or garages and any other above or below ground structure, which is to be placed thereon; multi-purpose physical education fields and, for preschool through grade five school facilities, a playground required to support the achievement of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards as defined by the number of physical education teaching stations applicable to the school facility pursuant to the facilities efficiency standards and the approved programmatic model; disabled-accessible pedestrian walkways, roadways and parking areas on which people and vehicles access the building; public and service access roads onto the site including, where warranted, a one-way school bus road of thirty foot width and a two-way road of thirty-six foot width; a school bus drop-off area; and eighteen foot wide posted fire lanes for fire apparatus; and a thirty-foot wide access around the entire building.



Land owned by the Board of Education that does not meet the standards of N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.1 may be supplemented pursuant to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.1(f).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.1(g), the Division's approval shall remain effective for three (3) years, after which time Division approval shall again be required to be obtained prior to acquiring land.

E. The approval of the Division shall remain effective for three years, after which time Division approval shall again be obtained prior to acquiring land.

F. Approval for Acquisition of Existing Facilities

1. If the district has an opportunity to acquire an existing facility through purchase, gift, lease or otherwise the district will comply with all procedures and rules pertaining to the appropriation and use of capital funds as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:20-4 and 18A:20-4.2 as per N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.3.
2. The district shall also have the facility approved in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3 which applies to the acquisition of a school site and for the construction of a new facility.
3. Off-site facilities which are to be procured for temporary, emergency use must comply with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-8, Substandard School Facilities.

The Development Authority may acquire land on behalf of a district eligible for 100% State support of final eligible costs, for school facilities projects that are consistent with such the school district's approved Long Range Facility Plan LRFP. For such school districts, the New Jersey Department of Education shall requires submission of all information set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.1(b) to demonstrate compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7. The Development Authority may submit the required information on behalf of such school districts.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:7.3, the Board of Education may acquire an existing facility through purchase, gift, lease, or otherwise provide the Board complies with all procedures and rules pertaining to the appropriation and use of capital funds as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:20-4 and 4.2 and the Board has the facility approved in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3, which applies to the acquisition of a school site and for the construction of a new facility. Facilities to be procured for temporary use shall comply with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-8 if subject to educational-adequacy review pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-5.4(c) because the facilities will house students.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
7102/page 3 of 3
Site Selection and Acquisition

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-3.12; 6A:26-7.1; 6A:26-7.2; 6A:26-7.3

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 27 February 2018



7130 SCHOOL CLOSING

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide a thorough and efficient program of free public education and appropriate facilities to house that program. The Board further recognizes that declining enrollments, diminished resources, district reorganization, or other good cause may require that the use of one or more district facilities for educational purposes be abandoned.

The Board will not commit itself to the closing of any school facility without first having collected and considered appropriate information regarding student enrollments, the educational adequacy of school facilities, relevant safety and traffic factors, district revenues, and alternative district organizational plans. The Board will invite citizen participation in the analysis of that information and the formulation of recommendations. Information on any proposed district reorganization will be disseminated to the public, and public response will be invited by all appropriate means.

The Board must receive a letter of approval from the Department of Education before making a final determination to close a school. To receive the letter of approval from the Department of Education, the Board must provide the Division of Facilities and Transportation and the County Superintendent of Schools assurances as required in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5.

The proposed closing must be consistent with the district's approved LRFP, demonstrating that sufficient school building capacity exists to house district students following such closing for the succeeding five years. The use of substandard spaces in the remaining schools within the district must not result or increase from an overall facilities shortage caused by the school closing. The re-assignment of students to other schools in the district does not produce, sustain nor contribute to unlawful segregation, separation or isolation of student populations on the basis of race or national origin.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1; 18A:20-36; 18A:33-1
N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7230 GIFTS, GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The Board of Education accepts its responsibility to provide from public funds sufficient supplies and equipment for an effective instructional program. The Board recognizes, however, that from time to time individuals or organizations in the community may wish to contribute additional supplies or equipment to enhance or extend the instructional program.

The Board may accept by resolution duly passed at a public meeting any gift or grant of land, with or without improvement, and of money or other personal property, except that the Superintendent may accept on behalf of the Board any such gift less than \$500.00 in value. Grants of land are subject to the appropriate legal limitations and approvals.

The Board reserves the right to refuse to accept any gift that does not contribute toward the achievement of the goals of this district or any gift the ownership of which would tend to deplete the resources of the district. The Board shall not provide public moneys for the purchase of any school property on a matching fund basis.

Any gift accepted by the Board shall become the property of the Board, may not be returned without the approval of the Board, and shall be subject to the same controls and regulations as are other properties of the Board. The Board shall be responsible for the maintenance of any gift it accepts, subject to any joint agreement with another governmental body.

The Board will respect the intent of the donor in its use of a gift, but reserves the right to utilize any gift it accepts in the best interests of the students and the educational program of the district. In no case shall acceptance of a gift be considered to be an endorsement by the Board of a commercial product or business enterprise or institution of learning.

The Superintendent shall:

1. Counsel potential donors on the appropriateness of contemplated gifts and encourage such donors to choose as gifts supplies or equipment not likely to be purchased with public funds;
2. Encourage individuals and organizations considering a contribution to the schools to consult with the Principal or Superintendent before appropriating funds to that end;



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
7230/page 2 of 2
Gifts, Grants and Donations

3. Report to the Board all gifts that have been accepted on behalf of the Board;
4. Acknowledge the receipt of any gift accepted by the Board; and
5. Prepare fitting means for recognizing or memorializing gifts to the school district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:20-4; 18A:20-11 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7243 SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION

The Board of Education directs that the Business Administrator be responsible for the supervision of all building construction in this school district. Supervision shall include field inspection of the construction contractor's operations, administrative review of the activities of the architect relating to the construction, and any other construction matters relating to the interests of the school district.

The Business Administrator shall report periodically to the Board on the progress of the work of the construction contractor(s).

The Board shall not employ for pay or contract for the paid services of any person serving in a position which involves regular contact with students unless the Board has first determined, consistent with the requirements and standards of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq., that no criminal history record information exists on file in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Identification Division, or the State Bureau of Identification which would disqualify the individual from being employed or utilized in such capacity or position.

The Superintendent shall direct the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or Buildings and Grounds Director to act as liaison to all construction contractors for school facility and construction projects to obtain a list of the individuals who will have regular contact with students and will be employed by or working for the contractor on a school district project that will be undergoing a criminal history record check pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq. The liaison shall provide the list of those contracted employees to the Superintendent or designee and the Human Resources Director. The Superintendent or designee and the Human Resources Director who receive any adverse action correspondence from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) related to the criminal history record check process shall review the contracted company list in order to determine if the subject of that correspondence is either a school employee or an employee of any contract service provider and take appropriate action. No employee of a contracted service provider shall commence work at a school facility without having first obtained an approval for employment from the NJDOE. Approvals for employment of these contracted employees shall be maintained with the liaison and copies forwarded to the Superintendent's office.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
7243/page 2 of 2
Supervision of Construction

A change order involving additional cost will be submitted to the Board for review and approval.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.; 18A:18A-16; 18A:18A-43; 18A:18A-44
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-30 [vocational districts]

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 15 March 2022



7250 SCHOOL AND FACILITY NAMES

School buildings and separate school facilities, both on school grounds and within school buildings, shall be named only by formal action of the Board of Education. In naming schools and facilities, the Board shall strive to honor the traditions and high ideals of this district and the community it serves.

A school building or school facility may be named to memorialize the outstanding service of a school district employee or officer.

The Board welcomes the suggestions of members of the community in the naming of school buildings and facilities and may appoint a committee of interested persons to conduct appropriate studies and make recommendations for Board consideration.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7300 DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

The Board of Education believes the efficient administration of the district requires the disposition of property and goods no longer necessary for school purposes. The Board directs the periodic review of all district property and authorizes the disposition by sale, donation, or discard of any property no longer required for the maintenance of the educational program or the efficient management of the school district. The disposition of any school property will be in accordance with this Policy and applicable laws.

Real estate property will be disposed of by sale or otherwise, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:20-5 through 18A:20-7 and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.4. If an approved site, or interest therein, is to be altered or disposed of through sale, transfer or exchange of all or part of the total acreage, including facilities, if applicable, a written request for approval of the disposal will be made to the Division of Administration and Finance (Division) in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.4. The Division will notify the district of its approval or disapproval.

The Board may, by resolution and by sealed bid or public auction, authorize the sale of its personal property not needed for school purposes, and disposal of any property declared scrap or waste. If the estimated fair value of the property to be sold exceeds fifteen percent of the bid threshold in any one sale, it shall be sold at public sale, together with a description of the items to be sold and the conditions of sale, shall be published once in an official newspaper. By resolution of the Board, the purchasing agent may include the sale of personal property no longer needed for school purposes as part of specifications to offset the price of a new purchase. In the event no bids are received for personal property or the personal property is not sold at private sale pursuant to, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-45, the Board may declare the personal property as scrap or waste and dispose of it locally.

Personal property may be sold to the United States, the State of New Jersey, or to any body politic in the State of New Jersey, or any foreign nation which has diplomatic relations with these United States by private sale without advertising for bids.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Policy, property acquired with Federal funds for use in a federally funded program will be disposed of in accordance with applicable law and guidelines.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the disposition of district property that provide for the review of the continued usefulness of all property in conjunction with the periodic inventory of property; the recommendation for Board designation of property for sale, donation, or discard; and the disposition of property in a fair and open manner consistent with the public interest and applicable laws.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
7300/page 2 of 2
Disposition of Property

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5; 18A:18A-45; 18A:20-6 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.4

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 27 February 2018



7410 MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

The Board of Education recognizes the fixed assets of the school district represent a significant investment of this community and maintenance is a prime concern to the Board.

The school district is required to develop, approve, and implement a comprehensive maintenance plan in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.5. A “comprehensive maintenance plan” means a school district’s multi-year maintenance plan covering required maintenance activities for each school facility in the school district adopted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26.

Required maintenance activities include those activities outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.3. The school district shall determine the required maintenance activities to reasonably maintain each school facility in the school district, and shall report the activities in its annual comprehensive maintenance plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.5.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.4(a), expenditures for required maintenance activities set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.3 shall qualify as investments in maintenance for purposes of calculating the required maintenance expenditure in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.4(d) and (e), the annual required maintenance budget amount pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.8, and the maintenance factor (M) in N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-9. Expenditures that qualify as required maintenance shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.4.

The school district’s comprehensive maintenance plan shall be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent by a Board of Education resolution every school year, pursuant N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.5(a)1.

The required annual maintenance budget amount as reported in its comprehensive maintenance plan shall be included in the district’s annual budget certified for taxes in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.8(a). The required annual maintenance budget amount shall be calculated and adjusted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.8(b). The Executive County Superintendent shall not approve the school district’s budget that does not comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.1 et seq.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
7410/page 2 of 2
Maintenance and Repair

Commencing September 1, 2002, no person shall be employed by the Board of Education as a buildings and grounds supervisor, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:17-49, unless the person is a certified educational facilities manager pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-49 and 18A:17-50.

Facilities maintenance, repair scheduling and accounting shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.9 and Regulation 7410.01.]

N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-9; 18A:17-49; 18A:17-50; 18A:18A-43; 18A:21-1
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.9; 6A:26-1.1 et seq.; 6A:26-20.3; 6A:26-20.4; 6A:26-20.5; 6A:26-20.6;
6A:26-20.8

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 15 August 2022



7420 HYGIENIC MANAGEMENT

The Board of Education recognizes that the health and physical well-being of the students and staff of this district depend in large measure upon the cleanliness and sanitary management of the schools.

The Board directs that a program of hygienic management be instituted in the schools and explained annually to all staff members. Each school shall be inspected for cleanliness and sanitation by the Building Principal and Director of Buildings and Grounds not less than once each year.

The Board will cooperate with the local board of health in the sanitary inspection of the schools' toilets, washrooms, food vending machines, water supply, and sewage disposal systems.

The Superintendent shall prepare, in consultation with the school medical inspector, regulations, first aid and emergency medical procedures that utilize universal precautions in the handling and disposal of blood and body fluids, whether or not students or staff members with HIV infection are present. School staff members and volunteers shall be provided the supplies for implementing the procedures. In particular, school nurses, custodians, and teachers shall be trained in proper handling procedures. These regulations and procedures will comply with the regulations of the State Department of Health and State Department of Labor (OSHA Standards for Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens) and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Bloodborne Pathogens

The Board recognizes that school employees may in the performance of their duties reasonably anticipate contact with human blood or other potentially infectious body fluids that may expose them to bloodborne pathogens such as Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). In accordance with federal OSHA regulations, the Board will establish a written Exposure Control Plan designed to eliminate or minimize employee exposure to such infection. The plan shall list all job classifications and tasks in which exposure occurs; describe and require the implementation of workplace controls to eliminate or minimize exposure; require the provision of hepatitis B vaccination to employees who have occupational exposure; and require the provision of a training program for employees who have occupational exposure. The plan shall be updated annually and as required to include new or revised employee positions with occupational exposure. A copy of the plan shall be made accessible to employees.



Disposal of Medical Waste

The Superintendent shall prepare, in consultation with the school medical inspector, a medical waste disposal program to ensure all medical waste, including needles and sharps, are disposed of in accordance with the rules and regulations of the New Jersey Department of Health.

29 C.F.R. 1910

N.J.A.C. 6:3-8.1; 6A:16-1.4; 6A:16-2.3(e); 6A:26-12.4

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7421 INDOOR AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

The Board of Education will provide air quality for school employees in school buildings that meet the standards established by the New Jersey Department of Labor pursuant to N.J.A.C. 12:100-13.

The Board will designate the Director of Buildings and Grounds as the individual, who is responsible to assure compliance with New Jersey Department of Labor standards. The designated person will assure that preventative maintenance programs for heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are implemented and documented and that general and local exhaust ventilation is used for employees working with equipment or products that could reasonably be expected to result in hazardous chemicals or particulate exposure. The designated person shall check to make sure HVAC systems are working properly when the building temperatures are outside of the range of 68 to 79 degrees Fahrenheit and make sure buildings without mechanical ventilation have operable windows, doors, vents, stacks and other portals designated or used for natural ventilation are operational. The designated person will also promptly investigate all employee complaints of signs or symptoms that may be associated with building-related illnesses.

The Board will make sure air quality will be maintained at acceptable standards during renovation and remodeling that results in the diffusion of dust, stone and other small particles, toxic gases or other harmful substances in quantities hazardous to health. The designated person will notify employees at least twenty-four hours in advance, or promptly in emergency situations of work to be performed on the building that may induce air contaminants into their work area.

The designated person will respond to a complaint received by the Department of Labor within fifteen working days of receipt of the complaint.

N.J.A.C. 12:100-13.2 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 5:23

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7422 SCHOOL INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The New Jersey School Integrated Pest Management Act of 2002 requires school districts to implement a school integrated pest management policy that includes an Integrated Pest Management Plan. In accordance with the requirements of the Act, the Board shall ensure implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures to control pests and minimize exposure of children, faculty, and staff to pesticides. These procedures shall be applicable to all school property in the North Caldwell School District.

IPM Coordinator (IPMC)

The Building Principal and Director of Buildings and Grounds shall be designated as the district's Integrated Pest Management Coordinators (IPMC) and are responsible for the implementation of the school integrated pest management policy.

Integrated Pest Management Procedures in Schools

Implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, cultural, biological, or chemical methods. Applying IPM principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

The Integrated Pest Management Coordinators (IPMC) shall consider the full range of management options, including no action at all. Non-pesticide pest management methods are to be used whenever possible. The choice of using a pesticide shall be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not effective or not reasonable. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used, low impact pesticides and methods are preferred and shall be considered for use first.

Development of IPM plans

The Superintendent, in collaboration with the school Building Principal(s) and the IPMC, shall be responsible for the development of the IPM Plan for the school district. The school district's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan is a blueprint of how the school district will manage pests through IPM methods. The school district's IPM Plan will state the school district's goals regarding the management of pests and the use of pesticides for all school district property. The Plan will reflect the school district's site-specific needs and a description of how each component of the school district's Integrated Pest Management Policy and Regulation will be implemented for all school property.



Education/Training

The school community will be educated about potential pest problems and IPM methods used to achieve the pest management objectives.

The IPMC, other school staff, and pesticide applicators involved with implementation of the district's IPM policy will be trained in appropriate components of IPM as it pertains to the school environment.

Students and parents/legal guardians will be provided information on this policy and instructed on how they can contribute to the success of the IPM program.

Recordkeeping

Records of pesticide use shall be maintained on site to meet the requirements of the State regulatory agency and the Board.

Records shall also include, but are not limited to, pest surveillance data sheets and other non-pesticide pest management methods and practices utilized.

Notification/Posting

The Building Principal of each school, working with the IPMC, is responsible for timely notification to students, parents or legal guardians and the school staff of pesticide treatments pursuant to the School Integrated Pest Management Act.

Re-entry

Re-entry to a pesticide treated area shall conform to the requirements of the School Integrated Pest Management Act.

Pesticide Applicators

The IPMC shall ensure that applicators follow State regulations, including licensing requirements and label precautions, and must comply with all components of the School Integrated Pest Management Policy.

Evaluation

The Superintendent will report annually to the Board on the effectiveness of the IPM Plan and make recommendations for improvement as needed.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
7422/page 3 of 3
School Integrated Pest Management Plan

The school district's Integrated Pest Management Plan, Policy and Regulation shall be implemented not later than June 12, 2004. The Board directs the Superintendent to develop Regulations/Procedures for the implementation of School Integrated Pest Management Plan.

N.J.S.A. 13:1F-19 through 13:1F-33

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7424 BED BUGS

The Board of Education is concerned for students who may have bed bugs in their home with the potential for these students to bring bed bugs into the school building. Bed bugs can be transmitted from one location to another in backpacks, clothing, books and other items. A bed bug infestation is unlikely in a school and the Board adopts this Policy as a proactive action to prevent infestation and to stop bed bugs from spreading within the school setting if a bed bug is transmitted into a school.

Bed bugs are parasitic insects that feed exclusively on blood and are mainly active at night, but are not exclusively nocturnal. A common bed bug prefers human blood and typically feeds on their hosts without being noticed. Bed bugs are not known to transmit disease, but cause reasonable distress and health concerns for many people. The presence of bed bugs in a home does not mean the home is unclean, but bugs can be found in any home.

Bed bugs typically do not infest people as they hide during the day and come out during the night. Bed bugs are attracted to humans primarily by carbon dioxide, warmth, and by some chemicals. Bed bugs prefer exposed skin, preferably the face, neck and arms of a sleeping person. Bed bug bites may lead to a range of skin manifestations from no visible effects to prominent blisters. The bite usually produces a swelling with no red spots, but when many bugs feed on a small area, reddish spots may appear after the swelling subsides. Effects also may include skin rashes, psychological effects and allergic symptoms.

Any staff member who observes what may be bed bug bites on a student shall send the student to the school nurse. The school nurse shall examine the student to determine if there are any bed bugs present on the student or if the bites may be bed bug bites. The school nurse will inform the Principal and contact the student's parent on the results of the examination.

In the event the school nurse observes what appears to be a bed bug on the student or on the student's possessions, the school nurse will inform the Principal who will arrange for a licensed pest management professional to complete an inspection of the student's classroom(s) to determine if bed bugs are present in the classroom area. If a licensed pest management professional cannot complete an inspection within twenty-four hours of the request from the school district, the district custodial staff will vacuum the student's classroom(s) with a vacuum cleaner using a new vacuum cleaner bag and when finished the staff member shall seal the bag and discard it in a receptacle outside the school building. If the vacuum does not have a bag, the contents of the vacuum shall be emptied into a secure plastic bag, sealed and discarded into a receptacle outside the school building. The Principal shall determine if the classroom(s) should be occupied by staff and students until the inspection by a licensed pest management professional is conducted.



PROPERTY
7424/page 2 of 2
Bed Bugs
May 17

In the event the inspection determines bed bugs are in the school, the area(s) where bed bugs have been found or could be found will be treated by a licensed pest management professional.

The parent of any student who is found to have a live bed bug on them will be contacted by the school nurse and parent will be required to pick-up their child to arrange for the child to return home to change clothes and to inspect any items the student brings to school. Upon the student's return to school, the student will be required to report to the school nurse who will examine the child and the child's possessions. If there are no signs of bed bugs on the student or in or on the student's possessions, the student will be able to resume their school day. The school nurse may determine to examine the child subsequent to their initial return to school to ensure the student and possessions are free of bed bugs. In the event the nurse finds live bed bugs on the student or in or on the student's possession upon the student's initial return to school, or upon any subsequent examination by the school nurse, the school nurse will contact the parent and require the parent to pick-up the student from school.

The Principal, in consultation with the school nurse, will determine if the parents of other students should be informed of the presence of bed bugs in an area of the school where their child may have been or is during the school day. This determination will be made on a case-by-case basis. Parents of other students may not be informed if bed bugs are found on a student or in or on the student's possessions, and are not found in the school building. The school district will comply with all notification requirements and other requirements of the New Jersey pest Management Act, the district's Pest Management Plan, and any other applicable law.

Any student suspected of having bed bugs in their home or on or in their possessions will be treated with discretion, dignity and respect. The district will offer the student counseling, if needed. The Principal or designee will work sensitively with parents of any student living in an infested home to develop strategies for preventing the further spread of bed bugs.

Adopted: 2 January 2018



7425 LEAD TESTING OF WATER IN SCHOOLS

The health, safety, and welfare of the children in the school district are of utmost importance to the Board of Education. The potential exposure to lead-contaminated drinking water poses serious health problems, particularly for children, as well as for teachers and school personnel, since the risk of lead contamination can come from pipe and plumbing fixtures in school facilities or on school grounds. The Board shall assure the availability of potable drinking water through sanitary means in school facilities or on school grounds. The Board of Education shall provide, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6a:26-12.4, testing for lead in all district sources of drinking water.

The Board shall conduct lead sampling and analysis in all drinking water outlets to which a student or staff member has or may have access in each school facility, other facility, or temporary facility, as soon as practicable, but no later than July 13, 2017, unless the district qualifies for an exemption in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4. This lead sampling and analysis shall be conducted with a lead sampling plan in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(d)1, 2, and 3, and shall be in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, N.J.S.A. 58:12A-1.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall complete a review of the final laboratory results within seventy-two hours of receipt. Within twenty-four hours after the Superintendent or designee has completed a review of final laboratory results in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4, the test results shall be made publicly available at the school facility and on the Board of Education's website. If any results exceed the permissible lead action level, the Board shall provide written notification to the parents of all students attending the facility, facility staff, and the New Jersey Department of Education. This written notification shall include: a description of the measures taken by the ~~Board~~ Superintendent or designee to immediately end the use of each drinking water outlet where the water quality exceeded the permissible lead action level; any additional remedial action taken or planned by the Board of Education; the measures taken to ensure that alternate drinking water has been made available to all students and staff members; where the water outlet(s) is located; and information regarding the health effects of lead in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(e)1 and 2. Notwithstanding the results or date of any prior testing, the Board shall continue to test drinking water outlets in the designated Statewide required testing year, which shall be every third school year beginning with the 2021-2022 school year and subsequently occurring in the 2024-2025 school year. By no later than June 30 of the designated Statewide required testing year, the Board shall test all drinking water outlets in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(g)1. The Board shall sample for lead after



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
7425/page 2 of 2
Lead Testing of Water in Schools

the replacement of any drinking water outlet or any other alternation to plumbing or service lines that may impact lead levels at the outlet, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4.

The Board shall submit to the New Jersey Department of Education by June 30 of each year a statement of assurance, that the school district completed lead testing in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4; that notifications were provided consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4; that notifications were provided consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4; and that alternative drinking water continues to be made available to all students and staff, if necessary, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(g).

The Board may apply for reimbursement for the costs of an water supply testing and analysis conducted, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4.

N.J.S.A. 58:12A-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4

Adopted: May 29, 2018
Revised: April 28, 2021



7430 SCHOOL SAFETY

The Board of Education recognizes that it is required by law to take measures for the safety of students and district employees.

The Board shall provide, publish, and post rules for safety and the prevention of accidents; instruct students in safety and accident prevention; provide protective devices where they are required by law for the safety of students and employees; and provide suitable and safe equipment where such equipment is necessary for the conduct of the educational program and the operation of the schools.

The Superintendent shall prepare regulations governing school safety and the prevention of accidents and fire that include as a minimum the requirements of law and the applicable rules of various departments of state government. Such regulations shall provide procedures and precautions for the safety of students in school, employees in the performance of their duties, users of school vehicles, students in transit to and from school, injured students and employees, and visitors to the school. Safety regulations shall be promulgated to all school employees and shall be reviewed and evaluated annually. The Superintendent is directed to instruct teaching staff members in proper safety precautions.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-2; 18A:40-12.1; 18A:40-12.2
N.J.S.A. 40:67-16.7
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4; 6A:26-12.5

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7432 EYE PROTECTION

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

The Superintendent shall promulgate regulations to implement this policy that conform to rules of the State Board of Education and shall provide in-service training to staff members whose instructional duties include activities hazardous to the eyes. The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board on the implementation of the eye protection program and the eye injuries, if any, occurring in the course of the instructional program.

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

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7433 HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

The Board of Education will enforce the law governing hazardous substances in the school district. Employees of this district shall be informed of the hazards related to the handling of certain substances and trained to work with hazardous substances.

Hazardous substance means any substance or substance in a mixture included on the hazardous substance list developed by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Hazardous substances shall not include:

1. Any article containing a hazardous substance if the hazardous substance is present in a solid form which does not pose any acute or chronic health hazard to any person exposed to it;
2. Any hazardous substance constituting less than one percent of a mixture unless the hazardous substance is present in an aggregate amount of five hundred pounds or more in a container in a public or private school or child care center building;
3. Any hazardous substance which is a special health hazardous substance constituting less than the threshold percentage established by the Department of Health and Senior Services pursuant to P.L.1983, c.315 (C.34:5A-1 et seq.), for that special health hazardous substance when present in a mixture;
4. Any hazardous substance present in the same form and concentration as a product packaged for distribution and use by consumers and which is not a product intended primarily for commercial use;
5. Any fuel in a motor vehicle;
6. Tobacco or tobacco products;
7. Wood or wood products;
8. Foods, drugs, or cosmetics;
9. Hazardous substances which are an integral part of a building's structure or furnishings;
10. Products which are personal property and are intended for personal use; and



11. Any substance used in the routine maintenance of a public or private school or child care center building or its grounds, any substance used in a classroom science laboratory, any substance used in a school occupational training facility, including laboratories and shops, and any substance used in the normal operation of the classrooms or administrative offices of a public or private school or child care center, including any substance used in the heating or cooling of the school or child care center.

No person shall use or allow the use of any hazardous substance in or on any building or grounds used as a public school or child care center when children are expected to be present.

The Superintendent may delegate authority for the maintenance of hazardous substances and for the development of safety and training standards for the handling of such substances to a safety officer.

The Director of Buildings and Grounds shall conduct periodic audits of hazardous substances in use in the district, ascertain that such substances are being handled in accordance with appropriate safety requirements, and determine that the employees who are required to handle hazardous substances are properly equipped to do so.

The Director of Buildings and Grounds shall inform the Superintendent of all hazardous substances in use in the district, the purpose of each, and the precautions required for each. The Superintendent shall take such action as may be necessary and feasible to minimize the use of hazardous substances in the district.

The Superintendent shall report periodically to the Board on hazardous substances in district use and the purpose of each.

N.J.S.A. 34:5A-1 et seq.; 34:5A-10.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4; 6A:19-10.5
N.J.A.C. 8:59-1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



PROPERTY

7434/page 1 of 2

Smoking in School Building and
on School Grounds

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7434 SMOKING IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

The Board of Education believes that the right of persons to smoke must be balanced against the right of nonsmokers to breath air untainted by tobacco smoke.

For purpose of this Policy, “smoking” means the burning of, inhaling from, exhaling the smoke from, or the possession of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco or any other matter that can be smoked, including the use of smokeless tobacco and snuff, or the inhaling or exhaling of smoke or vapor from an electronic smoking device.

For purpose of this Policy, “smoking” means the burning of, inhaling from, exhaling the smoke from, or the possession of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other matter or substance which contains tobacco or any other matter that can be smoked, including the use of smokeless tobacco and snuff, or the inhaling or exhaling of smoke or vapor from an electronic smoking device.

For the purpose of this Policy, “electronic smoking device” means an electronic device that can be used to deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, cigar, cigarillo or pipe.

For the purpose of this Policy, “school buildings” and “school grounds” means and includes land, portions of land, structures, buildings, and vehicles when used for the provision of academic or extracurricular programs by the district or community provider and structures that support these buildings, such as school wastewater treatment facilities, generating facilities, and other central facilities including, but not limited to kitchens and maintenance shop. “School buildings” and “school grounds” also includes athletic stadiums; swimming pools; any associated structures or related equipment tied to such facilities including, but not limited to, grandstands; greenhouses; garages; facilities used for non-instructional or non-educational purposes; and any structure, building, or facility used solely for school administration. “School buildings” and “school grounds” also includes other facilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1.2; playgrounds; and other recreational places owned by local municipalities, private entities or other individuals during those times when the school district has exclusive use of a portion of such land.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY

7434/page 2 of 2

Smoking in School Building and
on School Grounds

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 26:3D-58 and N.J.A.C. 8:6-7.2, the Board prohibits smoking at all times anywhere in school buildings or on school grounds. Notwithstanding any provision of this Policy, smoking by students is prohibited and governed by Policy No. 5533.

A sign indicating smoking is prohibited in school buildings and on school grounds will be posted at each public entrance of a school building in accordance with law. The sign shall also indicate violators are subject to a fine. Students and district employees who violate the provisions of this Policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures and may be subject to fines in accordance with law.

The Principal or designee may order the departure and removal of any person who continues to smoke in violation of this Policy and the law after being ordered to stop smoking in school buildings or on school grounds. The Principal or designee may request the assistance of law enforcement to accomplish this departure or removal.

In the event a person is found to have violated this Policy and the law, the Principal or designee may file a complaint with the appropriate Municipal Court or other agency with jurisdiction as defined in N.J.A.C. 8:6-9.1(c).

The Board of Education will comply with any provisions of a municipal ordinance which provides restrictions on or prohibitions against smoking equivalent to, or greater than, those provided in N.J.S.A. 26:3D-55 through N.J.S.A. 26:3D-63.

N.J.S.A. 26:3D-55 through 26:3D-63
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3
N.J.A.C. 8:6-7.2; 8:6-9.1 through 8:6-9.5

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 16 September 2014



7435 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON SCHOOL PREMISES

The knowing possession, without legal authority, or knowing consumption of any alcoholic beverage by any person on school premises is a disorderly persons offense.

The Board of Education prohibits the possession and consumption of an alcoholic beverage, without the express written permission of the Superintendent, by any person in any school building and on school property or at any school sponsored activity.

The Board will report to law enforcement officials and prosecute as appropriate any person who violates law and this policy, except that any student who possesses or uses or is under the influence of alcohol on school premises or at any school sponsored activity will be treated in accordance with law and Policy Nos. 3218, 4218, and 5530.

School district employees who violate this policy or are present on school premises or at any school sponsored activity while under the influence of alcohol will be subject to discipline, which may include dismissal or certification of tenure charges, as appropriate.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-15 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12

N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7436 DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

The Board of Education prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of any controlled dangerous substance by any person in any school building, on school grounds, or during any activity or event sponsored by the Board.

Every employee of this district must, as a condition of employment, agree to be bound by this policy. An employee who violates the prohibitions or reporting requirements of this policy will be subject to discipline, which may include dismissal, or certification of tenure charges, as appropriate. An employee whose involvement with drugs results in a conviction for a crime of the third degree or above or for an offense touching his/her position will be deemed to have forfeited his/her public employment, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:51-2.

An employee who is convicted of a drug related offense must report the conviction to the Superintendent within five days of its occurrence. The Superintendent will, within ten days of the date on which notice of the conviction is received, report any such conviction resulting from drug use in the workplace to any federal agency from which the district has received funds through a grant.

The Board directs the Superintendent to establish and maintain a program to:

1. Alert employees as to the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
2. Inform employees of the prohibitions against drugs set forth in this policy;
3. Inform employees of available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and assistance programs; and
4. Warn employees of the penalties that may be imposed for violations of prohibitions set forth in this policy.

The Board will report to law enforcement officials and prosecute as appropriate any employee or visitor who violates the prohibitions of this policy. A student or employee who violates this policy will be treated in accordance with law and Policy Nos. 3218, 4218, and 5530.

This policy will be distributed to each district employee, including all those engaged in the performance of services under a federal grant, and will be prominently posted in the district.

41 U.S.C.A. Chapter 10
34 CFR 85.600 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 2C:33-15 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



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

The Board shall provide to local law enforcement authorities a copy of the current blueprints and maps for all schools and school grounds within the school district or nonpublic school. In the case of a school building located in the municipality in which there is no municipal policy department, a copy of the blueprints and maps shall be provided to an entity designated by the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. The Board shall provide revised copies to the applicable law enforcement authorities or designated entities any time that there is a change to the blueprints or maps.

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

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

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. 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. 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.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
7440/page 2 of 2
School District Security
Aug 19
M

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 staff shall not open a door for any individual. All persons seeking entry into the main 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.

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

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 29 May, 2018
Revised: 30 April 2019
Revised: 7 January 2020
Revised: 28 April 2021



PROPERTY

7441/page 1 of 1

Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings
And On School Grounds

Dec 17

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7441 ELETRONIC SURVEILLANCE IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

The Board of Education authorizes the use of electronic surveillance systems in school buildings and on school grounds to enhance the safety and security for school district staff, students, community members, and other building occupants and to protect the school district's buildings and grounds.

The content produced by the surveillance system under certain circumstances may be considered a student record and if so it will be subject to the Board of Education policy and regulations regarding confidential student records. If the content of the surveillance system becomes the subject of a disciplinary proceeding, it shall be treated like other evidence in the proceeding.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-9, if at least one school building of the school district is equipped with video surveillance equipment that is capable of streaming live video wirelessly to a remote location, the Board of Education shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with local law enforcement authorities providing the authorities with the capacity to activate the equipment and view live streaming video. The MOU shall include the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-9 and any additional information required by law enforcement officials. In the event the parties to the MOU are unable to reach an agreement regarding any provision required to be included in the MOU as per N.J.S.A. 18A:41-9a, the County Prosecutor shall make the final determination regarding that provision. Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:41-9 shall be construed as to require the installation of video surveillance equipment capable of streaming live video wirelessly to a remote site from a school building that does not have the ability to have live streaming video.

The Board of Education shall post signage in a prominent, public place in buildings and on school grounds where electronic surveillance equipment may be used.

In addition to posting, the district shall notify school staff members, parent(s) and students that electronic surveillance may be used in school buildings and on school grounds through publication in student and staff handbooks, school calendars, notice sent home with students, or any other effective means to publish the district's use of electronic surveillance equipment in school buildings and on school grounds.

N.J.S.A. 18A:41-9

Adopted: May 29, 2018



7450 PROPERTY INVENTORY

As steward of this district's school property, the Board of Education recognizes that efficient management and the replacement of lost, damaged, or stolen property depend upon an accurate inventory and properly maintained property records.

The Board shall conduct a complete inventory by physical count of all district-owned equipment and supplies through a perpetual inventory.

For purposes of this policy, "equipment" means a unit of furniture or furnishings, an instrument, a machine, an apparatus, or a set of articles that retains its shape and appearance with use, is nonconsumable, costs at least \$500 as a single unit, and does not lose its identity when incorporated into a more complex unit.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall ensure that inventories are systematically and accurately recorded and that property records of equipment are adjusted annually. Major items of equipment shall be subject to annual spot check inventory to determine loss, mislocation, or depreciation; any major loss shall be reported to the Board. Property records of consumable supplies shall be maintained on a continuous inventory basis.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall maintain a system of property records that show, as appropriate to the item recorded, description and identification, manufacturer, year of purchase, initial cost, location, condition and depreciation, and current evaluation in conformity with insurance requirements.

N.J.S.A. 18A:4-14
N.J.A.C. 6:20-4.3

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 28 April 2021



7460 ENERGY CONSERVATION

The Board of Education is committed to the conservation of natural as well as fiscal resources and directs the Superintendent to develop and implement regulations for the conservation of energy in the management of school buildings.

The Board further directs all employees of this district to cooperate in the program of energy conservation.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7461 DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It considers the interrelationship of economic, social, and environmental factors that protect and enhance present and future quality of life.

The Board of Education desires to conduct its operations and make decisions with identified sustainability priorities that include at a minimum: protecting students, staff, and community from environmental harm; preparing students for the future by educating for sustainability (Knowledge of concepts and practices of environmental, social and economic responsibility and sustainability); and include an intent to preserve current and future resources.

The Board believes by incorporating sustainable practices into school policies and operations it can make an immediate impact on student health, academic performance, and teacher retention while decreasing operational costs and demands on natural resources.

The Superintendent of Schools will establish a School district Sustainability Committee to provide the Superintendent and the Board with information on the benefits of increased sustainability practices within the school district.

The Board wants to protect students, staff, school visitors and community members from environmental harm and will strive to eliminate the use of potentially toxic and harmful substances; prepare students for the future by providing a high-quality education that support concepts and practices of environment, social, and economic responsibility and sustainability; and preserving current and future resources by adopting practices in operations that balance environmental, social and fiscal responsibility to protect and enhance the future quality of life.

The Board of Education authorizes the following sustainability practices to be implemented within the schools of the district:

Professional Development for Sustainability

Quality professional development of staff and Board members facilitates the effective transition to sustainability planning and practices for schools and school districts. Enhancing the knowledge of school personnel about the benefits and requirements of sustainability practices in a school setting increases the likelihood of a successful integration of sustainability into the school district's operations and promotes shared ownership of the outcomes.

The Board of Education will provide a minimum of two (2) hours of time for professional development on sustainability topics to at least five (5) members of the school district staff



and/or members of the School District Sustainability Committee to include, but not be limited to, school Board members, district administrative staff members, teaching staff members, and support staff members.

The professional development for sustainability will provide a general understanding of the benefits of sustainable schools as well as specific information and guidance on undertaking some aspect of sustainability practices from planning to operations. The School District Sustainability Committee, Board Members, district administrators and other school staff members will work together to identify Board members and staff members that would benefit from training on sustainability topics. Training needs will be determined based on plans to maintain, implement or expand sustainable practices in the school district.

Once the training needs have been identified, various professional development offerings will be reviewed and evaluated to determine the learning concepts that will be included, the educational methods that will be incorporated and the professional skills that will be imparted. Professional development that incorporates sustainability concepts across subject areas in the teaching curriculum will be a key consideration, as educating for sustainability lays the foundation for sustainable thinking and practice among students, staff and the broader community.

The school district may choose to train multiple staff members on a particular sustainability topic, either by hosting the training internally or by sending a group to an external training event such as a professional association meeting. Outside experts or internal staff with expertise in sustainability may also be utilized to provide the training. The training hours may also be completed through webinars, online courses, or workshops. Individual staff members or Board members may be trained in different sustainability topics as relevant to their official role in the school district.

The school district will maintain sustainability training documentation that identifies the names and position of the individuals receiving training (groups of five (5) individuals are recommended), along with the following course information: date, instructor or course provider, course description or syllabus, and course length. Course training times exclude time for breaks and meals from the two (2) hour training requirement. The two (2) hour training requirement does not have to be completed at a single event. For example, two one (1) hour training sessions or three (3) forty-five minute sessions would meet the time requirement.

The training hours must have occurred in the twenty-four months prior to submission for Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification, if such certification is desired.



Qualifying training includes courses or workshops on a topic related to sustainability in schools, from leadership, planning, policy and curriculum development to teaching, enrichment, food service, transportation, and facilities management.

Green Purchasing Policy

Green purchasing, also known as Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP), is the coordinated purchasing of goods and services to minimize impacts on human health and the natural environment. Alternatives exist for many products used by schools that are less hazardous, save energy and water, and reduce waste.

A simple first step will be for the school district to purchase as many products as possible made from recycled content that are themselves recyclable. Green purchasing moves beyond recycled materials and also takes into consideration the raw materials, including energy and water, used to manufacture products; the production process itself; the packaging and distribution method; and the distance of transport and proximity of production.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will provide an outline of the standards and procedures for selecting products based on environmental criteria. The specific standards and guidelines for selecting products will be based on established environmental criteria, as well as promote the adoption of this Policy to district staff members. The district will attempt to purchase, in accordance with the provisions of applicable purchasing laws; green cleaning supplies; green cleaning equipment; recycled paper; energy efficient appliances; and/or equipment purchases and green cleaning training.

Classroom Chemical Purchase, Storage and Disposal Policy

The Board of Education requires outdated chemicals used in the school district as part of the school district's Chemical Hygiene Plan are routinely removed from school grounds and future purchases will attempt to curtail or eliminate storage of unneeded chemicals. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will coordinate a lab clean-out and clean-out of outdated and unneeded chemicals every eighteen months.

Classroom chemical purchase, storage and disposal will be in accordance with Board of Education Policy 7420 – Hygienic Management and Regulation 7420.2 – Chemical Hygiene that is in accordance with Federal and State Law.

Green Cleaning Policy and Plan

A well-designed Green Cleaning Program developed by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be designed to reduce harmful chemical exposure and yield positive benefits for students, custodial staff, administrators, teachers and



the environment by protecting the environment; providing a healthy learning and work environment; increasing the lifespan of facilities; and protecting the health of custodial maintenance and building staff.

This policy incorporates recommendations from the district's Green Cleaning Plan which will commit to procuring and using green cleaning products and green equipment, support training for custodial and maintenance staff, and describe efforts to evaluate and monitor progress. This Green Cleaning Policy will be shared with the administration, school staff members and the broader school community. Before adopting this Green Cleaning Policy, the district will develop a Green Cleaning Plan or Green Cleaning Action Plan that will inform the Policy and support an effective program.

The school district's Green Cleaning Program will incorporate green cleaning products and equipment as well as staff training, engage parents, students and school organizations in the program implementation; and follow a comprehensive plan that articulates strategies for key building areas including classrooms, kitchens, gymnasiums, offices and entry systems. In addition to the use of Green Cleaning products, the district's Green Cleaning Program will incorporate technologies like microfiber cloths to reduce the use of cleaning chemicals and HEPA-filtered vacuum cleaners to promote healthy indoor air quality.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will establish a District Green Cleaning workgroup that includes administrators, facility manager, custodial and maintenance staff, teachers, school nurses, support staff, parents, and Green Team members, as well as other individuals interested in Green Cleaning to familiarize the team with Green Cleaning Program components including Green Cleaning supplies and equipment, as well as the relationship to indoor air quality, chemical exposure and cost-saving opportunities.

The development of the district's Green Cleaning Plan or Green Cleaning Action Plan will consider the following steps:

1. Complete building cleaning assessments by collecting facility and occupant information, and historical program strengths or weaknesses.
2. Create an inventory of custodial cleaning products and mechanical and non-mechanical equipment, and determine if they meet Green Cleaning standards.
3. Assess staff training and identify training needs and program resources available to support training. Determine how existing policies and procedures can be modified to utilize the wide range of Green Cleaning techniques and concurrently meet accepted levels of clean for specific areas of the facility.



PROPERTY
7461/page 5 of 7
District Sustainability Policy
May 17

4. Develop a plan with goals and strategies for cleaning procedures, Green Cleaning supplies, Green Cleaning equipment and building facility enhancements (like expanded use and maintenance of walk-off mats at entrances). Benchmarks to guide the transition to Green Cleaning are critical due to training, product sourcing and purchasing and staffing considerations.
5. Identify the Green Cleaning standards that will be used to purchase Green Cleaning equipment, non-mechanical equipment, and Green Cleaning custodial supplies. Possible standards include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Carpet and Rug Institute, Green Vacuum Cleaner Standards.
 - b. ISSA, Construction Industry Management Standard for Green Buildings that supports Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.
 - c. EcoLogo Certified products, services and packaging are certified for reduced environmental impact, ECOLOGO Certifications are voluntary, multi-attribute, lifecycle based environmental certifications that indicate a product has undergone rigorous scientific testing, exhaustive auditing, or both, to prove its compliance with stringent, third-party, environmental performance standards.
 - d. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safer Choice label helps consumers, businesses, and institutional buyers identify cleaning products and others that perform well and are safer for human health and environment.
 - e. Green Seal standard provides sustainability standards for products, services and companies based on life-cycle research. Green Seal standards provide criteria and guidelines for manufacturers, service providers, and companies to work toward sustainability. Green Seal has 31 issued standards that cover over 375 product and service categories. Examples of Cleaning Products and Services include the GS-42 Commercial and Institutional Cleaning Services, GS-34 Cleaning and Degreasing Agents, GS-37 Green Cleaning Services, GS-40 Floor-Care Products for Industrial and Institutional use, and GS-41 Hand Cleaners for Industrial and Institutional Use.



PROPERTY
7461/page 6 of 7
District Sustainability Policy
May 17

- f. U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design-Existing Buildings criteria; or ISSA Cleaning Industry Management Standard for Green Buildings.
 - g. Other standards that meet or exceed those listed above are also acceptable.
6. Green Cleaning Action plans may also incorporate implementation timeframes and program-monitoring requirements.

In addition to high-quality physical education classes in the school district taught by certified and well-supported physical education teachers, multiple opportunities exist before, during and after school to enable young people to achieve the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' recommended sixty minutes of physical activity per day. They include: recess, physical activity breaks, before and after school programs, and the use of school facilities outside school hours.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires every school district that participates in Federal school meals programs to have a local school Wellness Policy that includes goals for physical activity. The Board of Education has adopted Policy 8505 – Local Wellness Policy/Nutrient Standards for Meals and Other Foods to meet this requirement. The Board of Education promotes a comprehensive school-based physical activity program in accordance with Board policy that will permit students to safely work to and from school, to ride bicycles to and from school, and some of the activities and programs listed below to promote physical activities:

1. Recess: The district will provide a recess period on most school days for Kindergarten through fifth grade students;
2. Physical Activity Breaks: Teachers may periodically conduct three to five minute “physical activity breaks” or “brain energizers” and incorporate physical activity into academic lessons to help improve student performance and on-task behavior;
3. Before and After School Programs: Elementary and Middle Schools in the district will attempt to offer a minimum of two (2) types of extracurricular programs that provide students with opportunities for physical activity beyond school hours.



4. if the district offers a before and/or after school student care program for children, either directly or through a contractor, such programs shall incorporate physical activity as a component of the daily schedule;
5. Intramural sports, which are organized sports that often emphasize fun as well as competition and involve students from the school of all skill levels which may not want to participate in an interscholastic sport;
6. Physical activity clubs that allow students to pursue specific interests or explore new activities;
7. Use of School Facilities Outside School Hours: The district may, in accordance with Board Policy, allow for the joint use of school facilities by community recreation programs offered by municipal or parks and recreation commissions, outside agencies, and/or youth-serving organizations on evenings, weekends and during breaks in the school calendar.

Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School is a nationwide movement aimed at encouraging elementary and middle school students to walk or bicycle to school. The goal of New Jersey's Safe Routes to School initiative is to get children walking and bicycling to school where it is safe and to make it safe where it is not safe. In support of this initiative, the Board has adopted Policy 8505 – Local Wellness Policy/Nutrient Standards for Meals and Other Foods, Policy 8600 – Transportation, and Policy 5514 – Student Use of Vehicles. The Board of Education and the administration will collaborate with municipal, county or state transportation, land-use planning, law enforcement and other agencies to plan, construct and encourage the use of safe, accessible and convenient pedestrian and bicycle routes to and from school.

The Board recognizes the benefits of students walking or riding a bicycle to school on a safe route. Understanding there may not be a safe walking or biking route to and from school for every student, this physical activity for a student is both mentally and physically beneficial.

Students walking and riding a bicycle to school will be required to comply with Board policies, all safety and school rules and regulations. A list of conditions explaining the rules and expectations of the student and parent will be provided by the Principal or designee.

The Board of Education will post this Policy on the school district website along with samples of the district's outreach activities to staff, students and parents notifying them of the Policy adoption. Outreach activities/materials will include district newsletter articles, email blasts,



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

presentations/announcements at Board of Education or district-wide staff meetings, and other public events.

Adopted: 2 January 2018



7480 MOTOR VEHICLES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The school grounds owned and maintained by this Board of Education are subject to damage by motor vehicles. Accordingly, the Board has provided areas, adjacent to the school building, in which employees of the district and visitors to the school may drive and park motor vehicles.

The Board prohibits the use or presence of any motor vehicle, including motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, snow mobiles, and mopeds, for any purpose on any part of the school property owned by the Board other than the driving and parking areas established by the Board except as expressly permitted by the Superintendent and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

The Board directs the Superintendent to have conspicuous notices posted forbidding the parking of motor vehicles in undesignated areas of the school grounds.

The Board reserves the right to prosecute in a court of competent jurisdiction any person whose violation of this rule results in damage to the property of this district.

N.J.S.A. 2C:17-3
N.J.S.A. 18A:37-3

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7490 ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Board of Education will make every reasonable effort to maintain school grounds in a condition appropriate for the activities of school students.

Pet animals are not permitted on school district grounds, except by the express permission of the Building Principal. Without such permission, a pet owner who brings or permits his/her animal on school grounds has committed an act of trespass. If an animal is found running at large on school grounds, its owner will be deemed to have permitted the animal to enter school property.

The Board directs the Building Principal to give notice regarding the prohibition of pets by posting appropriate signs on school property. The Principal shall report to the appropriate municipal authorities any pet that runs at large on school property and any pet owner whose animal is present on school property is in violation of this policy.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7510 USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Board of Education owns and has responsibility for the maintenance of the equipment, buildings and grounds of the North Caldwell Public Schools. That responsibility includes minimizing the wear and tear and operational costs of those facilities so that they will be available for school-related activities. Although the primary purpose of the facilities is to support the Board's educational programs, it is the Board's policy to make its facilities available to the community and others serving the community under certain terms and conditions and at the sole discretion of the Board.

A. Groups Eligible

The schools and school sponsored activities have first priority in the use of all school facilities at all times. Thereafter, organizations that have properly followed the application procedures will be eligible for consideration by the Board by order of application within each category. The following organizations and/or categories are listed in order of priority:

- Class 1: North Caldwell Education Association, Board of Education Committees, and North Caldwell Partnership for Education.
- Class 2: North Caldwell Recreation Department, West Essex District Teams or Clubs and other Municipal departments for the sole benefit of North Caldwell children.
- Class 3: Employees of the district will pay a \$100.00 permit fee per school calendar year for the sole benefit of North Caldwell children.
- Class 4: Not-for-profit clubs or teams organized for the sole benefit of North Caldwell children (requires 501(c)(3)).
- Class 5: Any other entity organized for athletic, cultural, civic, educational, recreational or social purposes, including any private organizations.
- Class 6: Camp programs for the sole benefit of North Caldwell children.
- Class 7: Local news media hosting a candidates' night to which all candidates for a covered position are invited to present their candidacy to the North Caldwell community. Covered position shall mean the position of North Caldwell Mayor, or member of the North Caldwell Town Council, or member of the North Caldwell Board of Education, or North Caldwell representative member of the West Essex Board of Education.



B. Costs

The following per diem costs shall be applied and are subject to change annually without prior notice by the Board:

Facility fees for Class 1: No Fee

Facility fees for Class 2 and 4:

1. Use of indoor facilities for less than thirty (30) days will require a \$50.00 permit fee per activity.
2. Use of indoor facilities for thirty (30) to ninety (90) days will require a \$150.00 permit fee per activity.
3. Use of indoor facilities for ninety-one (91) days or more will require a \$250.00 permit fee per activity.
4. Use of facilities that will require an additional fee for custodial services, as follows:

Monday - Saturday:	\$75.00 per hour per custodian (minimum four [4] hour charge)
Sunday & Holidays:	\$150.00 per hour per custodian (minimum four [4] hour charge)
5. Use of fields will require a \$250.00 permit fee per season per school year.

Facility fees for Class 3: For the sole benefit of the North Caldwell children, employees of the district will pay a \$100.00 permit fee per school calendar year.

Facility fees for Class 5:

Gymnasium:	\$500 (per use)
Cafeteria:	\$500 (per use)
Classroom:	\$350 (each classroom, per use)
Field:	\$500 per use

Facility fees for Class 6: Use of indoor facilities for camp like programs up to six (6) weeks will require a \$2,000.00 permit fee. Each additional week will require a fee of \$350.00 per week.



Facility fees for Class 7: A fee of \$100.00 per event will be charged.

Use of air conditioning: For non-class 6 programs, a fee in the amount of \$10.00 per diem will be assessed for use of air conditioning in a classroom. A fee in the amount of \$25.00 per diem will be assessed for use of air conditioning in the cafeteria. This fee will be imposed at the will of the Board according to the time of year facility is being used.

The costs of custodial services, including overtime, required as a result of the facilities' use will be borne solely by the organization incurring those costs in any of the four categories identified above including any and all costs associated with post clean-up.

Door monitors are required for class 2, 4 and 5 activities. Monitors will be provided and coordinated by NCBOE. Door monitor fee is \$80.00 for a four (4) hour block based on thirty (30) minutes before event up to three (3) hours for event and thirty (30) minutes after event. If the event is over three (3) hours, the charge will be an additional \$20.00 per hour. The thirty (30) minutes before and after is for administrative duties as district liaison to complete final event check list and not for the actual event.

Penalties: A minimum of \$100.00 penalty will be assessed for facilities being left in a condition that requires additional custodial care. This is in addition to overtime charged at \$75.00 per hour or \$150.00 per hour on a Sunday.

All fees can be imposed by the Board of Education at their discretion. All fees must be paid prior to use and no refunds will be given.

Each user shall present evidence of the purchase of organizational liability insurance to the limit as prescribed by district regulations each time facilities use forms are submitted to the district. The district is not responsible to search for overlapping, valid annual insurance coverage from year to year for each organization. Each user shall inspect any facility or school grounds to be used prior to such use and shall notify a district representative of any existing safety or dangerous conditions. In the event such conditions exist, the district may cancel or modify the user's access to the school facility until such conditions are addressed. Users shall be financially liable for damage to the facilities and for proper chaperonage as required by the school district administration.

C. Application Process and Procedure

Any organization that seeks to use the Board's facilities must provide the Board Secretary/Business Administrator with a completed application and fees, together with all supporting documents, no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the use sought. Incomplete



applications will not be considered. Schedule changes will require forty-eight (48) business hours' notice and will only be made if facility schedule permits. Applications are available in the Board Business Office in the Gould Building or on the district website (www.ncboe.org) under Board of Education – Facility Use Request.

The application must be signed by an adult representative of the requesting organization who will be considered by the Board to be the agent of the organization and name of person responsible for use(s).

The school district shall provide a copy of Policy and Regulation 2431.4 – Prevention and Treatment of sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries to all youth sports team organizations that operate on school grounds or in school facilities. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.5, the school district shall not be liable for the injury or death of a person due to the action or inaction of persons employed by, or under contract with, a youth sports team organization that uses school facilities or operates on school grounds if the youth sports team organization provides the school district proof of an insurance policy in the amount of not less than \$50,000 per person, per occurrence; insuring the youth sports team organization against liability for any bodily injury suffered by a person. The youth sports team organization must also provide a statement of compliance with the school district's Policy and Regulation 2431.4 – Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries.

For the purpose of this Policy, a “youth sports team organization” means one or more sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or which are member teams in a league organized by or affiliated with North Caldwell municipal recreation department and sole benefit of North Caldwell Children (501(c)(3) required).

Completed applications will be submitted to the Board at the first meeting following their submission provided they are received before the meeting deadline (which is three (3) business days prior to meeting date). The Board will make every effort to provide a timely response to each application. Notice will be provided by the Business Office following the Board's decision.

The supporting documentation required for each facilities use application shall include:

- (1) An Indemnification/Hold Harmless Agreement signed by an officer of the organization authorized to fully bind the organization. The signature of the authorized officer must be notarized.
- (2) Documentation identifying individuals authorized by the Secretary of State to accept service of process and notices on behalf of the organization and an address for such service.



- (3) Certificate of Insurance evidencing commercial liability and naming the Board of Education as an additional insured and such insurance shall be with a reputable insurance carrier with at least an “A” rating and financial size VII from the A.M. Best Company authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey and acceptable to the NCBOE and have the minimum amounts set forth below:

\$1,000,000 per occurrence
\$2,000,000 in the aggregate

- (4) A copy of the responsible party’s government issued photo identification (ex: driver’s license).
- (5) Statement of compliance with district policy 2431.4, Prevention and Treatment of Sports Related concussions and Head Injuries.
- (6) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41a and N.J.S.A. 2A:62A-27, the Licensor, its employees, agents and servants shall not be liable for the injury or death of a person arising from the presence of and access to an AED, as well as the action or inaction of the Licensee or any of the Licensee’s members, agents, contractors, servants, employees, volunteers, licensees or invitees.

D. Standards for Approval, Denial or Withdrawal

1. The School Board Secretary will review each application and check the school calendar to determine whether the facility requested is available at the date and time requested that is, the facility has not been scheduled:
 - a. For use in the instructional or co-curricular program,
 - b. For maintenance, repair, or capital improvement, or
 - c. For use by another organization.
2. If the facility is not available for use, the school board secretary will so inform the representative of the organization and may suggest alternative dates, times or facilities.



3. If an application is granted, the Board Office will issue a numbered permit that identifies the organization granted approval and the date(s) and time(s) that the facilities use is permitted. At least one member of the organization granted facility use must have the original or a copy of the permit with them at the time of each use or will not be permitted access to the facilities. North Caldwell Borough will be required to provide badges and lanyards for their coaches, camp counselors or any other individuals working under a permit issued to a program through the town's recreation department. Due to school security concerns, anyone without a lanyard and ID card will not be permitted access to facility and no refunds will be given.
4. Standards for approval include the following limitations on use:
 - a. School facilities are available for use only during the hours of 3:15 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. School facilities are not available for use during the school day.
 - b. The use of school facilities will generally not be granted for observances or celebrations that are essentially private in nature or for meetings of small groups that can convene in private homes.
 - c. In accordance with Policy No. 7510, the use of school facilities will not be granted for the advantage of any commercial or profit-making organization, or any purpose that is prohibited by law.
5. The Business Administrator/Superintendent will determine the classification (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) of the applicant organization and the fees and costs, if any, to be charged for the use of the facility. That information will be entered on the application form.
6. In the event of a conflict between requesting organizations within the same class, the request received earlier by the district will be honored first.
7. The application form will include the rules governing the use of school facilities, and the representative's signature on the application will signify notice of those rules and the organization's agreement to be bound by those rules.



8. The Board reserves the right to deny any application for facilities for good and sufficient reasons at its sole discretion. The Board may also withdraw its approval of an application for facilities use at any time at its sole discretion. Any organization's failure to adhere to the requirements, conditions and Rules and Regulations for Use of Facilities of the Board may result in the Board's withdrawal of its approval and/or cancellation of an event. Any organization that does not properly maintain the facilities, supervise the individuals involved in the activities and provide a safe and secure environment may have its approval withdrawn and future use of facilities may be denied.

E. Rules and Regulations for Use of Facilities of the Board of Education of North Caldwell

1. Possession of alcoholic beverages anywhere on school grounds is a violation of New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice 2C:33-16. Therefore, the possession of alcoholic beverages on school grounds is strictly forbidden.
2. All litter must be removed prior to leaving the area of the school facilities used (including fields). Facilities must be left in broom clean condition.
3. The user must obtain the Business Administrator's/Superintendent's permission to bring equipment, decorations or materials to be the school facility. No equipment, decorations or materials may be nailed to floors, walls, windows, woodwork, curtains or fixtures or affixed to the same in any manner that defaces or damages school property. Any damage will be billed to user.
4. Any equipment, scenery decorations or other material brought to the school facility and any debris caused by the use or remaining after the use must be promptly removed by the user. Any such materials left on school premises more than twenty-four (24) hours after the use may be removed by the Board at the user's expense. The Board assumes no liability for damage to or loss of materials brought to school facilities.
5. The sponsor of any event using school facilities is responsible for controlling participants and ensuring the safety and security of all involved and the maintenance of the facilities. None of the doors should be "propped" open for any reason. All doors are to remain closed and locked and opened only by the door monitor.



6. Lighting equipment, ventilation systems and thermostatic controls may be operated only by an employee of the district.
7. Consuming food or beverages in the gymnasium is prohibited except where permission is given in advance by the Board.
8. No animal shall be allowed on school premises without the approval of the Superintendent.
9. No signs, posters, advertisements, or other displays may be placed in the school building without the approval of the Superintendent.
10. The custodian is responsible for examining the facility immediately after the use and informing the user of any loss or damage that must be corrected.
11. Permission to use school facilities extends only to the facility requested. Users are not entitled to enter health offices, administrative offices, storage closets, or any other room to which permission to use has not been expressly granted. Users are not permitted to use district telephones, computers and office equipment.
12. No vehicles of any type shall be operated in any area that is not designed for such vehicles.
13. Event participants for an indoor event are required to remain inside the facility being used.
14. Employees are considered designees in charge of the building in which they work. Verbal or any other form of abuse of any Board of Education employee is the same as abuse of any school official or authority and will be treated accordingly.
15. The Board of Education reserves the right to assign a Board of Education employee to any event, the cost of which will be borne by the event sponsor.
16. The Board of Education reserves the right to close its fields or other facilities at its sole discretion. On weekdays, the Director of Buildings and Grounds will decide whether to close the fields, and on weekends, the chairperson of the Board's Buildings and Grounds Committee, or their designee, will make that decision and notify the appropriate representative of the organization intending to use the fields.



17. An individual representing the organization that has been granted facilities use must have a copy of the Facilities Use Permit issued by the Board in their possession at the time of the event and must show it to any representative or employee of the Board upon request, and must have the lanyard for recreation.
18. Failure to abide by these rules may result in additional charges for costs of excess clean up and/or repair and/or the Board's withdrawal of existing approvals for use of school facilities.

F. Facility Uses Must be Properly Supervised

- a. A school custodian must be on duty during the entire time a use occurs. The custodian is present for the purpose of insuring the security and proper functioning of the facility and of enforcing these regulations. The custodian is paid by the Board and may not accept gratuities from users. If the custodian is directed by the Superintendent to perform extra services as an accommodation to the user, the user will be charged an additional fee and the custodian will be compensated accordingly by the district.
- b. The user must assume full responsibility for the conduct of all participants in the use while they are in or about school buildings and grounds and must enforce these regulations. The user must provide an adequate number of persons to supervise participants in the activity.
- c. Board members and school officials are entitled to full and free access to any part of the school premises during any use. No user may exclude a Board Member or school official from a school facility for any reason.

All organizations granted approval under this policy are strictly responsible for abiding by the Rules and Regulations for Facilities Use attached to the policy and the maintenance of the facilities and the safety and security of all participants in its activities. The use of alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco on school property is strictly prohibited.

N.J.S.A. 18A:20-20; 18A:20-34

Approved: July 20, 2010

Revised: February 15, 2011

Revised: March 27, 2012

Revised: June 16, 2016

Revised: October 15, 2019

Revised: April 28, 2021



7513 RECREATIONAL USE OF PLAYGROUNDS

The Board of Education requires that the playground of the school affords residents with a recreational area when school is not in session. The Board reserves the right to determine, in the interest of the safety of district residents and the integrity of the school facility, the uses to which the playground may be put and the hours when it may be used.

The Board will publish rules of conduct, which shall govern all persons who use the facilities of this district. Students and employees of this district who violate those rules will be subject to discipline. The Board directs that any other person who violates a rule of this Board be requested to leave the school premises.

Because of its potential for hazard, no object that is powered by fuel or battery shall be brought onto the school grounds for any purpose that is primarily recreational without the express permission of the Principal. Such objects include, but are not limited to, mini-bikes, mopeds, motorized model airplanes, and rockets.

N.J.S.A. 18A:20-17 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7520 LOAN OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

The Board of Education believes that district owned equipment is a valuable resource that may be loaned for community use under certain conditions and when such use does not interfere with the educational program of the school.

The Board may lend specific items of equipment on the written request of the user when approval has been granted by the Superintendent and when such equipment is unobtainable elsewhere.

School equipment may be removed from school property by students or staff members only when such equipment is necessary to accomplish a task arising from their school or job responsibilities. The consent of the Building Principal is required for such removal. The removal of school equipment from school property by students or employees for personal use is prohibited.

The user of school owned equipment shall be fully liable for any damage or loss occurring to the equipment during the period of its use, regardless of any assignment of negligence, and shall be responsible for its safe return. When equipment authorized for loan requires the services of a qualified operator, the user shall employ the services of a person designated by this district and shall pay such costs as may have been set for such services.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



PROPERTY
7522/page 1 of 3

School District Provided Technology Devices to
Staff Members
Jun 13

7522 SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDED TECHNOLOGY DEVICES TO STAFF MEMBERS

The Board of Education may provide technology devices to staff members for the express purpose of enhancing productivity and improving operational efficiency. The purpose of this Policy is to establish general guidelines for the issuance and utilization of any school district technology device provided to staff members. For the purposes of this Policy, “technology device” or “device” shall include, but not be limited to, portable devices such as computers, laptops, tablets, cellular telephones, or any other computing or electronic devices the school district provides to staff members to be used in their school business related responsibilities.

A technology device provided by the school district to a staff member may include pre-loaded software. A staff member shall not download additional software onto the technology device or tamper with software included on the technology device. Only school district authorized staff members may load or download software onto a school district provided technology device. A staff member(s) will be designated to administer and implement the issuance of school district technology devices to staff members.

In the event the Board of Education provides a technology device to a staff member, the staff member shall be required to sign an agreement with the Board of Education requiring the staff member to comply with certain provisions. These provisions may include, but are not limited to:

1. A technology device provided to a staff member shall be used for the sole and express purpose of conducting official school district business;
2. Use of all such devices is subject to the school district’s acceptable use of technology policies and any other Board policies regarding appropriate and acceptable conduct by a staff member.
3. All technology devices are considered the personal property of the Board of Education and shall be returned upon termination of employment with the school district or immediately upon request by the Superintendent of Schools or designee;
4. Technology devices provided by the school district to staff members may include the school district’s software image and preloaded software for specific tasks. The installation of other software images or software on



such technology devices may only be done by school district authorized staff members.

5. Staff members that are provided technology devices are expected to take all appropriate measures and precautions to prevent the loss, theft, damage, and/or unauthorized use of such technology devices. These appropriate measures and precautions for school district provided technology devices to staff members shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Keep the technology device in a locked and secured environment when not being used;
 - b. Do not leave the technology device in a vehicle for prolonged periods of time, especially in extreme temperatures;
 - c. Keep food and drinks away from all technology devices and work areas;
 - d. Prohibit the use of any technology device by any other person except as authorized by the Superintendent or designee;
 - e. Do not leave the technology device unattended at any time in an unsecured location (e.g., an unlocked empty classroom or office); and
 - f. Keep the technology device in sight at all times while in public places, such as public transportation, airports, restaurants, etc.
6. Should the staff member have reason to believe the technology device may have been stolen, the staff member must:
 - a. Immediately report the incident to his/her immediate supervisor;
 - b. File an official police report documenting the theft; and
 - c. Provide a copy of the police report to his/her immediate supervisor.



If a staff member fails to adhere to these procedures, the staff member will be held legally and financially responsible for the replacement of such technology device. A staff member may be financially responsible for the loss or damage of a technology device;

7. A staff member must contact the district designated staff member in the event the technology device is not functioning properly or for repairs and/or required maintenance;
8. The Board of Education is under no legal, financial, or other obligation to provide a replacement technology device to any employee whose device is lost, stolen or damaged;
9. Any technology device provided to a staff member is the property of the Board of Education. As such, the staff member shall have no expectation of privacy in the use of such device. The technology device may have security settings, monitoring or auditing software, tracking technology and any other software that could monitor the use of the technology device;
10. The staff member(s) designated to administer and implement the issuance of technology devices to staff member shall:
 - a. Maintain direct oversight of the inventory of devices, service contracts, agreements, and internal controls for all school district provided technology devices provided to staff members; and
 - b. Ensure compliance with regulatory policies and procedures as applicable.
11. Any violation of Board of Education policies or procedures including, but not limited to, school district provided technology devices to staff members; acceptable use of computer networks, computers and resources; and/or inappropriate staff conduct may result in appropriate disciplinary action.

A copy of this Policy shall be attached to the agreement that shall be signed by any staff member who received a technology device in accordance with the provisions of this Policy.

Adopted: 16 September 2014



7523 SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDED TECHNOLOGY DEVICES TO STUDENTS

The Board of Education may provide technology devices to students in the district for school district authorized use only. The purpose of this Policy is to establish general guidelines for the issuance and utilization of any school district technology device provided to students of this district. For the purposes of this Policy, “technology device” or “device” shall include, but not be limited to, portable devices such as computers, laptops, tablets, cellular telephones, or any other computing or electronic devices the school district provides to students to be used as part of their educational program.

A technology device made available to students will not be considered a textbook or supply, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1, mandatory to a successful completion of the classroom curriculum. Therefore, because a technology device defined in this policy is not mandatory to a successful completion of a student’s classroom curriculum, a student will not be required to obtain a technology device provided by the school district as defined in this Policy. In the event the school district provides a technology device that is deemed mandatory to a successful completion of the classroom curriculum, the district will provide students with such a technology device consistent with its textbook or supply policies. Nothing in this Policy prohibits a student from using their personal technology device in accordance with school rules and regulations.

A technology device provided by the school district may include pre-loaded software. A student is prevented from downloading additional software onto the technology device or tampering with software installed on the technology device. Only school district authorized staff members may load or download software onto a school district provided technology device.

To receive a school district provided technology device, the parent and student must sign a School district Provided Technology Device Form requiring the parent and the student to comply with certain provisions. These provisions may include, but are not limited to:

1. A school district provided technology device must be used only by the student for school district authorized use;
2. A student shall comply with the school district’s acceptable use of technology policies, which shall be attached to the School District Provided Technology Device Form, in their use of any school district provided technology device;



3. Any school district provided technology device loaned to a student must be returned to the school district in the condition it was initially provided to the student considering reasonable use and care by the student;
4. The parent or student shall be responsible to reimburse the school district the cost of any technology device that is lost, damaged beyond reasonable use or beyond its value, abandoned, missing, stolen, or cannot be returned to the district in accordance with the terms of the School District Provided Technology Device Form;
5. The district may require, or offer as an option, depending on the type of technology device provided to the student, an insurance policy to be purchased by the parent or student that would cover certain losses or damage to a technology device during the time period the student has possession of the device. The parent or the student shall pay any insurance policy required deductibles in the event of a loss;
6. In the event the school district does not require the purchase of an insurance policy for a technology device or the parent or student elects not to purchase optional insurance, the parent and/or student shall be responsible for any loss or damage to the technology device in accordance with the terms of the School District provided Technology Device Form;
7. A student will be required to report any hardware or software problems in the operation of the device to the school district staff member, designated on the School District Provided Technology Device Form, within two (2) school days of the commencement of the problem;
8. A student must report to the school district staff member designated on the School District Provided Technology Device Form within two (2) school days in the event the technology device has been damaged or is missing;
9. A parent or student is required to immediately file a police report in the event it is believed the technology device has been stolen. Within one (1) school day after filing a police report, a parent or student shall complete the School District Provided Technology Device Loss Form and submit the completed Loss Form and a copy of the police report to the Principal or designee;



10. A student shall be required to provide routine cleaning and care of the device in accordance with school district cleaning and care guidelines;
11. The student shall have the technology device in their possession in school as required; and
12. Any other provisions the Superintendent of Schools determines should be included on the School District Provided Technology Device form.

The school district will provide the student and parent with written or electronic notification that the technology device provided by the school district may record or collect information on the student's activity or the student's use of the technology device if the device is equipped with a camera, global positioning system, or other feature capable of recording or collecting information on the student's activity or use of the device. This notification shall also include a statement that the school district shall not use any of the capabilities in a manner that would violate the privacy rights of the student or any individual residing with the student. The parent shall be required to acknowledge receipt of this notification and the parent acknowledgement shall be retained by the Principal or designee for as long as the student retains the use of the school district provided technology device. The parent acknowledgement and a signed School District Provided Technology Device Form shall be required before the issuance of a technology device to a student. In accordance with the provisions of P.L. 2013, Chapter 44, a school district failing to provide this notification shall be subject to a fine of \$250 per student, per incident. The fine shall be remitted to the New Jersey Department of Education, and shall be deposited in a fund that shall be used to provide laptop or other portable computer equipment to at-risk students as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-45.

Students shall comply with all school district policies for the use of a school district provided technology device. A student shall be subject to consequences in the event the student violates any school district policy, including the district's acceptable use policies; student code of conduct; any provision of this Policy; or any provision of the School District Provided Technology Device Form.

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

P.L. 2013, Chapter 44 – "The Anti-Big Brother Act"

Adopted: 16 September 2014



7610 VANDALISM

The Board of Education believes that all school district property should be respected and all persons who use or have access to school district property should respect such property and take pride in the institutions of this community and the schools of this district.

Any person who purposely or knowingly damages school district property or damages school district property recklessly or negligently in the employment of fire, explosives or another dangerous means listed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2C:17-2 or purposely or recklessly tampers with the tangible property of the school district so as to endanger school district property shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Where the damage to district property is more than minimal or has been caused by a student or a minor not a student of this district, the Board will hold liable for the amount of the damage the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) having legal custody and control of the minor responsible for the damage.

A person convicted of an offense that involves an act of graffiti will be required to reimburse the school district the cost of damages and may be required to perform community service, which may include removing the graffiti from the property, in accordance with the law. In addition, the courts may suspend or postpone driving privileges of any person, at least thirteen and under eighteen years of age, if convicted of an act of graffiti.

A person who purposely defaces or damages district property with any symbol that exposes persons to violence, contempt, or hatred on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation or sex, social or economic status, or disability is guilty of a crime and shall be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities. The Board may also report to the appropriate law enforcement agencies any person whose vandalism of school property is serious or chronic.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations to implement this policy and to protect textbooks, school equipment, and school facilities from undue wear, damage, or loss.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-10 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:34-2; 18A:37-3

Adopted: 2 February 2010



7650 SCHOOL VEHICLE ASSIGNMENT, USE, TRACKING, MAINTENANCE,
AND ACCOUNTING

The Board of Education adopts this Policy concerning the assignment, use, tracking, maintenance, and accounting of school district vehicles in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.11 and 6A:23A-6.12. For the purposes of this Policy, a “school district vehicle” means a vehicle purchased, leased, leased-purchased, or acquired without cost by gift, donation, or other method by the school district regardless of funding source.

School district vehicle assignment and use shall be in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.12 and in accordance with OMB Circular 08-16-ADM or any superseding circulars. The Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, may authorize, at its discretion, by an affirmative vote of the Board’s full membership, the lease, lease-purchase, or purchase and assignment of school district vehicles for the conduct of official school district business.

The vehicles may be assigned either to individuals or to units within the school district for pool use according to classifications as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.12(b). No individual assignment shall be made for the primary purpose of commuting. All changes to vehicle assignment, whether pool or individual, shall require prior written approval of the Superintendent and the authorization of an affirmative majority vote of the full Board.

A school district vehicle shall only be used for business purposes and incidental and reasonable personal use of a school vehicle is prohibited without the approval of the Superintendent and the authorization of an affirmative majority vote of the full Board.

If a school district vehicle is misused the driver's driving privileges for school district vehicles shall be suspended or revoked, and additional disciplinary action shall be taken as appropriate. The Board shall establish and implement a policy for progressive, uniform, and mandatory disciplinary actions to be applied as necessary in the event it is determined a staff member misused a school vehicle.

The Board designates the Director of Buildings and Grounds as the school vehicle coordinator(s) for district vehicles. The school vehicle coordinator(s) shall maintain inventory control records pursuant to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.11(a)1., driving records of operators of school district vehicles pursuant to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.11(a)2., and the records of maintenance, repair and body work pursuant to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.11(a)3.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.11; 6A:23A-6.12

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8130 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

The Board of Education directs the organization of the instructional program of this district in the following schools and grades:

Schools

Grades

Grandview School

Pre-Kindergarten - 3

Gould School

4 - 6

Modifications in the organizational plan of the schools may be made only by the Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall continually monitor the effectiveness of the school organizational plan and recommend to the Board such modifications in the plan which are in the best interests of the students, make wisest use of district resources and serve the educational goals of this Board.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



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 ~~the school~~ is 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. Absent 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.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: 2 February 2010
Revised: 7 March 2023



8210 SCHOOL YEAR

The Board of Education recognizes that the preparation of a school calendar is essential to orderly educational planning and to the efficient operation of the district.

The Board shall determine annually the days when the schools will be in session for instructional purposes. The school calendar will provide no fewer than one hundred eighty days of instruction. Days on which school is closed for holidays, teachers' institutes, and inclement weather shall not be considered as days in session.

A school day shall consist of not less than four hours of actual instruction, except that in an approved Kindergarten, one continuous session of two and one half hours may be considered a full day. A half-day class shall be considered the equivalent of a full day's attendance only if the class is in session for four hours or more, exclusive of recess periods or lunch periods.

An approved Kindergarten shall meet the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(c).

The Commissioner of Education shall annually prescribe a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse students for religious observance upon the written request signed by the parent or person standing in loco parentis. Staff members shall avoid, whenever possible, scheduling a test on a religious holiday commonly observed by residents of the district.

The Superintendent shall annually prepare and submit to the Board a school calendar no later than May 1. The Board reserves the right to alter the school calendar when such alteration is feasible and serves the best interests of the students of this district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:25-3; 18A:36-2; 18A:36-16
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8220 SCHOOL DAY

The Board of Education shall annually approve the times that school(s) will be in session, including the starting and ending time of a shortened day. A school day shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3.

The schools of the district will be in session for students on those days and times recommended by the Superintendent and annually approved by the Board.

The Superintendent may close the schools, delay the opening of school, or dismiss school early when such alteration in the regular session is required for the protection of the health and safety of students and staff members or other good cause. A shortened school day, whether it is planned or emergent (as in the case of inclement weather), must meet certain requirements in order to count toward the one hundred eighty day requirement of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

The Superintendent shall inform the Board President of any such alteration as soon as possible and shall prepare rules for the proper and timely notification of concerned persons in the event of any delayed opening or emergency school closing of the schools.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 15 March 2022



8310 PUBLIC RECORDS

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to maintain the public records of this district and to make such records available to residents of New Jersey for inspection and reproduction. The Board designates the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary as the custodian of government records for the district.

Government Record or Record (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1)

"Government records" or "records" pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 include any record that has been required by law to be made, maintained, or kept on file by the Board, its officials, or its employees. Except as such records that may be exempted by law or this policy, a "government record" or "record" means any paper, written or printed book, document, drawing, map, plan, photograph, microfilm, data processed or image processed document, information stored or maintained electronically or by sound-recording or in a similar device, or any copy thereof, that has been made, maintained or kept on file in the course of the official business of the Board of Education or that has been received in the course of the official business of the Board of Education.

Board meeting minutes may be inspected and copied as soon as they are prepared; unapproved minutes will be so labeled. Minutes of executive/closed session Board meetings conducted in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act will be preserved separately and will not be available for immediate public inspection. These minutes will be integrated with minutes of public meetings only after the matter discussed at the executive/closed session meeting has been made public.

A "government record" or "record" does not include inter-agency or intra-agency advisory, consultative, or deliberative material.

A "government record" or "record" does not include excluded information as outlined in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1. The excluded information includes, but is not limited to, information which is deemed to be confidential as per N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. Victims' records; trade secrets and proprietary commercial or financial information; any record within the attorney-client privilege; administrative or technical information regarding computer hardware, software and networks which, if disclosed, would jeopardize computer security; emergency or security information or procedures for any buildings or facility which, if disclosed, would jeopardize security; security measures and surveillance techniques and information which, if disclosed, would give an advantage to competitors or bidders are examples of excluded government records.



Information generated by or on behalf of the Board or Board employees in connection with any sexual harassment complaint filed within the Board or with any grievance filed by or against an individual or in connection with collective negotiations, including documents and statements of strategy or negotiating position; information which is a communication between the district and its insurance carrier, administrative service organization or risk management office; information which is to be kept confidential pursuant to court order and that portion of any most documents which discloses the social security number, credit card number, unlisted telephone number or driver license number of any person; and personnel and pension records of an individual, except the individual's name, title of position, salary, payroll record, length of service, date of separation and the reason therefore, the amount and type of pension he/she receives, and data, other than detailed medical or psychological information, that shows conformity with qualifications for employment and pensions are examples of excluded government records.

Test questions, scoring keys, and other examinations data pertaining to the administration of an examination for employment or academic examination; information concerning individual student records; grievance or disciplinary proceedings against a student to the extent disclosure would reveal the identity of the student; and all other information defined as not being a government record in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. are not government records.

Records of Investigation In Progress (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-3 et seq.)

Records which are sought to be inspected, copied, or examined pertain to an investigation in progress by the Board and/or administration will be inspected, copied and/or examined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-3.

Inspection, Examination and Copying (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5 et seq.)

The custodian will permit the government record to be inspected, examined, and copied pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5 et seq. by any person during regular business hours. In the case of a Board of Education having a total district enrollment of 500 or fewer, the custodian will permit the records to be inspected, examined and copied during not less than six regular business hours over not less than three business days per week or the entity's regularly-scheduled business hours, whichever is less, unless the government record is exempt from public access as per N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq..

Copy Purchase (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5 et seq.)

Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation, the fee assessed for the duplication of a government record embodied in the form of printed matter shall be \$.05 per letter size page or



smaller, and \$.07 per legal size page or larger. If the school district can demonstrate that its actual costs for duplication of a government record exceed the per page rates, the district shall be permitted to charge the actual cost of duplicating the record. The actual cost of duplicating the record, upon which all copy fees are based, shall be the cost of materials and supplies used to make a copy of the records, but shall not include the cost of labor or overhead expenses associated with making the copy except as provided for in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5c.

Actual copy costs for special copies, such as color printing or blueprints copies within the school district, shall be calculated separately. Access to electronic records and anon-printed materials shall be provided free of charge, but the district may charge for the actual costs of any needed supplies such as computer discs.

If the district's calculated per copy actual cost exceeds the enumerated rates set forth in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5.b. the school district, if challenged, must demonstrate its actual costs are indeed higher than those enumerated rates and are therefore justified.

Whenever the nature, format, manner of collation, or volume of a government record embodied in the form of printed matter to be inspected, examined, or copied pursuant to this policy is such that the record cannot be reproduced by ordinary document copying equipment in ordinary business size or involves an extraordinary expenditure of time and effort to accommodate the request, the district will charge, in addition to the actual cost of duplicating the record, a special service charge that will be reasonable and will be based upon the actual direct cost of providing the copy or copies. The custodian will provide the requestor an opportunity to review and object to the charge prior to it being incurred.

A custodian will permit access to a government record and provide a copy thereof in the medium requested if the district maintains the record in that medium. If the district does not maintain the record in the medium requested, the custodian will either convert the record to the medium requested or provide a copy in some other meaningful medium. If a request is for a record in a medium not routinely used by the district; not routinely developed or maintained by the district or requiring a substantial amount of manipulation or programming of information technology, the district will charge, in addition to the actual cost of duplication, a special charge that will be reasonable and based on the cost for any extensive use of information technology, or for the labor cost of personnel providing the service, that is actually incurred by the district or attributable to the district for the programming, clerical, and supervisory assistance required, or both.

Immediate access ordinarily will be granted to budgets, bills, vouchers, contracts, including collective negotiations agreements and individual employment contracts, and public employee salary and overtime information.



The custodian will adopt a form for the use of any person who requests access to a government record held or controlled by the district. The request form will include information in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5.f. Requests for access to a government record shall [will] be in writing and hand-delivered or mailed to the custodian. The custodian will promptly comply with a request in accordance with N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5.g.

Any officer or employee of the district who receives a request for access to a government record will forward the request to the custodian of the record or direct the requestor to the custodian of the record.

The custodian will grant access to a government record or deny a request for access to a government record in accordance with N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5.i and as soon as possible, but not later than seven business days after receiving the request, provided that the record is currently available and not in storage or archived.

A custodian will post prominently in public view in the part of the office of the custodian that is open to or frequented by the public a statement that sets forth in clear, concise and specific terms the right to appeal a denial of, or failure to provide, access to a government record by any person for inspection, examination, or copying or for purchase of copies thereof and the procedure by which an appeal may be filed.

Challenge to Access Upon Denial (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6)

A person who is denied access to a government record by the custodian, at the option of the requestor, may institute a proceeding to challenge the custodian's decision by filing an action in Superior Court or in lieu of filing an action in Superior Court, file a complaint with the Government Records Council established pursuant to Section 8 of P.L.2001, c. 404 (C.47:1A-7). If it is determined that access was improperly denied, the court or agency head shall order that access be allowed. A requestor who prevails in any proceeding shall be entitled to a reasonable attorney's fee. A public official, officer, employee, or custodian who knowingly and willfully violates N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. and is found to have unreasonably denied access under the totality of the circumstances, shall be subject to the penalties and disciplinary proceedings in accordance with N.J.S.A. 47:1A-11.

Government Records Council (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-7 et seq.)

The Board and the custodian of records will comply with the requirements and guidelines from the Government Records Council in accordance with N.J.S.A. 47:1A-7.



Common Right Law Right of Access (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-8)

Nothing contained in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. will be construed as limiting the common law right of access to a government record, including criminal investigative records of a law enforcement agency.

Construction with Other Laws (N.J.S.A. 47-1A-9 et seq.)

The provisions of this policy and N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. shall not abrogate any exemption of a public or government record from public access heretofore made pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.; any other statute; resolution of either or both Houses of the Legislature; regulation promulgated under the authority of any statute or Executive Order of the Governor; Executive Order of the Governor; Rules of Court; any federal law; federal regulation; or federal order.

The provisions of this policy and N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. shall not abrogate or erode any executive or legislative privilege or grant of confidentiality heretofore established or recognized by the Constitution of this State, statute, court rule or judicial case law, which privilege or grant of confidentiality may duly be claimed to restrict public access to a public or government record.

N.J.S.A. 10:4-14

N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010

Revised: 19 October 2010



8311 MANAGING ELECTRONIC MAIL

School district e-mail messages, like paper records, must be retained and destroyed according to established records management procedures as required by New Jersey's Division of Archives & Records Management (NJDARM). E-mail messages are electronic documents created and sent or received by a computer system. This definition applies equally to the contents of the communication, the transactional information, and any attachments associated with such communication. Thus, e-mail messages are similar to other forms of communicated messages, such as correspondence and memoranda.

N.J.S.A. 47:3-16, as amended, defines public records as follows:

“Public records” mean any paper, written or printed book, document or drawing, map or plan, photograph, microfilm, data processed or image processed document, sound recording or in a similar device, or any copy thereof, that has been made or required by law to be received for filing, indexing, or reproducing by any officer, commission agency, or authority of the State or any political subdivision thereof, including any subordinate boards thereof, or that has been received in the course of his/her or its official business by such officer, commission, agency, or authority of the State or of any political subdivision thereof, including subordinate boards thereof, in connection with the transaction of public business and has been retained by such recipient or its successor as evidence of its activities or because of the information contained therein.

An e-mail message that meets the criteria of the definition of public records per N.J.S.A. 47:3-16, as amended, whether it is subject to access by the general public or not, must be retained according to records retention and disposition schedules approved by the State Records Committee. No public record e-mail may be destroyed without prior consent of the NJDARM and the State Records Committee, even if the retention period for a record has expired.

Retention or disposition of e-mail messages must be related to the information they contain or the purpose they serve. The content of e-mail messages may vary considerably and therefore, the content must be evaluated to determine the length of time the message must be retained.

For the purposes of this Policy, there are non-record e-mail messages and public record e-mail messages.



Non-record e-mail messages are personal correspondence that do not meet the criteria of public records as per N.J.S.A. 47:3-16, as amended, and may be deleted at any time unless they become part of some official record as a result of a special circumstance. These types of messages may include personal correspondence not received or created in the course of school district business and may be deleted at any time since it is not an official public record. Non-record e-mail messages are also non-governmental publications that are publications, promotional material from vendors, and similar materials that are publicly available to anyone. These e-mail messages are not public records as defined by N.J.S.A. 47:3-16, as amended, unless specifically incorporated into other official public records, and may also be deleted at any time. However, if an e-mail message is used to justify an expenditure or is included in a proposal, the e-mail message becomes an official public record and must be retained according to records retention and disposition schedules in accordance with the appropriate retention schedules.

All public record e-mail messages shall be maintained by the individual who sends the e-mail message and the primary recipient. The sender and primary recipient are encouraged to print a hard copy of a public record e-mail and file the e-mail in school district files for continued access. The district may establish a district-wide system to facilitate public record e-mail management for continued access and retention. All public record e-mails shall be retained according to records retention and disposition schedules approved by the State Records Committee and no public record e-mail may be destroyed without prior consent of the NJDARM and the State Records Committee, even if the retention period for a record has expired.

An e-mail message that meets the criteria of the definition of a “government record” per N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 must be made available to the public upon request under New Jersey’s Open Public Records Act during the required retention period, unless the content of the message falls under one of the exceptions contained in the Act or any other statute, regulation, Executive Order by the Governor, rule of Court, or Federal law, regulation or order.

State of New Jersey – Circular Letter 03-10-ST – Managing Electronic Mail: Guidelines and Best Practices – 7/11/02

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8320 PERSONNEL RECORDS

The Board of Education believes that the orderly operation of the school district requires the retention of all records bearing upon an employee's qualifications for employment and employment history.

The Board requires that sufficient records be compiled and maintained to demonstrate an employee's qualifications for the position assigned; compliance with federal, state, and local benefit programs; conformity to district rules; the proper conduct of evaluations; and the employee's entitlement, as appropriate, to tenure and seniority.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the custody and maintenance of personnel records. A single, central file of documents shall be maintained; temporary, subsidiary records will be permitted for ease in data gathering only. An employee's personnel file shall be maintained for six years following his/her termination of district service, provided the employment history record card is maintained a minimum of eighty years.

Records maintained in the personnel files of this district are not public records and are not open to inspection except as provided for in this policy. Board minutes and other public records of this district and any computerized files maintained by this district may include only an employee's name, title, position, assignments, salary, payroll record, length of service in the district and in military service, the date and reason for separation from service in this district, and the amount and type of pension a former employee receives.

Personnel records may be inspected by school administrators to the extent that such inspection is required in the performance of the inspector's duties.

Board members may have access to confidential information in the personnel files of only those employees recommended for or subjected to an employment action requiring a vote of the Board or where access to the information is essential for the performance of the Board member's duties. Board member access to personnel files is limited to the relevant portion of the file and is available only through the Superintendent. Board members may freely inspect employment applications filed by candidates for district positions.

An employee may inspect his/her personnel file provided that the employee requests such access in writing, reviews the record in the presence of the administrator designated to maintain the file, makes no alteration or addition to the file nor removes any material from it, and signs a log attached to the file indicating the date on which it was inspected.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS
8320/page 2 of 2
Personnel Records

An employee may appeal to the Superintendent the inclusion or exclusion of records or for appropriate administrative review of the accuracy of any record in his/her personnel file.

The Superintendent shall prepare rules enumerating the records to be maintained for each employee of this district, including, as a minimum and as appropriate to the position, the completed application form, employment contract(s), a copy of the employee's qualifying certification, transcripts, report of an employment physical examination, oath of allegiance, criminal background check, income tax forms, retirement registration, hospitalization forms, annuity forms, rate of compensation, attendance record, assignments to positions, completed evaluations, reports of disciplinary incidents, records of special awards or distinctions, and reports of annual or special physical and mental examinations.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-14.2; 18A:40-19; 18A:66-32

N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



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 ~~such~~ records in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.1 et seq. Student records shall contain only ~~such~~ information that ~~as~~ 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 the record. The ~~school~~ 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 ~~local~~ policies shall be made available upon request. The school 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.

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:32-7.1 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 (10) 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 ~~such~~ directory and school facilities to educational, occupational, and military recruiters pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.1 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 school 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 ~~school~~ 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.

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 ~~such~~ 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(1). 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 in accordance with 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 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.



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:32-7.1 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 ~~individuals~~ shall adhere to requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10, the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and FERPA.

Conditions for Access to Student Records

All authorized organizations, agencies, and persons defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.1 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(b).



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's 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 ~~that~~ described in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(e), 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 ~~school~~ district, the parent or adult student shall be notified in writing that a copy of the entire student's 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 (e), the district of last enrollment, graduation, or permanent departure of the student from the ~~school~~ 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.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS
8330/page 6 of 6
Student Records

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

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 26 April 2017
Revised: 21 July 2021
Revised: 7 March 2023



8335 FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The Board of Education policies and regulations will be in compliance with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA affords parents and adult students certain rights with respect to the student's education records. FERPA requires the district to provide parents and adult students the right to inspect and review the student's education records within forty-five days of the day the school district receives a request for access, to request an amendment(s) of the student's education records the parent or adult student believes are inaccurate, and to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

FERPA permits disclosure of student records without consent if the disclosure is to school officials with legitimate educational interests. FERPA permits the school district to disclose education records without a parent's or adult student's consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or adult student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.

The parent or adult student has the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901

The New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:32-7 – Student Records adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education incorporates the requirements of FERPA and Board of Education Policy 8330 ensures parents and adult students are afforded certain rights with respect to the student's education records as required by FERPA.

20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g. – The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8350 RECORDS RETENTION

The New Jersey Department of the Treasury – Records Management Services places all public records on Records Retention Schedules that list the minimum legal and fiscal time periods public records must be retained by State and local governmental and educational agencies. Records Management Services determines these retention periods in conformance with State and Federal codes, regulations and statutes of limitation. Final approval of the schedules comes from the State Records Committee, which is comprised of representatives of the Attorney General, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Director of Local Government Services and the director of the 1division.

Part and parcel to a good records management program is the timely destruction of records once their retention period has expired. This pertains to the destruction of paper records as well as those that are microfilmed, have been imaged, or are electronic. Unique records disposal request (such as the disposal of fire damaged records which have not yet outlived their retention period) require specific authorization from the State Records Committee.

As per the Destruction of Public Records Act of 1953 (P.L. 1953, c. 410), the Board of Education must receive prior written authorization from Records Management Services to dispose of their public records regardless of the medium in which the information is maintained. Authorization to dispose public records shall be submitted electronically by the school district custodian of such records to Records Management Services. Records must be retained in accordance with the Records Retention Schedules and shall not be disposed until approval for such disposal is obtained from Records Management Services.

Adopted: 19 September 2017



8420 EMERGENCY AND CRISIS SITUATIONS

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide for the safety and security in each school building in the district. The district will develop and implement comprehensive written plans, procedures, and mechanisms to provide for the protection of health, safety, security and welfare of the school population; the prevention of, intervention in, response to and recovery from emergency and crisis situations; the establishment and maintenance of a climate of civility; and supportive services for staff, students and their families.

“School security drill” means an exercise, other than a fire drill, to practice procedures that respond to an emergency situation including, but not limited to, a bomb threat, non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation and that is similar in duration to a fire drill.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall consult with law enforcement agencies, health and social services provider agencies, emergency management planners, and school and community resources, as appropriate, in the development of the school district’s plans, procedures, and mechanisms for school safety and security. The plans, procedures and mechanisms shall be consistent with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 and the format and content established by the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force, pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-64 et seq., and the Commissioner of Education and shall be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate.

A copy of the school district’s school safety and security plan shall be disseminated to all school district employees. New employees shall receive a copy of the school district’s safety and security plan, as appropriate, within sixty days of the effective date of their employment. All employees shall be notified in writing, as appropriate, regarding updates and changes to the school safety and security plan.

The school district shall develop and provide an in-service training program for all school district employees to enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to safety and security concerns, including emergencies and crisis, consistent with the school district’s plans, procedures, and mechanisms for school safety and security and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1. New employees shall receive this in-service training, as appropriate, within sixty days of the effective date of their employment. This in-service training program shall be reviewed annually and updated, as appropriate.



Every Principal of a school of two or more rooms, or of a school of one room, when located above the first story of a building, shall have at least one fire drill and one school security drill each month within the school hours, including any summer months during which the school is open for instructional programs, and shall require all teachers of all schools, whether occupying buildings of one or more stories, to keep all doors and exits of their respective rooms and buildings unlocked during the school hours, except during an emergency lockdown or an emergency lockdown drill. Where school buildings have been provided with fire escapes, they shall be used by a part or all of the students performing every fire drill. An actual fire or school security emergency that occurs at a school during the month and that includes activities which are the equivalent of a drill shall be considered a drill for the purposes of meeting the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1.

Every school in the district shall conduct a school security drill within the first fifteen days of the beginning of the school year. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the school district shall ensure that a school security drill that occurs when students are present:

1. Includes clear, developmentally and age-appropriate messaging to students and staff at the conclusion of the drill that the event is a drill and that no current danger exists;
2. Does not expose students to content or imaging that is not developmentally or age-appropriate;
3. Is paired with trauma-informed approaches to address any student inquiries or concerns which may arise as a result of a school security drill;
4. Does not include the use of fake blood, real or prop firearms, or the simulations of gun shots, explosions, or other sounds or visuals that may induce panic or traumatic response from a student or school district employee;
5. Does not require a student to role play as a victim, but may include first aid training in which students participate; and
6. Is accessible to students with disabilities and mental health conditions, and provides all necessary accommodations for these students.



The Principal or designee shall provide written notification to the parent of a student enrolled in the school following completion of a school security drill, which notice shall be provided to the parent by no later than the end of the school day on which the school security drill is conducted.

The Principal or designee will provide local law enforcement or other emergency responders, as appropriate, with a friendly notification at least forty-eight hours prior to holding a school security drill. A law enforcement officer shall be present at a minimum of one school security drill in each school year in order to make recommendations on any improvements or changes to school security drill procedures that the officer may deem advisable in accordance with N.J.A.C. 18A:41-1. The school district may permit emergency personnel access to the buildings and grounds of its schools for school security drills that are scheduled outside of school hours and during such times as students are not present.

The school district shall review and update its school security drill procedures using a process that coincides with the review of the school safety and security plan developed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 and collects input from emergency personnel; parents of students enrolled in the school district; teachers and staff employed in the district; mental health professionals; and student government representatives from multiple grade levels.

The school district shall annually track data on such measures and information as required by the Commissioner of Education, and shall report the data to the Commissioner.

Such drills and in-service training programs shall be conducted in accordance with a building security drill guide and training materials that educate school employees on proper evacuation and lockdown procedures in a variety of emergency situations on school grounds in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.0.

The school district will be required to annually submit a security drill statement of assurance to the New Jersey Department of Education by June 30 of each school year. Each school in the district will be required to complete a security drill record form as required by the New Jersey Department of Education.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-3

N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1 ~~et seq.~~ 18A:41-2; 18A:41-6; 18A :41-7; 18A :41-7a.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1;

Adopted: 2 February 2010

Revised: 17 August 2010

Revised: 28 April 2021

Revised: 15 March 2022

Revised: 15 August 2022



8431 PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC HAZARD

The Board of Education is concerned for the safety of the students and staff members assigned to district schools and will take reasonable steps to protect students and staff members from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials.

The Board will appoint an employee to serve as Toxic Hazard Preparedness (THP) Officer. The THP Officer will, in accordance with procedures prepared by the Superintendent, identify potential sources of toxic hazard and develop a plan that includes preventive and remedial measures to be followed in the event students and staff members are exposed to a toxic hazard. The plan will also include a system for the periodic evaluation of school environments.

The THP Officer will enlist the aid of county and municipal authorities and, if possible, the owners or operators of identified potential sources of toxic hazard. The Board may, in its discretion, appoint and charge an ad hoc committee of community representatives to assist the THP Officer.

The plan for toxic hazard preparedness developed by the THP Officer and approved by this Board will be disseminated to the public. Teaching staff members will be instructed in the specific measures to be taken when toxic hazard is present and in the recognition of toxic hazards in the environment. A teaching staff member who detects a toxic hazard in school shall immediately notify the school Principal and the school nurse or, in the absence of either, the person authorized to perform that office.

Nothing in this policy should be construed in any way as an assumption of liability by the Board of Education for any death, injury, or illness that is the consequence of an accident or equipment failure or negligent or deliberate act beyond the control of the Board or its officers and employees.

N.J.S.A. 13:1K-19 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 34:5A-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4
N.J.A.C. 7:1G-2.1
N.J.A.C. 8:59-1.4

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8441 CARE OF INJURED AND ILL PERSONS

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent to provide for prompt and appropriate medical attention for students, staff members, or visitors who are injured or become ill on school premises or at school sponsored events.

Any injury or illness shall be reported immediately to the school nurse or, in the absence of the school nurse, the Building Principal, who will determine whether an emergency exists. Immediate steps may be taken as necessary to remove the injured or ill person from imminent danger and/or prevent exacerbation of the disability. Routine first aid will be administered by district personnel as necessary to ensure the safety and comfort of the injured or ill person.

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of an injured or ill student and, if necessary, the family of an injured or ill staff member or adult visitor will be notified promptly and tactfully of the injury or illness. If the school nurse in the absence of the Principal, determines that the injured or ill person should be removed from school for rest and/or treatment at home or for consultation with a private physician, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or family member shall be requested to provide transportation.

In a serious emergency requiring immediate medical attention, an ambulance may be summoned for transportation to a hospital and the school nurse may accompany the ill person to the hospital if parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is not present.

The Superintendent shall, in consultation with the school medical inspector and school nurse, prepare standing orders for the emergency treatment of injuries and disabilities by the school nurse and regulations for the handling of injured and ill persons by all other school employees. All district personnel will be briefed annually on the regulations governing the handling of injured and ill persons.

Student disabilities attributable to substance abuse will be handled in accordance with Policy No. 5530. Injuries that occur in the course of school bus transportation will be handled in accordance with regulations implementing Policy No. 8630.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4(a)1; 6A:16-1.4(a)2; 6A:16-1.4(a)3

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8442 REPORTING ACCIDENTS

The Board of Education directs that all reasonable efforts be made to ensure a safe learning and working environment for the students and employees of this district. To that end and to the end that legitimate employee claims for worker's compensation be expedited, the Board requires that accidents be reported and evaluated. Any accident that results in an injury to a student, an employee of the Board, or a visitor to the schools must be reported promptly. Injured persons shall be referred immediately to the school nurse for such medical attention as may be appropriate.

The injured employee or visitor or the staff member responsible for an injured student shall complete forms available in the nurse's office that includes the date, time and place of the incident; the names of persons involved; the nature of the injury, to the extent that it is known; and a description of all relevant circumstances.

A copy shall be retained by the nurse and a copy shall be sent to the business office.

Any employee of the Board who suffers a job-related injury must report the injury and its circumstances to the school nurse and Building Principal, as appropriate, no later than twenty-four hours following the occurrence of the injury.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8451 CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Board of Education recognizes that control of the spread of communicable disease is essential to the well-being of the school community and to the efficient operation of the schools.

The Board shall be bound by the statutes and by rules of the State Board of Education for the exclusion and readmission of students who have contracted a communicable disease and of teachers and students who have been exposed to a communicable disease and for the instruction of teachers in health and the prevention of disease. The Board shall comply with regulations of the New Jersey Department of Health and the Essex County Board of Health governing the prevention, control, and reporting of communicable disease.

The teacher may exclude from the classroom and the Principal may exclude from the school building any student who appears to be ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease. A student may be isolated in school to await the arrival of or instructions from an adult member of his/her family. If the school nurse is present in the building, his/her recommendation shall be sought before any such exclusion or isolation is ordered.

Any student retained at home or excluded from school by reason of having or being suspected of having a communicable disease shall not be readmitted to his/her classroom until he/she presents written evidence of being free of communicable disease. That evidence may be supplied by the physician who has examined the student.

Any student or adult who has weeping skin lesions that cannot be covered shall be excluded from school.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for the control of communicable disease that include the instruction of teaching staff members in the detection of disease and measures for its prevention and control; the removal from school premises to the care of a responsible adult for students identified and excluded in accordance with this policy; the preparation of standards for the readmission of students who have recovered from communicable disease; the provision of appropriate home instruction to excluded students in accordance with law; and the filing of reports as required by law.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3; 18A:40-7 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 26:4-4; 26:4-6

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4

N.J.A.C. 8:57-1.3; 8:57-1.6; 8:57-2.1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8451.1 PEDICULOSIS

Pediculosis (head lice) is communicable.

If a child is found to have pediculosis upon examination by the school nurse, the school Principal is authorized to remove the child from school. The school nurse is responsible to notify the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and to supply the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) with pertinent information about treatment and re-entry to school.

Upon re-entry to school, the child must be accompanied by a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to the health office. At that time, the child will be rechecked by the school nurse and must be nit and bug free. If nits and/or bugs are found, the child is not to be re-admitted.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8453 HIV/AIDS

The Board of Education will comply with rules of the State Board of Education and the State Department of Health and Senior Services with regard to the admission and employment of persons who may be diagnosed with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). "AIDS" means a condition affecting a person who has a reliably diagnosed disease that meets the criteria for AIDS specified by the Center for Disease Control of the United States Public Health Services. "HIV infection" means infection with the human immunodeficiency virus or any other related virus identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS. Laboratory results indicative of infection with HIV shall mean laboratory results showing the presence of HIV or components of HIV, or laboratory results showing the presence of antibodies to HIV, or results from laboratory tests conducted to measure the presence of HIV RNA (viral load tests), such as quantitative PCR tests.

AIDS or HIV infection shall not be considered a communicable disease for purposes of admission to or attendance in a school or for eligibility for educational transportation.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4(a)8, no person, student or employee, will be excluded from school solely because he/she is infected with HIV or lives with or is related to a person infected with HIV. Students infected with HIV, including those who may be symptomatic or diagnosed with AIDS, may be excluded from school only as a student not infected with HIV or diagnosed with AIDS may be excluded from school. A school employee infected with HIV may be restricted in his/her employment only if the employee has another illness that would affect his/her employment.

Any student excluded from the regular school program will be provided with home instruction in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and Policy No. 2412.

No student, staff member, or visitor may attend or visit school if he/she has an uncoverable and/or uncovered weeping skin lesion, whether or not the person has been screened for HIV.

It is not required that anyone in the school be especially notified that an HIV-infected student or employee is present. School employee physicals, student physicals and athletic physicals do not require disclosure of HIV status. Records of health and medical examinations should not include information about an individual's infection with HIV. Therefore, HIV/AIDS status is an exception to records required pursuant to student physical examinations, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2, and school employee physical examinations, N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.1 et seq. In the event the school nurse or a school official is apprised that a student or employee is HIV-infected, the fact of the infection will be held in strict confidence and will not be classified as a communicable disease for admission, local health reporting or educational transportation.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS
8453/page 2 of 2
HIV/AIDS

Information that identifies a student as having an HIV infection or AIDS shall be shared only with prior written informed consent of the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) 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. The person who receives such information shall not reveal it to any other person without the express written consent of the minor student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or the adult student.

The Board shall annually provide students, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), staff members, school volunteers, and members of the community with information intended to increase awareness of HIV and AIDS, including information regarding the nature of the disease and its prevention. The Board will cooperate with other agencies to provide HIV/AIDS awareness information to the community.

N.J.S.A. 26:5C-5; 26:5C-6; 26:5C-7; 26:5C-8;
26:5C-9; 26:5C-10; 26:5C-11;
26:5C-12; 26:5C-13; 26:5C-14

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3; 6A:16-1.4; 6A:16-1.5; 6A:16-3.2; 6A:32-9.1

N.J.A.C. 8:57-2.1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



OPERATIONS

8461/page 1 of 3

Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Harassment,
Intimidation, Bullying, Alcohol,
and Other Drug Offenses
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8461 REPORTING VIOLENCE, VANDALISM, HARASSMENT,
INTIMIDATION, BULLYING, ALCOHOL,
AND OTHER DRUG OFFENSES

The Board of Education shall observe “School Violence Awareness Week” during the week beginning with the third Monday in October of each year by organizing activities to prevent school violence. Activities shall include, but are not limited to, age-appropriate opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of student diversity, and tolerance. The Board shall invite law enforcement personnel to join members of the teaching staff in the discussions and provide programs for school employees that are designed to help them recognize warning signs of school violence and to instruct them on recommended conduct during an incident of school violence. The Board of Education shall disseminate to students’ parents an informational pamphlet prepared by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) on how a parent can limit a child’s exposure to violence on television, cell phones, computers and other electronic devices, on an annual basis pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-44.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3 any school employee who observes or has direct knowledge from a participant or victim of an act of violence; including harassment, intimidation and bullying; or the possession or distribution of alcohol or other drugs on school grounds, and any school employee who reports a student for being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, according to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3, shall file a report describing the incident to the school Principal, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. The report shall be on a form to include all of the incident detail and offender and victim information that are reported on the Student Safety Data System (SSDS).

A report alleging an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be made in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13.1 and Policy 5512.

The Building Principal, for each incident of violence; including, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, vandalism, and alcohol and other drug offenders, shall review the incident report for accuracy; forward a copy of the incident report to the Superintendent; and notify the Superintendent of the action taken regarding the incident. The Board shall not discharge or subject to any manner of discrimination any school employee who files a report pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3.



Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Harassment,
Intimidation, Bullying, Alcohol,
and Other Drug Offenses

The majority representative of the school employees' bargaining units shall have access monthly to the number and disposition of all reported acts of school violence including, harassment, intimidation and, bullying, and vandalism, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. Personally identifying information may be provided to the majority representative of the school employees' bargaining units only in instances when school administrators have reason to believe that the safety of a school staff member is at risk.

Twice each school year, once between September 1 and January 1 and once between January 1 and June 30, the Superintendent shall report to the Board at a public meeting all acts of violence, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, vandalism, and alcohol and other drug offenses that occurred during the previous reporting period, according to with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3. The report shall include the number of reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the status of all investigations, the nature of the bullying based on one of the protected categories identified in section 2 of P.L.2002, c.83 (C18A:37-14), the names of the investigators, the type and nature of any discipline imposed on any student engaged in harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and any other measures imposed, training conducted, or programs implemented, to reduce harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The information shall also be reported once during each reporting period to the NJDOE. The report must include data broken down by the enumerated categories as listed in section 2 of P.L.2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-14), and data broken down by each school in the district, in addition to district-wide data. It shall be a violation to improperly release any confidential information not authorized by Federal or State law for public release.

The report shall be used to grade each school for the purpose of assessing its effort to implement policies and programs consistent with the provisions of P.L. 2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-13 et seq.). The district shall receive a grade determined by averaging the grades of all the schools in the district. The Commissioner shall promulgate guidelines for a program to grade schools for the purposes of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. The grade received a school and the district shall be posted on the homepage of the school's website. The grade for the district and each school of the district shall be posted on the homepage of the district's website. A link to the report shall be available on the district's website. The information shall be posted on the websites within ten (10) days of the receipt of a grade by the school and district.

Whenever it is alleged a school employee has knowingly falsified reported information on acts of violence; or vandalism, or any incident included in the annual report on violence and vandalism required under N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, the Board shall make a determination regarding whether the employee committed the act. The Board shall provide written notice of the allegations to the employee and the employee shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board in accordance with



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS

8461/page 3 of 3

Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Harassment,
Intimidation, Bullying, Alcohol,
and Other Drug Abuse

the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3(f). Upon a determination by the Board that an employee has knowingly falsified reported information, the Board may take appropriate action:-

The Board of Education shall submit and implement corrective action plans for high incidences of violence, vandalism, or alcohol or other drug abuse upon notification by the Commissioner of Education.

The Board shall provide ongoing staff training, in cooperation with the NJDOE Education in fulfilling the reporting requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46; 18A:36-5.1; 18A:40-44

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.2; 6A:16-5.3

Adopted: 2 February 2010

Revised: 16 August 2011

Revised: 30 April 2019



8462 REPORTING POTENTIALLY MISSING OR ABUSED CHILDREN

The Board of Education recognizes early detection of missing, abused, or neglected children is important in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of all children. In recognition of the importance of early detection of missing, abused, or neglected children, the Board of Education adopts this Policy pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-24 and 18A:36-25. The Board provides this Policy for its employees, volunteers, or interns for the early detection of missing, abused, or neglected children through notification of, reporting to, and cooperation with the appropriate law enforcement and child welfare authorities pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-24 and 18A:36-25 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1, and N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10.

Employees, volunteers, or interns working in the school district shall immediately notify designated child welfare authorities of incidents of alleged missing, abused, and/or neglected children. Reports of incidents of alleged missing, abused, or neglected children shall be reported to the New Jersey State Central Registry (SCR) at 1-877 NJ ABUSE or to any other telephone number designated by the appropriate child welfare authorities. If the child is in immediate danger a call shall be placed to 911 as well as to the SCR.

The person having reason to believe that a child may be missing or may have been abused or neglected may inform the Principal or other designated school official(s) prior to notifying designated child welfare authorities if the action will not delay immediate notification. The person notifying designated child welfare authorities shall inform the Principal or other designated school official(s) of the notification, if such had not occurred prior to the notification. Notice to the Principal or other designated school official(s) need not be given when the person believes that such notice would likely endanger the reporter or student involved or when the person believes that such disclosure would likely result in retaliation against the student or in discrimination against the reporter with respect to his or her employment.

The Principal or other designated school official(s) upon being notified by a person having reason to believe that a child may be missing or may have been abused or neglected, must notify appropriate law enforcement authorities. Notification to appropriate law enforcement authorities shall be made for all reports by employees, volunteers, or interns working in the school district. Confirmation by another person is not required for a school district employee, volunteer, or intern to report the suspected missing, abused, or neglected child situation.

School district officials will cooperate with designated child welfare and law enforcement authorities in all investigations of potentially missing, abused, or neglected children in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1(a)5.



Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children

The district designates each Building Principal and/or Superintendent as the school district's liaison to designated child welfare authorities to act as the primary contact person between the school district and child welfare authorities with regard to general information sharing and the development of mutual training and other cooperative efforts. The district designates the Superintendent and/or Building Principal, as the school district's liaison to law enforcement authorities to act as the primary contact person between the school district and law enforcement authorities, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)1, consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)13.

An employee, volunteer, or intern working in the school district who has been named as a suspect in a notification to child welfare and law enforcement authorities regarding a missing, abused, or neglected child situation shall be entitled to due process rights, including those rights defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1(a)9.

Each Principal shall provide training to school district employees, volunteers, or interns on the district's policy and procedures for reporting allegations of missing, abused, or neglected child situations. All new school district employees, volunteers, or interns working in the district shall receive the required information and training as part of their orientation.

There shall be no reprisal or retaliation against any person who, in good faith, reports or causes a report to be made of a potentially missing, abused, or neglected child situation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.13.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-24; 18A:36-25 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1

Adopted: 2 February 2010

Revised: 24 February 2015

Revised: 18 October 2016

Revised: 25 September 2018



8465 BIAS CRIMES AND BIAS-RELATED ACTS

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all children in the school district. Bias crimes and bias-related acts involving students can lead to further violence and retaliation. Bias crimes and bias-related acts, by their nature are confrontational, inflame tensions, and promote social hostility and will not be tolerated by the school district. School district employees will work closely with local law enforcement and the county prosecutor's office to report or eliminate the commission of bias crimes and bias-related acts.

Definitions

A "bias crime" means any criminal offense where the person or persons committing the offense acted with a purpose to intimidate an individual or group of individuals because of race; color; religion; gender; disability; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; national origin; or ethnicity.

A "bias-related act" means an act directed at a person, group of persons, private property, or public property that is motivated in whole or in part by racial; gender; disability; religion; or sexual orientation; gender identity or expression national origin; or ethnic prejudice. A bias-related act need not involve conduct that constitutes a criminal offense.

All bias crimes are also bias-related acts, but not all bias-related acts will constitute a bias crime.

Required Actions

School employees shall immediately notify the Principal and the Superintendent or designee when in the course of their employment they develop reason to believe a bias crime or bias-related act has been committed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3. is about to be committed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(e).

The Superintendent or designee shall promptly notify the North Caldwell Police Department and the bias investigation officer for the county prosecutor's office when a bias crime or bias-related act has been committed or is about to be committed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3€1.



OPERATIONS

8465/page 2 of 2

Hate Crimes and Bias-Related Acts

The Principal or Superintendent shall immediately notify the North Caldwell Police Department and the bias investigation officer for the county prosecutor's office where there is reason to believe that a bias crime or bias-related act that involves an act of violence has been or is about to be physically committed against a student or there is otherwise reason to believe that a life has been or will be threatened in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3€2.

It is understood a referral to the North Caldwell Police Department or county prosecutor's office pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials is only a transmittal of information that might be pertinent to a law enforcement investigation and is not an accusation or formal charge.

Unless the North Caldwell Police Department or the county prosecutor's office request otherwise, the school district may continue to investigate a suspected bias crime or bias-related act occurring on school grounds and may take such actions as necessary and appropriate to redress and remediate any such acts.

School officials will secure and preserve any such graffiti or other evidence of a suspected bias crime or bias-related act pending the arrival of the North Caldwell Police Department or the county prosecutor's office. The school officials, where feasible, will cover or conceal such evidence until the arrival of the North Caldwell Police Department or county prosecutor's office.

N.J.S.A. 2C:16-1

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1 6a:16-6.2: 6A:16-6.3

State Memorandum of Agreement approved by the Department
of Law & Public Safety and the Department of Education

Adopted: 2 February 2010

Revised: 18 October 2022



8467 WEAPONS

The Board of Education prohibits the possession, use, or exchange of any weapon in any school building, on school grounds, at any school-sponsored event, and on school sanctioned transportation except as the possession and use of a weapon is authorized by law and required in the performance of the possessor's duty.

For the purpose of this policy, "weapon" means anything readily capable of lethal use or of inflicting serious bodily injury. "Weapon" includes, but is not limited to, all firearms, knives, dangerous instruments intended to inflict harm, components that can be readily assembled into a weapon, explosive devices, and imitation firearms. For the purposes of this policy "firearm" means those items enumerated in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1f and 18 U.S.C. 921.

Any student or school employee who has reasonable grounds to suspect the presence of a weapon prohibited by this policy shall immediately report his/her suspicion to the Building Principal or designee and/or immediate supervisor. The Building Principal or designee and/or immediate supervisor shall conduct an appropriate search in accordance with Policy No. 5770 and confiscate any weapon discovered in the course of the search. He/she shall, if appropriate and feasible, summon the aid of law enforcement officers in the conduct of the search. Any school employee who confirms the presence of a weapon under circumstances that place persons at serious risk may confiscate the weapon immediately and may use such force as is reasonable and necessary to obtain possession.

Unless the weapon has been taken into custody by a law enforcement officer, the Building Principal or designee and/or immediate supervisor shall immediately store any confiscated weapon in a securely locked box or container and report the presence of the weapon to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall promptly notify, by telephone call and by letter, the Chief of Police of North Caldwell that a weapon is present on school premises; the notice shall request removal of the weapon by an authorized law enforcement officer. The Superintendent shall obtain and file a receipt for any weapon removed by a law enforcement officer.

Any student who possesses, uses, or exchanges a weapon in violation of this policy shall be subject to stringent discipline, which may include expulsion. Any student or school employee who suspects or knows of the presence of a weapon in violation of this policy and fails to report the same shall be subject to discipline. Any person who possesses a weapon on school premises or school transportation or at a school-sponsored function shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.



Any student who is convicted or is an adjudicated delinquent for possession of a firearm or who is found to be in possession of a firearm on school property must be immediately removed from the regular education program and provided with an alternative program, pending a hearing before the Board of Education. Students convicted or found to be delinquent for possessing a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function or committing a crime while possessing a firearm shall be immediately removed from the regular education program for a period of not less than one calendar year and placed in an alternative education school or program pending a hearing before the Board of Education to remove the student. (Chapters 127 and 128 of 1995, The Zero Tolerance for Guns Act)

Any student who commits an assault upon members of the school community with a weapon other than a firearm on school property must be immediately removed from the regular education program and provided with an alternative program, pending a hearing before the Board of Education. (Chapters 127 and 128 of 1995, The Zero Tolerance for Guns Act)

Students with disabilities violating the provisions of this policy shall be dealt with in accordance with Policy No. 2460 and Regulation No. 2460.6.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit the reporting of a crime committed by a child with a disability to the appropriate law enforcement or judicial authorities, or to prevent such authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of federal or state law to crimes committed by a child with disabilities.

Any student requiring removal from the regular education program for the reasons enumerated above shall be removed in accordance with Policy and Regulation No. 5611.

The Superintendent, or designee, shall prepare regulations to implement this policy for the guidance of school staff in dealing with incidents involving weapons in the school district.

N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1 et seq.; 2C:58-6.1; 2C:58-15

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

N.J.S.A. 23:4-16

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.8 et seq.

Chapters 127 and 128 of 1995, The Zero Tolerance for Guns Act

18 U.S.C. 921

20 U.S.C 1415

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8468 CRISIS RESPONSE

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to be prepared to confront circumstances in which the physical and/or mental well-being of students, staff and other individuals on school grounds is threatened or overtly impacted upon by an individual or group of individuals. Situations at issue include, but are not limited to, acts of terrorism, hostage situations and other threats or acts of a violent nature. The Board further recognizes there is a need to deal with the aftermath of such events and circumstances, and to contend with the psychological trauma, pain and confusion which may ensue as the result of these events.

The Board establishes through the person of the Superintendent or his/her designee, a Crisis Team whose responsibility it shall be to act:

1. As a source of information;
2. As a vehicle through which direct services may be delivered;
3. In an advisory capacity to the Superintendent, or his/her designee, and/or other agents or agencies dealing with the crisis situation.

The Crisis Team may consist of the following membership:

1. The Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee;
2. An administrator from each of the schools within the district;
3. School Psychologist(s);
4. Guidance Counselor(s);
5. School Social Worker(s);
6. Director of Special Services and/or Guidance;
7. Director of Buildings and Grounds;
8. Teacher representative(s);
9. A representative of local/State Police;
10. A representative of local medical facility/hospital;



11. School Nurse;
12. Others as deemed appropriate to the function of the Crisis Team; e.g., a fire department representative, EMT specialist, other school or community representatives.

The Crisis Team shall be convened at least on an annual basis:

1. To review established policy and procedures;
2. To orient new members as to their responsibilities;
3. To maintain and reinforce lines of communication between the various disciplines and specialists who make up the Crisis Team.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8470 RESPONSE TO CONCERTED JOB ACTION

In the event of a concerted job action, including but not limited to a work stoppage by any employee or groups of employees, the Superintendent shall be empowered to take necessary steps within statutory limits to protect the safety and welfare of students and staff and to ensure the security of school property, both real and personal. The Board of Education shall meet, in emergency session if necessary, as quickly and as frequently as required to ratify or alter the steps taken by the Superintendent.

Emergency Powers of the Superintendent

The broad powers conferred on the Superintendent by this policy or elsewhere in this policy manual include, but are not necessarily limited to, the authority to:

1. Decide whether school shall remain open or closed and change school opening and closing times as the Superintendent deems appropriate;
2. Cancel all extra- and co-curricular activities when the Superintendent deems cancellation to be in the best interest of the school district;
3. Arrange a meeting place for the Board and a place for the school administration to function off school premises and outside the community, if necessary or desirable;
4. Arrange for the installation of unlisted telephone numbers in schools, in alternate Board and administrative facilities, in the homes of the Board President and the Superintendent, and in a nearby unidentified location;
5. Purchase or lease portable radio communication devices for use within buildings as a security measure;
6. Arrange for daily press releases via the designated Board spokesperson;
7. Employ around-the-clock security for all school buildings and grounds and increase that security when deemed appropriate;
8. Employ support staff help if school employees honor picket lines;
9. Arrange rental of storage facilities off school premises for vendor deliveries during picketing;



OPERATIONS

8470/page 2 of 4

Response to Concerted Job Action

10. Employ a locksmith to change locks on all outside doors, repair damaged locks, and prepare extra keys as needed for staff to function;
11. Arrange transportation across picket lines for any staff members who are concerned for the safety of their vehicles and/or their persons;
12. Establish an identification system that will ensure that only authorized personnel can enter school buildings;
13. Establish emergency working hours for administrative, supervisory, custodial, and office staff as necessary to ensure that certain district buildings are secured;
14. Expend moneys to communicate to students, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and the community at large the day-to-day circumstances of the work stoppage and to issue special instructions to students;
15. Withhold paychecks from striking employees, in accordance with this policy;
16. Advise nonworking employees and all other employees of the status of the work stoppage, decisions of the Board, decisions of the courts, if any;
17. Issue special directives and notices to nonworking employees and other employees;
18. Accept assistance from volunteers as needed;
19. Alter the educational program as required to cope with an emergency situation;
20. Cancel leaves of absence for the duration of the emergency;
21. Purchase food for personnel forced to remain in school buildings during any emergency and for those who are involved in extended negotiations sessions;
22. Institute criminal prosecution of any individual apprehended or witnessed in the act or suspected of causing damage to school equipment, supplies, facilities, vehicles, or grounds;
23. Remove vital communication equipment such as postage meters, typewriters, computers, word processors, addressing devices, photocopiers, and duplicating



machines from school premises to an alternate site and place such communication equipment under around-the-clock security;

24. Establish a special internal and external communication and documentation system for events occurring at each facility during a job action; and
25. Take such other emergency steps as the Superintendent deems necessary and expedient to protect the safety and welfare of staff and students and the integrity of the school district.

The Superintendent shall report promptly to the Board all emergency actions taken pursuant to this policy.

Emergency Board Policies

The following emergency policies of the Board of Education shall apply:

1. All usual policy adoption and revision procedures shall be suspended for the duration and the policy may be adopted, revised, or rescinded at any regular or special meeting of the Board;
2. Effective immediately, all employee absence for medical reasons, regardless of the duration of the absence, must be substantiated by a physician's written verification;
3. Each unauthorized absence shall result in an appropriate payroll deduction;
4. Payment for services rendered up to the date of a work stoppage will be processed, but no salary will be paid to an employee who does not report to work on a day when a concerted job action is in process;
5. Board members and administrators shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred for transportation, telephone, and meals in conjunction with attendance at meetings and negotiating sessions during a concerted job action;
6. Every reasonable effort shall be made to meet with employee representatives during a concerted job action to seek the grounds for the earliest possible settlement of differences;



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS

8470/page 4 of 4

Response to Concerted Job Action

7. The Board President may call meetings of the Board on less than adequate notice during a work stoppage, in strict accordance with applicable requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act;
8. In the event a previously negotiated contract has expired and no successor agreement has been accepted by the parties, no deductions other than those required by federal and state law will be made from the wages of employees who participate in a concerted job action.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8506 SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM BIOSECURITY PLAN

The Board of Education is committed to protecting the health of the children and adults in school buildings by strengthening the safety of foodservice operations. Therefore, the Board requires the creation and implementation of a School Lunch Program Biosecurity Plan that will keep school meals free from intentional contamination and enable the foodservice to respond to threats or incidents of bioterrorism.

The School Lunch Program Biosecurity Plan shall be a document that spells out school lunch program policies and procedures that minimize the risk of intentional contamination of food and reduce the risk of illness or death in the school community. The Plan shall describe strategies for preventing threats and incidents of product tampering and food contamination. The Plan shall also include appropriate response actions to be taken should an incident occur. There may be a general Plan for all the schools in the district; however, the Plan will address the specific roles and responsibilities for individual schools or locations where food is served.

The School Lunch Program Biosecurity Plan shall be prepared, revised, and updated in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 2:36-1.13 - Biosecurity for School Food Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "A Biosecurity Checklist for School Food Service Programs," March 2004 version, as amended and supplemented, as New Jersey's Biosecurity Policy for Child Nutrition Programs.

N.J.A.C. 2:36-1.13

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8540 FREE AND REDUCED RATE MEALS

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of good nutrition to each student's educational performance and directs that needy students be provided with lunch at reduced rates or free of charge.

Students shall be eligible for free or reduced rate meals who would not otherwise receive proper nourishment. The Board designates the secretary to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to determine, in accordance with standards issued annually by the State Department of Education, the students eligible for free or reduced rate meals.

The Superintendent shall annually notify all interested persons in the school district of the availability, eligibility requirements, and application procedures for free and reduced rate meals by the distribution of an application for such meals to the family of each student enrolled in the district, by placing a notice in the Board's official newspaper, and by informing appropriate municipal agencies and community organizations.

A parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who so requests shall be given an application form and at least two weeks to prepare and submit the form. Where necessary, the Principal or the Principal's designee shall assist the applicant in the preparation of the form. The student's eligibility shall be determined and the applicant shall be notified of that determination in writing within five working days of the receipt of the application. Any student found eligible shall be offered free or reduced rate meals immediately and shall continue to receive such meals during the pendency of any inquiry regarding his/her eligibility.

A denial of eligibility for free or reduced rate meals shall be in writing and shall include the reasons for which eligibility was denied, notice of the applicant's right to appeal the denial, and the procedures for appeal. Appeal procedures shall include a hearing, held with reasonable promptness and at the convenience of the applicant and before a hearing officer other than the school official who denied the application; the applicant's opportunity to be represented by counsel; a decision rendered promptly and in writing; and an opportunity to appeal the decision of the hearing officer to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

The identity of students who receive free or reduced rate meals will be protected, and they shall not be required to work in consideration for receiving such meals.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations to implement this policy and shall seek out and apply for such federal, state, and local funds as may be applied to the district's program of free and reduced rate meals.

7 C.F.R. 210.1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:33-5; 18A:58-7.2
N.J.A.C. 2:36

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8600 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

The Board of Education shall transport eligible students to and from school and school related activities in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1 et seq. and Board policy. Transportation shall be provided only to eligible public school students, authorized school staff members, and adults serving as approved chaperones.

Nonpublic school transportation or aid in lieu of transportation shall be provided for resident students in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.1 et seq.

Charter or renaissance school transportation or aid in lieu of transportation shall be provided for resident students in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-3.1 et seq.

The Board shall contract for school bus services for transportation of eligible students from designated bus stops to school at the beginning of the school day and from school to designated bus stops at the end of school day. From that point on it is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to care for the child or to make other suitable arrangements. The Board will contract for the transportation of students on field trips.

The Board will provide transportation to and from school for public school students who live more than two miles from the school they attend. Buses will not enter cul-de-sacs for the purpose of transportation of students to and from school.

Students with special needs shall be provided transportation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., and with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-5.1. The Board will transport students certified by a physician as temporarily disabled regardless of the distance between their home and school.

The Board will approve all bus routes each school year. Bus routes for all non-remote students who must walk to and from school along hazardous routes will be designated and approved by the Board. The Board may consider, but shall not be limited to, the criteria outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5 in determining "Hazardous Routes."

The Board will not be responsible for the transportation of nonresident students to or from school, except that transportation to and from school will be provided for homeless children for whom the district is determined to be the district of residence and for homeless students residing in group homes; students residing in resource family homes; and students residing in shared custody homes pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5.



The Board will utilize cooperative/coordinated transportation services in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1 et seq. and N.J.A.,C. 6A:27-10.1 et seq. The Board shall utilize one of the agencies prior to determining to pay aid in lieu of transportation if in the prior year payments in lieu of transportation were provided. The Board will provide to the cooperative/coordinated transportation services any unique limitations or restrictions of the required transportation.

Vehicles used to transport students to and from school or school related activities shall meet standards, registration and inspection requirements of the New Jersey Departments of Education (NJDOE), the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC), and any applicable Federal regulations. The operation and fiscal management of the district's transportation system shall be conducted in strict accordance with rules of the New Jersey State Board of Education and the NJDOE.

In addition to the provisions of any State law, rule, or regulation containing more stringent requirements, provided that those requirements are compatible with Federal law, and notwithstanding the provisions of any State law, rule or regulation to the contrary, school bus operations in the State shall comply with the requirements outlined in N.J.S.A. 39:3B-27.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.; 18A:39-1 et seq.; 18A:39-11.1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 27:15-16
N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 et seq.; 39:3B-2.1; 39:3B-10; 39:3B-27

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1 et seq.; 6A:27-2.1 et seq.; 6A:27-3.1 et seq.;
6A:27-4.1 et seq.; 6A:27-5.1; 6A:27-6.2 through 6.5;
6A:27-7.1 et seq.; 6A:27-9.1 et seq.; 6A:27-10.1 et seq.;
6A:27-11.1 et seq.; 6A:27-12.1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 19 October 2010
Revised: 7 January 2020



8601 STUDENT SUPERVISION AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL

The Board of Education adopts this Student Supervision After School Dismissal Policy as a result of the New Jersey Supreme Court's decision in *Joseph Jerkins, an infant by his Guardian Ad Litem, Charles Jerkins; Charles Jerkins and Toni Jerkins, individually, v. Soweto Anderson; Kemba N. Anderson; John Does 1-10 (fictitious individuals) and ABC Corporations 1-10 (fictitious entities), and Board of Education of Pleasantville Public Schools and Rosemay Clarke*.

The New Jersey Supreme Court, in *Jerkins*, indicated dangers exist for younger students at dismissal as children are susceptible to numerous risks, including negligent conduct, when leaving school property. Because of these risks, the Board of Education adopts and requires the implementation of Policy 8601 for the supervision of younger students after dismissal. The supervision provisions of Policy Guide 8601 are applicable to parents or legal guardians of students attending district-operated schools or programs in grades Kindergarten to six who are not eligible for district-provided transportation after dismissal or are eligible and elect not to use district-provided transportation after dismissal.

Any parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student attending a district-operated school or program in grades Kindergarten to six, where the student is not eligible for district-provided transportation or is eligible and elects not to use district-provided transportation after dismissal may request the school or program not release the student to walk home after dismissal unless the student is released to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or escort(s) designated by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) requesting their child(ren) only be released to a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or parent(s) or legal guardian(s)-designated escort after dismissal must submit a completed Request for Supervision at Dismissal from School Form to the Principal or designee, or program administrator.

The Form shall be made available in the Main office of the school building or the location of the program on the school or school district website.

Only those parents or legal guardians requesting the school or program not release their child(ren) to walk home after school dismissal unless the child(ren) is released to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort need to complete the Request Form.

In order for the school administration to effectively implement the requirements of this Policy and to ensure the safety and security of students that will be released to a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort, the parental request shall be applicable for every school day and shall apply for a duration period of the entire school year. The Request Form must be re-



submitted at the end of the duration period. In addition, a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may rescind their Request by submitting a written request to the Principal or program administrator indicating the date in which the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) no longer requests the school provide supervision of their child(ren) after school dismissal. The child(ren) will be dismissed in accordance with typical dismissal protocol effective the date indicated in the rescinding request.

The Principal or designee, or program administrator upon receiving the Request for Supervision at Dismissal from School Form, shall notify the appropriate school staff member(s) who has supervision of the student at dismissal time at the end of the school day of the parent's or legal guardian's request. The supervising staff member that receives such notice shall retain supervision of the student when other students are dismissed from school at the end of the school day.

Each Principal or program administrator will develop and implement a written Student Supervision After School Dismissal Plan for their school building or program location. This Plan shall include the school building's or program's supervision procedures for students at the end of the school day to the designated area in the school building or program and the location of the designated area in the school building or program. The Plan shall be based on the school's or program's ability to provide supervision, the accessibility for the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort to pick-up the child without disrupting dismissal of the remaining school population, and other considerations unique to the school building or program location. The school's or program's Student Supervision After School Dismissal Plan shall be provided to all parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that have submitted a Request Form.

In the event the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort does not arrive to pick up their child(ren) after the dismissal time of school, the Principal or designee will attempt to contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) using the district's emergency call procedures.

The student(s) shall be supervised by school staff in the designated area of the building and will only be released when the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort arrives to pick up the student and signs the student out of school.

In order to ensure the safety of other students being dismissed from school in accordance with typical school dismissal protocol, to limit interaction of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escorts with other students within the building, and to avoid traffic and vehicular safety problems outside the school building, the Principal or program administrator may prohibit the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort from entering the school building until a time period after school has dismissed or until school buses and other vehicular traffic have cleared the school site. This determination shall be made by each Principal or program



administrator after considering the unique circumstances at the school building and the building's typical dismissal protocol.

In the event of an emergency such that, when an unforeseen event prevents a parent or legal guardian or designated escort from arriving for the child(ren) at dismissal within the time period designated by the Principal or program administrator, the student will be relocated to the Main Office in the school building and will remain in the Main Office supervised by the Main Office staff until the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort arrives and signs the student out of school.

In order to ensure the safety of other students being dismissed from school in accordance with typical school dismissal protocol, to limit interaction of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escorts with other students, and to avoid traffic and vehicular congestion outside the school building, the Principal or program administrator may prohibit the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort from entering the school building until a time period after school has dismissed or until school buses and other vehicular traffic have cleared the school site. This determination may be made by each Principal or program administrator after considering the unique circumstances of the school building and the building's typical dismissal protocol.

In the event of an emergency such that, when an unforeseen event prevents a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort from arriving for the child(ren) at dismissal within the time period designated by the Principal or program administrator, the student will remain under the supervision of the after-school program until the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort arrives and signs the student out of school. In this circumstance, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may be subject to after-school program fees [Optional - if it is determined by the Principal or program administrator the frequency of emergencies causing the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort to be delayed in picking-up the student is excessive.

The school will provide parent(s) or legal guardian(s) information regarding any supervised after-school services, if any, that may be available to students at the school's facilities after formal school dismissal.

This Policy shall be published in student/school handbooks. In addition, the school district shall provide to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) in the beginning of the school year, the school's calendar to include the starting and dismissal times for full session, half-session, and early dismissal days due to weather or other emergencies. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall be required to return to the school a signed acknowledgement of receipt of the student/school handbook, which shall include this Policy and the school calendar. In addition, any changes to the school's calendar made during the school year shall also be provided to parent(s) or legal guardian(s).



POLICY

**NORTH CALDWELL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8613 WAIVER OF STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

The Board of Education is required to provide transportation services for the school year to an elementary student living more than two (2) miles from the public school of attendance or to a secondary school student living more than two and one-half (2 ½) miles from the public school of attendance in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq.

The Board shall determine student transportation needs and approve student transportation routes based on all students eligible for transportation in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and any less than remote, courtesy busing, and/or hazardous route transportation determined by the Board of Education. However, while providing school bus seats for those students eligible for transportation each school year, the Board recognizes certain students eligible for transportation services voluntarily elect not to use the transportation services offered by the Board resulting in empty seats on school buses going to and from school. To assist the Board in operating the school district's transportation system in the most cost-effective manner, the Board may provide a student's parent/guardian the option of waiving transportation services for that school year. The written statement shall be in such form as determined by the New Jersey Department of Education.

In the event a parent/guardian of a student eligible for transportation services waives transportation services for that school year and circumstances change during that school year due to family or economic hardship, the school district will reinstate the student's eligibility for transportation to and from school.

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1; 18A:39-1c

Adopted: March 27, 2012



8630 BUS DRIVER/BUS AIDE RESPONSIBILITY

The Board of Education requires all school bus drivers and bus aides employed by the district or employed by a contracted school bus company to be reliable persons of good moral character who possess the qualifications necessary to perform the duties of the position. Anyone driving a school bus used to transport students to and from school and school related activities must meet all requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A, N.J.A.C. 6A, and all New Jersey Motor Vehicle commission (NJMVC) rules governing school bus drivers. All school bus drivers must possess the appropriate license and endorsement(s) to drive a school bus in the State of New Jersey and are subject to all the Federal and State requirements to maintain the appropriate license.

“Employer” for the purposes of this Policy and Regulation means a Board of Education or a contractor that provides student transportation services under contract with the Board of Education. In the event the school district employs school bus drivers and bus aides and/or uses a contractor for transportation services, the “employer” for school district employed school bus drivers and bus aides shall be the Board of Education and the “employer” for contracted school bus drivers and bus aides shall be the contractor that provides student transportation under contract with the Board of Education.

School bus drivers and bus aides shall meet criminal history background check requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1(c) and tuberculin testing requirements pursuant to applicable State statutes and administrative codes. School bus drivers and bus aides shall be considered under the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to be school officials who have a legitimate educational interest to parts of a student’s record relating to transportation, without parental consent, as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:27-12.1(j)1.

In addition to the medical examination required of every holder of a special license issued for the transporting of children to and from schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-10.1 et seq., any school bus driver who is seventy years of age or older shall annually furnish, to the employer for review by the NJMVC at the NJMVC’s biannual inspection, satisfactory evidence of continuing physical fitness in the form of a medical examination by a licensed medical doctor or licensed osteopathic physician. In addition, any school bus driver who is seventy-five years of age or older shall every six (6) months furnish, to the employer for review by the NJMVC at the NJMVC’s biannual inspection, satisfactory evidence of continuing physical fitness in the form of a medical examination by a licensed medical doctor licensed osteopathic physician. In addition, any person applying for a special license and any person who is the holder of a special license for the transporting of children to and from schools, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., shall comply with the provisions of Section 2 of N.J.S.A. 39:3-10.1a and Section 6 of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.1. The Chief



Administrator of the NJMVC may suspend or revoke license pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-10.1.

All drivers of buses or other vehicles used by the Board for the transportation of students to and from school shall, in addition to any exam required by law, submit to a medical exam for the presence of alcohol, narcotics, or habit-producing drugs within the scope of the “New Jersey Controlled Dangerous Substances Act,” (N.J.S.A. 24:21-1 et seq.).

All drivers of buses or other vehicles used by the Board for the transportation of students to and from school shall, in addition to any exam required by law, submit to a medical exam that includes hearing and visual acuity tests that are in accordance with the provisions of the “Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999,” 49 U.S.C. § 113.

A Commissioner of Education-developed training program on proper procedures for interacting with students with special needs shall be administered by the employer to all school bus drivers and bus aides in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.2. This training program must be administered in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.3a. and all school bus drivers and bus aides must file a certification with their employer that the individual has completed the training program within five (5) business days of its completion. The employer shall retain a copy of the certificate for the duration of the individual’s employment and shall file a copy of the certification to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.3.b.

School bus drivers and bus aides shall receive training in the use of a student’s educational records and in their responsibility to ensure the privacy of the student and his or her records N.J.A.C. 6A:27-12.1(j)2). In addition, permanent and substitute school bus drivers and bus aides shall be trained for the functions of their positions and in a safety education program as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1 et seq.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-28, school bus drivers must visually inspect the school bus they are assigned at the end of the transportation route to determine that no student has been left on the bus.

The school bus driver shall be in full charge of the school bus at all times and shall be responsible for maintaining order. The school bus driver will never exclude a student from the school bus, but if unable to manage a student, the school bus driver will report the unmanageable student to the Principal or designee of the school in which the student attends.

The Principal or designee, upon such report from the school bus driver, may assign appropriate discipline. The discipline may include excluding the student from the bus. The student’s parent shall provide for the student’s transportation to and from school during the time of exclusion.



Upon notification from the NJDOE that a school bus driver employed by the Board has had his or her bus driver's license suspended or revoked, the Board, within one (1) business day of the notification shall provide a statement to the NJDOE verifying that the school bus driver no longer operates a school bus for the Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.6.

In the event of an emergency, school bus driver shall follow procedures established by this Board. School administrators shall organize and conduct emergency exit drills at least twice within the school year for all students who are transported to and from school. All other students shall receive school bus evacuation drills at least once per year. School bus drivers and bus aides shall participate in the emergency exit drills, which shall be conducted on school property and shall be supervised by the Principal or person assigned to act in a supervisory capacity. Drills shall be documented in the minutes of the Board of Education at the first meeting following completion of the emergency exit drill in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.2(d).

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.4, a Commissioner-developed student information card shall be completed by a parent of a student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), who receives transportation services, when the IEP is developed or amended. Upon receiving consent from the parent, the student information card shall be provided to a school bus driver and bus aide for each student on the bus route to which the school bus driver to bus aide is assigned for whom a student information card has been completed by the parent.

The school bus driver will immediately inform the Principal of the receiving school and the School Business Administrator or designee of the district providing the transportation following an accident that involves injury, death or property damage. The school bus driver must also complete and file within ten (10) days of the accident the Preliminary School Bus Accident Report prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. In addition to the Preliminary School Bus Accident Report, the driver of a school bus involved in an accident resulting in injury or death of any person, or damage to property of any one person in excess of \$500, shall complete and file within ten (10) days after such accident a motor vehicle accident report in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:4-130.

School bus drivers are prohibited from using a cellular or other wireless telephone, while operating a school bus unless the school bus is parked in a safe area off a highway or in an emergency situation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3B-25. A school bus driver who violates this Policy provision is subject to fines pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3B-25.

School bus drivers are responsible for the safety of their students and shall rigorously observe all motor vehicle laws and regulations and State Board of Education rules in the operation of their school bus pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3B-27.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS
8630/page 4 of 4
Bus Driver/Bus Aide Responsibility

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.; 18A:25-2; 18A:39-17; 18A:39-18;
18A:39-19.1; 18A:39-19.2; 18A:39-19.3; 18A:39-19.4;
18A:39-19.6; 18A:39-28

N.J.S.A, 39:3-10.1 et seq.

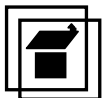
N.J.S.A. 39:3B-25; 39:3B-27

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1 et seq.; 6A:27-12.1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010

Revised: 14 July 2015

Revised: 29 May 2018



8660 TRANSPORTATION BY PRIVATE VEHICLE

The Board of Education authorizes the transportation by private vehicle of students of this district between the school and a school activity approved by this Board in accordance with this policy.

Any such transportation must be approved in advance and in writing by the Building Principal. The writing must set forth the date, time, and reason for the transportation; the places from and to which students will be transported; the name and address of the driver; the names of the students to be transported; a brief description of the transportation vehicle; and the signature of the driver. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a participating student will be given, on request, the name of the driver and the description of the vehicle.

No person shall be approved as driver for the transportation of students in a private vehicle who is not an employee of this Board or the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student enrolled in this district and the holder of a currently valid license to operate a motor vehicle in the State of New Jersey.

The Board may withdraw the authorization of any private vehicle driver.

Any private vehicle used for the transportation of students must be owned by the approved driver or the spouse of the approved driver; have the capacity to hold not more than eight persons; and must conform to registration, inspection, and insurance requirements of the State of New Jersey for privately owned vehicles. Seat belts shall be worn by the driver and the passengers while the vehicle is in motion. No vehicle may be used to transport more persons than its normal load capacity.

The responsibility of teaching staff members for the discipline and control of students will extend to their transportation of students in a private vehicle. Drivers who are not teaching staff members are requested to report student misconduct to the Building Principal.

Expenses incurred by drivers of private vehicles in the course of transporting students will be reimbursed by the Board at the approved mileage rate and upon presentation of evidence of costs for tolls and parking fees.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-6; 18A:25-2; 18A:39-20.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.6; 6A:27-7.7

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8670 TRANSPORTATION OF SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

The Board of Education shall provide transportation services for students with special needs in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:27-5.1, and with their Individualized Education Program (IEP). The Board will provide transportation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.9(a)7. specified as a related service for a student with special needs pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:14-3.9(a)7. Such transportation services may include, but are not limited to, special transportation equipment, transportation aides, and special arrangements for other assistance to and from school.

When an out-of-district placement for educational reasons is made, transportation shall be provided consistent with the school calendar of the receiving school. A copy of the school calendar shall be submitted to the resident district by May 15 preceding the year in which transportation is required, or at the time of placement if it occurs after May 15.

When necessary, the student's case manager shall provide the transportation coordinator or responsible staff member and the bus driver with specific information about the student including safety concerns, mode of communication, and health and behavioral characteristics of a student for whom transportation services are to be provided.

Students with special needs below the age of five, shall be transported in vehicles equipped with safety belts or other child restraint systems, in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations.

The transportation of students with special needs to special education programs approved by the Board and located outside the state will conform to guidelines established by the New Jersey State Department of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C, 6A:27-2.2(c)l.

State aid will be sought for the services provided in accordance with law and this Policy. The Board directs that appropriate records be maintained and all relevant documentation be preserved in order that the district be properly reimbursed for the costs of transportation.

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq.; 18A:39-2.1; 18A:46-19.6; 18A:46-23
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.9(a)7; 6A:27-2.2; 6A:27-5.1

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 7 January 2020



8710 PROPERTY INSURANCE

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility under law to insure the replacement value of the property of this school district, both real and personal, against loss or damage by fire and expressly extends such insurance coverage to loss or damage caused by theft, water, glass breakage, explosion, boiler failure, smoke, windstorm, vandalism, and other hazards.

In placing property insurance coverage, the Board shall be guided by the price of the coverage, the ability of the insurer to meet obligations promptly and fully, the reputation and past performance of the insurer's agent, and the goal of distributing the insurance coverage of the district through one insurance agent only.

The Board shall annually appoint an insurance advisor who shall review the insurance program of the district, consider alternatives, and report recommendations to the Board; recommend specific insurance placement and prepare specifications; assist the Board in the establishment and maintenance of property valuation and insurance records; provide annual safety and fire inspections; process all claims; provide workshops and lectures on fire safety and prevention and safety precautions to the appropriate staff members; and recommend such measures as may reduce the cost of insurance premiums.

To be eligible to represent this Board an insurance agent must write all insurance through a company whose minimum financial status, so far as loss paying ability is concerned, is rated by A.M. Best and Company to be no less than A+; and must derive over fifty percent of his/her income from insurance premium commissions or receive no less than \$100,000 annually in premium income from sources other than this school district.

The Board may, in accordance with law, enter a joint contract for the purchase of property insurance.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42(e); 18A:20-25
N.J.S.A. 40A:10-52 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8740 BONDING

The Board of Education recognizes that the prudent trusteeship of the resources of this district dictates that employees responsible for the safekeeping of district moneys and property be bonded.

The Board directs the indemnification of the district against loss of money and property by the bonding of the Treasurer of School Moneys in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.4 and by the bonding of the Board Secretary in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-6. If the district does not have a Treasurer of School Moneys, the Board will ensure surety bonds are obtained in accordance with the rules of the State Board of Education. All other employees may be covered under a blanket bond in an amount to be determined by the Board or as required by the rules of the State Board of Education.

The Board shall bear the cost of bonding each employee required to be bonded by law or by this policy.

N.J. Consti., Art. 7, §1, 4
N.J.S.A. 18A:17-6; 18A:17-26; 18A:17-32
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.4

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 16 August 2011



8750 EMPLOYEE INDEMNIFICATION

The Board of Education recognizes that officers and employees of this district are exposed to certain risks in the course of the performance of their duties and will provide insurance coverage against losses that may be incurred by such risks.

The Board shall in accordance with law, insure employees of the school district against injury and death arising out of or in the course of their employment.

The Board shall provide indemnification to any person holding any office, position or employment under the jurisdiction of the Board, including any student teacher/intern, or person assigned to other professional pre-teaching field experience, for damages, losses, and costs incurred as a result of a civil or administrative action or other legal proceeding brought against any such persons for any acts or omissions arising out of and in the course of their employment, student teaching, or other assignment to professional field experience with this Board. This indemnification will include all costs of defending such action, including reasonable counsel fees and expenses, together with costs of appeal, if any, and will hold harmless and protect such person from any financial loss resulting from such action. No employee will be held harmless or have his/her defense costs defrayed in a disciplinary proceeding instituted against him/her by the Board or when the employee is appealing an action taken by the Board. Indemnification for exemplary or punitive damages is not required and will be governed by the standards and procedures set forth in N.J.S.A. 59:10-4. The Board may arrange for and maintain appropriate insurance to cover all such damages, losses and expenses.

The Board shall provide indemnification to any person holding any office, position or employment under the jurisdiction of the Board, including any student teacher/intern, or person assigned to other professional pre-teaching field experience, for the costs of defense against any criminal or quasi-criminal action for any such act or omission when such prosecution is dismissed or results in a final disposition favorable to the officer or employee. This indemnification will include the cost of defending such proceeding, including reasonable counsel fees and expenses of the original hearing or trial and all appeals. No employee will be held harmless or have his/her defense costs defrayed as a result of a criminal or quasi-criminal complaint filed against the employee by or on behalf of the Board. The Board may arrange for and maintain appropriate insurance to cover all such damages, losses and expenses.

The Board shall insure against any liability arising out of the use of motor vehicles in the course of the conduct of automobile driver training courses and against any liability arising from the use of a motor vehicle by a person duly appointed by the Board to transport students and while in the course of such transportation.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS
8750/page 2 of 2
Employee Indemnification

The Board may insure against any major liability arising from the use of a motor vehicle by an employee or student of the district in the performance of district business.

The Board may, in accordance with law, enter a joint contract for the purchase of liability insurance.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-6; 18A:16-6.1; 18A:18A-3.2;
18A:18A-42(e); 18A:18B-1; 18A:18B-2;
18A:39-6; 18A:39-6.1; 18A:39-20.1

N.J.S.A. 40A:10-52

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8760 STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Board recognizes the need for insurance coverage for unforeseen accidents which may occur in the course of attendance at school or student participation in the athletic and extracurricular programs of the schools.

The Board may provide parent(s) or legal guardian(s) the opportunity to purchase insurance coverage, at no cost to the Board, for injury resulting from accidents sustained by students in school, on school grounds, at an activity sponsored by the school, while traveling between home and school, and in any activity round-the-clock.

The Superintendent shall recommend suitable and qualified insurance carriers for Board consideration and notify all students who may be eligible for insurance.

N.J.S.A. 18A:43-1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8770 SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP

The Board of Education shall provide insurance for loss or damage to school district property, real or personal; loss or damage from liability resulting from the use of district property; loss or damage from liability for the acts and omissions of school district officers or employees; loss or damage from liability established by the workers' compensation statutes; and the expenses of defending any claim against the Board members, officers, or employees of this district arising out of and in the course of the performance of their duties.

The Board recognizes the benefits to the school district of joining with other Boards of Education in providing coverage for the insurance needs of this district and in participating in programs of risk management to prevent loss and to control liability.

The Board may, upon formal resolution duly adopted, become a member of a school board insurance group in order to participate in any joint self-insurance fund or funds, risk management programs, or related services offered or provided by the group. The Board's membership in the group will be governed by the bylaws of the insurance group, which must be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner of Insurance in accordance with State law.

Trustees of the school board insurance group shall be selected in accordance with the bylaws of the insurance group; if the bylaws do not provide for the manner of a trustee's election, the trustee or trustees representing this Board of Education shall be elected by a plurality vote of those Board members present and voting.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8810 RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The Board of Education recognizes the acknowledgment of religious holidays in the public school may be a source of community concern. It is a goal of the district educational program to teach mutual understanding and brotherhood and respect for group differences. In pursuing this goal, the educational program may recognize that various religious groups celebrate different holidays with different practices.

In the acknowledgment or observance of any religious holiday, the Superintendent shall ensure the school and/or school officials do not mandate, organize, participate in an official capacity, endorse, persuade, compel, prevent or deny participation in constitutionally protected prayer or religion in violation of the governing principles of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Consistent with these principles, the Superintendent shall ensure:

1. No worship or religious service of any kind is sponsored by the school district and conducted during the school day, whether or not conducted by a clergyman;
2. Religious exhibits or displays include only materials that are a necessary or integral part of the curriculum;
3. Any religious music played is selected primarily for its artistic content; and
4. Any acknowledgment of a religious holiday neither advances nor inhibits any particular religious sect or religion consistent with the governing principles of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

U.S. Consti., First Amendment

N.J. Consti., Art. 1, ¶4

United States Department of Education - Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in
Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-16

N.J.A.C. 6:20-1.3(j)

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8820 OPENING EXERCISES

The Board of Education has an obligation to uphold the laws of the State and to support the ideals of this country.

The flag of the United States of America shall be displayed both inside and outside the schools. There shall be a flag in each classroom and in the all purpose rooms.

Each student shall be required to salute the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance during each day's opening exercises. If a student has conscientious objections which interfere with full participation in the flag salute or Pledge of Allegiance, said student is expected to maintain a respectful attitude throughout the ceremony.

Teachers shall provide appropriate exercises for the observance of Flag Day, Arbor Day, and Commodore John Barry Day. Additional appropriate exercises shall be held in the schools on the day preceding patriotic holidays established by law.

1. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday;
2. Lincoln's Birthday;
3. Washington's Birthday;
4. Memorial Day;
5. Columbus Day;
6. Veterans' Day; and
7. Thanksgiving Day.

Assembly programs are considered an integral and necessary part of the schools' curriculum. Students will be encouraged to cooperate with assembly guidelines and take part in the educational and entertainment atmosphere of the programs.

Holidays and special events may be recognized in the schools so long as such recognition respects the rights and feelings of others and is consistent with the law.

Songs and customs which have come to use from various elements of our national population may be used to broaden students' awareness of the many elements that make up the American culture.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-3

Adopted: 2 February 2010



8860 MEMORIALS

The Board of Education recognizes that each officer and employee of this district is important not only to the school district but to the community at large. The loss of any officer or employee of this Board by death is a loss that the Board and the district share with the community.

In order to memorialize that loss in a fitting manner, the Board directs that, whenever notice is received of the death of a Board member or a person employed by the Board, the flag of the United States at each school district building shall be flown at half mast for one school day. Written notice shall be posted in an appropriate manner in each district building on that day in order that students, staff members, and visitors are informed of the purpose of the memorialization.

The Superintendent may, in his/her discretion, grant an employee of this district a brief absence without loss of pay or personal leave for the purpose of attending the funeral of his/her direct supervisor or subordinate provided that no disruption in the educational program will be caused by any such absence.

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board and the Board may approve appropriate recognition measures beyond those provided for in this policy when the deceased Board officer or employee has, by length of service or extraordinary accomplishment, especially distinguished his/her service to this school district.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9120 PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

The Board of Education believes all reasonable means should be employed to keep the community served by the school district informed on matters of importance regarding district programs, finances, personnel, policies, and operations.

The Board will determine which of its official actions have sufficient community impact and interest to warrant special release; the Board alone will release to the news media information about those matters of importance. The Board President may release information regarding Board actions of lesser importance as they have been recorded in the minutes of the Board meetings and upon the request of media representatives. The release of all other publications, photographs, and documents depicting the accomplishments of the students and staff of the district shall be approved by the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

The school district will not release or publish photographs or release other personal identifying information of an individual district student without the prior written permission of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or from the adult student. Written permission slips for such release from each parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or adult student will be obtained by the Principal or designee for the students in their school building or by the Program Administrator for students in programs where a Principal is not assigned. These written permission forms shall be maintained by the Principal or Program Administrator. Group photographs may be released by the district without permission, but in no event will an individual student in a group photograph be identified by name and/or by other personal identifier without written permission from the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or adult student.

The Superintendent of Schools shall direct an information program designed to acquaint residents of the community and the public generally with the achievements and the needs of the schools. As a minimum, information shall be disseminated regarding the district's educational goals; the district's guarantee of equal educational opportunity; the district's programs for basic skills improvement, special education, bilingual education, and English as a second language; and summary reports of the administration of statewide assessment tests. Every effort shall be made to foresee and avoid problems caused by misunderstanding or lack of information.

The public information program may include the publication and distribution of a district newsletter, meetings with parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and interested residents, a presentation and interpretation of the proposed annual budget, periodically distributed calendars and notices of events, the Superintendent's annual report, and a student handbook, as well as the release of news and photographs of school activities for publication. Notices, publications, and other written materials may be prepared in languages other than English when necessary and appropriate for understanding.



The Board of Education adopts the following strategies to minimize the cost of public relations as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3(c)14 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2.

School district publications shall be produced and distributed in the most cost-efficient manner possible that will enable the school district to inform and educate the target community. The use of expensive materials or production techniques where lower cost methods are available and appropriate, such as the use of multi-color glossy publications instead of suitable, less expensive alternatives, is prohibited.

The school district will not distribute, via mass mailings or other means to the district community at large, publications that include the picture(s) of any members of the Board of Education within ninety days before any election in which any Board member is seeking any elective office or any election relating to school district operations held in the district. Any publication(s) distributed by the Board via mass mailings or other means to the district community at large within sixty days before any election in which any Board member is seeking any elective office or any election relating to school district operations held in the district must be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent for review prior to distribution to ensure that the public funds are being expended in a reasonable and cost-effective manner.

Public relations activities, such as booths at Statewide conferences, marketing activities and celebrations for opening schools and community events, and TV productions that are not part of the instructional program or do not provide information about district or Board operations to the public, that are excessive in nature are prohibited. All activities involving promotional efforts to advance a particular position on school elections or any referenda are prohibited.

Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2 and this Policy shall preclude the school district from accepting donations or volunteer services from community members, local private education foundations and local business owners to conduct or assist in public relations services. Examples include, but are not limited to: providing school district flyers, newsletters, or other materials containing school-related information of public concern to local businesses, public meeting places, or other local organizations to display or make available for dissemination; making school district related information of public concern available to local newspapers to publish related articles; and utilizing volunteered services of local community members, district employees, members of parent organizations or local businesses with expertise in related areas such as printing, advertising, publishing, or journalism.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

COMMUNITY
9120/page 3 of 3
Public Relations Program

The Board of Education will establish annually prior to budget preparation, a maximum dollar limit for public relation, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3(c)14. In the event it becomes necessary to exceed the established maximum dollar limit for public relations, the Superintendent of Schools shall recommend to the Board of Education an increase in the maximum dollar amount for public. Any increase in the maximum dollar amount shall require formal Board action.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9130 PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

Any person or group having a legitimate interest in the schools of this district may present a request, suggestion, or complaint concerning district personnel, the educational program, instructional or resource materials, or the operations of the district. The Board directs the establishment of procedures for the hearing and settlement of requests and complaints that provide a means for resolving them fairly and impartially, permit appropriate redress, and protect district personnel from unnecessary harassment.

When a Board member is confronted with an issue, he/she will withhold comment, commitment and/or opinion and refer the complaint or inquiry to the Superintendent, who shall review the complaint according to established procedures.

Only in those cases where satisfactory adjustment cannot be made by the Superintendent and the staff shall communications and complaints be referred to the Board for resolution.

Any misunderstandings or disputes between the public and school district staff should, whenever possible, be settled by direct, informal discussions among the interested parties. It is only when such informal meetings fail to resolve differences that more formal procedures shall be employed. A complaint about a school program or personnel should be addressed to the Building Principal; a complaint about instructional or resource materials should be addressed to the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall establish procedures for the hearing of requests and complaints regarding district personnel, the educational program, instructional and resource materials, and the operation of the school district. Procedures will be governed by the following guidelines:

1. The matter will be resolved initially, wherever possible, by informal discussions between or among the interested parties.
2. A matter that cannot be resolved informally may be appealed at successive levels of authority, up to and including the Board of Education.
3. The complaint and its immediate resolution will be reduced to writing at the first and at each successive level of appeal.
4. A reasonable period of time, not to exceed five working days, will be permitted for the filing of an appeal in writing at each successive level. A decision at each level of appeal must be rendered in writing no later than ten working days after the appeal is filed, except that the Board shall have thirty calendar days to make its decision.



5. In the case of complaints about instructional or resource materials, the initial complaint must set forth in writing the author, title, and publisher of the materials as well as those specific portions of the material or the work to which objection is taken; the complainant's familiarity with the work; the reasons for the objection; and the use of the work in the schools. The Superintendent shall appoint a committee of professional staff members and community representatives to review the challenged material against the standards for the selection of resource materials established by Board policy. The committee will report its findings to the Board. No challenged material may be removed from the curriculum or from a collection of resource materials except by action of the Board of Education, and no challenged material may be removed solely because it presents ideas that may be unpopular or offensive to some. Any Board action to remove material will be accompanied by the Board's statement of its reasons for the removal.
6. A complainant shall be notified that a decision of the Board may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9140 CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The success of the school system depends, to a large extent, on open channels of communication between the school community and the community at large. Citizens advisory committees are particularly useful in keeping the Board of Education and the administration informed with regard to community opinion and in representing the community in the study of specific school problems.

The Board may establish advisory committees as standing committees to serve in a liaison function between the local community and the schools, as permanent committees for funded programs as the law requires, and as the need arises.

In creating a new advisory committee, the Board shall appoint members of the community who are able and interested in the subject and concerned about the schools; appoint members who represent a wide range of community interests and backgrounds; appoint a chairperson; and appoint one or more Board members to serve as ex officio members.

In charging a new advisory committee, the Board shall define the committee assignment in writing, set a date for a preliminary and final report, and establish a budget. Expenditures of district funds by advisory committees shall be made only upon the approval of the Superintendent.

Recommendations of an advisory committee shall not reduce the responsibility of the Board, which may accept or reject recommendations in the exercise of its statutory discretion.

Meetings of an advisory committee that are open to or 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.

N.J.A.C. 6:30-1.5; 6:31-1.14(b)
20 U.S.C.A. 3801 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9150 SCHOOL VISITORS

The Board of Education welcomes and encourages visits to school by parent(s) or legal guardian(s), other adult residents of the community, and interested educators. In order for the educational program to continue undisturbed when visitors are present and to prevent the intrusion of disruptive persons into the schools, the Board directs the enforcement of rules governing school visits.

The Superintendent and Building Principal each possess the authority to prohibit the entry of any person into a school of this district or to expel any person from the school when there is reason to believe the presence of such person would be inimical to the good order of the school. If such a person refuses to leave the school grounds or creates a disturbance, the Principal is authorized to request from the local law enforcement agency whatever assistance is required to remove the individual.

Visitors shall be required to register their presence in the school. No staff member shall transact business with or permit the continuing presence in the school of a visitor who has not been duly registered.

No visitor may confer with a student in school without the approval of the Principal; any such conference may take place only in the presence of a teaching staff member and/or administrator.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall be responsible for informing the school of any change in a student's custody. If one parent(s) or legal guardian(s) has been awarded custody of the student in a divorce, the other parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall present to the Principal a letter authorizing him/her to accompany the child from school before the child may be released. The Principal may take reasonable steps to verify the letter. It is the responsibility of the person or agency having custody to inform the school that such authorization will be required.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations that will protect students and employees of the district from disruption to the educational program and the efficient conduct of their assigned tasks.

N.J.S.A. 2C:18-3

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-42; 18A:20-1; 18A:20-34

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9160 PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

The Board of Education welcomes the attendance of members of the community at athletic and other public events held by the schools of the district and acknowledges its duty to maintain order and preserve the facilities of the district during the conduct of such events.

The Board may bar the attendance of any person at a school event whose conduct constitutes a disruption. The Board prohibits smoking, and the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages at any function sponsored by the district, and, further, prohibits wagering on school premises.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9180 SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The Board of Education welcomes the participation of qualified citizen volunteers in the school program. The Board of Education recognizes the services of volunteers can enrich the educational program, assist teaching staff members in the performance of their duties, and enhance the relationship between the school district and the community. The Board authorizes a program for the utilization of volunteer services in the school(s) of the school district.

School volunteers shall be approved by and serve at the discretion of the building Principal or his/her designee. They shall function under the supervision of approved Board employees to provide significant supplemental services to the teaching and learning processes. Volunteers shall have no role in educational planning, decision making, or direct instruction, nor shall they have access to student records. They will, however, be requested to assist with activities which are supportive, reinforcing, or enriching in nature. School volunteer services shall be directed toward improving school efficiency and effectiveness, and enhancing the learning environment for students. School volunteers shall not be considered as employees and shall serve without remuneration from the Board and without benefits afforded actual employees.

Selection Criteria

1. The certified staff member accountable for the activity or program in which the volunteer will be utilized will be responsible for the endorsement and recommendation of the volunteer to the Principal.
2. Volunteers serve only in a support capacity. All approved volunteers are authorized to supplement the work of paid professional staff members under whom they are assigned but not substitute for paid staff members.
3. Volunteers may serve under the direction and supervision of a teaching staff member. A volunteer may not work with, teach, or coach students without a certified staff member present in the immediate area.
4. Volunteers shall receive no financial remuneration from the Board of Education and/or other sources; however, volunteers carrying out prescribed functions under the supervision of designated professional staff members shall be covered by the Board's liability insurance policy.
5. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept, deny, retain, or terminate the services of any volunteer. This may be done through the Superintendent as the Board's authorized representative.



School volunteers shall:

1. Only perform tasks and function which have administrative approval;
2. Possess patience, empathy, and a sincere desire to help others;
3. Be persons of character, responsibility, and integrity;
4. Be willing to complete the fingerprinting procedure for persons in regular contact with students, consistent with the intent of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7, 18A:6-7.2 et seq., if so requested. If fingerprints are required, the district will reimburse the volunteer.
5. Be in good health and be willing to submit certification to that effect at time of appointment, if so requested;
6. Have sufficient available time for learning the role and responsibilities of a school volunteer and making a positive service contribution to students and program; and
7. Fulfill other qualifications deemed by the administration to be appropriate to specific tasks and student needs.

Responsibilities

Each volunteer and the administration shall mutually agree upon the specific tasks and responsibilities to be undertaken. In general, school volunteers shall be expected to:

1. Respect the individuality, dignity, and worth of each student, and the authority of the staff member to whom they are assigned;
2. Treat with confidence all sensitive information regarding students, staff, and programs which may be obtained during volunteer activities;
3. Demonstrate reliability and punctuality with regard to accepted commitments;
4. Work directly with children only when under the supervision and physical presence of a staff member;



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

COMMUNITY
9180/page 3 of 3
School Volunteers

5. Follow all Board policies and school procedures while in the educational environment;
6. Clearly understand their duties and responsibilities, and perform no service outside those duties; if questions arise, they shall consult with the staff member to which assigned or the Principal.
7. Decline requests for services which are permitted in the scope of this job description, but in which they feel themselves unsure or incapable.
8. Will report to the Building Principal or his/her designee.

Neither the Superintendent nor any Principal shall be obligated to utilize the proffered services of a volunteer whose abilities or interests do not serve the needs of students.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1; 18A:6-7.2

Adopted: 2 February 2010

Revised: 31 January 2012



9190 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education respects the contributions to community life made by business, industry, labor, charitable organizations, cultural institutions, volunteer associations and other community groups that enrich the educational potential of the community.

The Board directs the Superintendent to be alert to the opportunities for an educational program expanded and enriched by utilization, both within and without the school district, of a diversity of community resources.

The Superintendent shall direct each Building Principal to establish and maintain a file of community resources and invite the appropriate participation of community organizations and resource persons in the instructional program. The Superintendent shall determine those schools, instructional programs, and/or district operations that would profit by the involvement of community resources.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9200 COOPERATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOL

The Board of Education believes that the education of children is a joint responsibility that the Board shares with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of students. To ensure that the best interests of the child are served in this process, a strong program of communication between home and school must be maintained.

It is the position of the Board that parent(s) or legal guardian(s) bear the ultimate responsibility for their children's in-school behavior.

The Board directs that cooperation be encouraged by parent-teacher conferences that permit two-way communication between home and school; open houses in district schools that provide parent(s) or legal guardian(s) with the opportunity to see the school facilities, meet the faculty, and observe the program on a first hand basis; meetings of staff members and groups of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of those students having special abilities, needs, or problems; and special events of a cultural, ethnic, or topical nature, which are initiated by parent groups, involve the cooperative effort of students and parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and are of general interest to the schools or community.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9210 PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board will encourage the work of a general, voluntary, school-connected organization of parent(s) or legal guardian(s), school staff, and friends of the school in each school. Such organizations may not establish educational policy, participate in the administration of the school, or authorize management and direction of school affairs.

Such organizations shall have as their objectives the promotion of student welfare; the development of close relationships between the home and the school; and the development between educators and the public of such united efforts as will secure for every student in the schools the best kind of educational program possible.

Organizations shall not use the district's name in their titles without the Board's approval. Such permission to use the district's name does not constitute permission to act as the district's representative.

The Board shall make it a practice not to interfere in the internal workings of such groups. However, all members of the professional staff shall be encouraged to join the organization and to participate in its activities.

Permission to hold regular meetings of such associations in school facilities will be extended by the Board of Education for a particular school year, in accordance with policy.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9230 PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board believes that the education of children is a joint responsibility, one it shares with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the school community. To insure that the best interests of the child are served in this process, a strong program of communication between home and school must be maintained.

The Board feels that it is the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who have the ultimate responsibility for their children's in-school behavior. During school hours, the Board through its designated administrators, acts in loco parentis or in place of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

The Board directs that the following activities be implemented to encourage parent-school cooperation:

1. Parent-teacher conferences to permit two-way communication between home and school; and
2. Open houses in district schools to provide parents with the opportunity to see the school facilities, meet the faculty, and sample the program on a first-hand basis.

The Board believes it would be beneficial for the children if parent(s) or legal guardian(s):

1. Support the schools in requiring that the children observe all school rules and regulations, and by accepting their own responsibility for children's willful in-school behavior;
2. Send children to school with proper attention to their health, personal cleanliness, and dress;
3. Maintain an active interest in the students' daily work and making it possible for the student to complete assigned homework, through providing a quiet place and suitable conditions for study;
4. Read all communications from the school and sign and return them promptly when required; and
5. Cooperate with the school in attending conferences set up for the exchange of information on the child's progress in school.

The Board of Education encourages attendance of a PTO representative at its regular meetings in order to hear the PTO's views with regard to school-community actions, to acquaint the PTO with the viewpoints of the Board of Education and to establish rapport concerning school-related issues.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9240 RIGHTS OF PARENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each child are ultimately responsible for the care and custody of that child, and that both parent(s) or legal guardian(s) share that responsibility equally. The Board recognizes as well that, where only one parent has legal custody of a child, the rights and responsibilities of the other parent may be limited. The Board believes that the interests of the child are best served by the continuing involvement of both parents in the child's life and well-being.

The Board will presume that each natural or adoptive parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student enrolled in this district possesses full parental rights of access to the student and to information about the student, notwithstanding any separation of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or dissolution of their marriage. Accordingly, and in the absence of notice to the contrary, the Board directs that school administrators accommodate the needs of both parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for access to their child, to their child's teachers, and to information about their child.

Every parent, except as prohibited by federal and state law, shall have access to records and information pertaining to his/her unemancipated child, including, but not limited to, medical, dental, insurance, child care and educational records, whether or not the child resides with the parent, unless that access is found by the court to be not in the best interest of the child or the access is found by the court to be sought for the purpose of causing detriment to the other parent.

The place of residence of either parent shall not appear on any records or information released pursuant to the provisions of this section.

A child's parent(s), guardian(s) or legal custodian(s) may petition the court to have a parent's access to the records limited. If the court, after a hearing, finds that the parent's access to the record is not in the best interest of the child or that the access sought is for the purpose of causing detriment to the other parent, the court may order that access to the records be limited. Proper notice of court action consists of the custodial parent's sworn affidavit or certification supported by a copy of the pertinent portion of a legal agreement or court order that awards custody and establishes the rights and limitation of the noncustodial parent or terminates the parental rights of the noncustodial parent.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting in any way the rights of the noncustodial parent whose parental rights have not been terminated to full access to his/her child's records.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6 et seq.; 18A:47-4; 18A:47-8



POLICY

**NORTH CALDWELL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3; 6A:14-2.9; 6A:32-7.1; 6A:32-7.5

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9242 USE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

The New Jersey Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA) authorizes a Board of Education to use electronic forms, filings, and signatures to conduct official business with the public. The use of electronic forms, filings and signatures may save school district resources and will provide a convenient and cost-efficient option for parents to receive, review and acknowledge receipt of information from the school district. Therefore, the Board of Education authorizes the use of electronic forms, filings and signatures in communications between the school district and parents pursuant to the UETA.

For the purposes of this Policy, “electronic” means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic or similar capabilities.

For the purposes of this Policy, “electronic record” means a record created, generated, sent, communicated, received or stored by electronic means.

For the purposes of this Policy, “electronic signature” means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

For the purposes of this Policy, “information processing system” means an electronic system for creating, generating, sending receiving, storing, displaying or processing information.

The school district may electronically send documents to parents of students enrolled in the school district. These documents may include, but are not limited to: informational notices; school or school related events or activities; periodic updates on a student’s progress; school district forms; requests for information; and any other communications between the school district and home. Some documents electronically sent to parents may require the parent to: acknowledge receipt of a document; provide parental consent for such matters as student compliance with the district’s acceptable use of school district computers and administration of surveys; and/or acknowledge receipt and acceptance of terms of a Board of Education policy, regulation, or practice. Any document sent to parents of students enrolled in the school district must be capable of retention by the recipient.. To be capable of retention, the recipient at the time of receipt, must be able to retain and accurately reproduce the document for later reference by all persons who are entitled to retain the record. A record is not capable of retention by the recipient if the sender of its information processing system inhibits the ability of the recipient to print or store the electronic record.



The Board of Education authorizes documents may be electronically sent to parents of students enrolled in the school district only with the approval of the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent shall establish an information processing system to include a process for parents to electronically send, sign, and return documents to the school district. The school district shall make accommodations for a parent who is unable or unwilling to conduct business electronically. In addition, a parent may refuse to conduct business electronically for any reason and at any time. In this event, the school district shall make available a hard copy of the document(s) to the parent to review, maintain, and any document(s) requiring signatures to be returned to the district. The Superintendent will only implement an information processing system in accordance with the provisions of the UETA.

Documents that are electronically signed and returned to the school district may be maintained by the school district in electronic or non-electronic form. Documents returned to the district that are not electronically signed shall be maintained by the district in non-electronic form. However, nothing shall prevent the school district from converting a non-electronic form. All electronic or non-electronic documents returned to the school district shall be maintained by the school district in accordance with the New Jersey Department of the Treasury – Records Management Services – Records Retention Schedules and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 12A:12-12.

N.J.S.A. 12A:12-1 et seq.

Adopted: May 29, 2018



9260 PARENTAL LIABILITY FOR VANDALISM

The school property held in trust by this Board of Education represents a substantial investment of the taxpayers of the school district; liability for the willful and malicious destruction of that property should be borne by those directly and indirectly responsible.

The Board further believes that parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are ultimately responsible for the supervision and discipline of students and that the knowledge that they are vicariously liable for the acts of their children and wards will encourage parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to exercise that responsibility more vigorously.

Where any property, real or personal, owned by this Board has been willfully and maliciously damaged by any minor, whether or not the person is enrolled in this district, the Board shall bring civil action against the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) having legal custody and control of the person at the time the damage was caused, for the full amount of the damage.

N.J.S.A. 18A:37-3

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9270 HOME SCHOOLING AND EQUIVALENT EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLS

The Board of Education encourages the enrollment of all children of school age resident in the district in public schools or in approved private schools so that they may enjoy the benefits of a well-planned educational program and the socialization possible in a group environment.

Every parent, legal guardian or other person having custody and control of a child between the ages of six and sixteen years shall cause such child regularly to attend the public school or a day school in which there is given instruction equivalent to that provided in the public schools for children of similar grades and attainments or to receive equivalent instruction elsewhere than at school. The Board recognizes its responsibility for assuring that every child of school age resident in the district is enrolled in a public or private school or is offered an equivalent thorough and efficient education elsewhere than at school. The Board acknowledges that a parent, guardian, or other person having custody and control of a child has a constitutional right to choose the type and character of education they feel is best suited for their children, be it secular or sectarian. Home schooling is an option and when chosen this option will be carried out in the student's home rather than the school.

In the event the Superintendent determines there is credible evidence the parent, legal guardian, or other person having custody and control of a school-aged child is not causing the child to receive equivalent instruction elsewhere than at school, the Superintendent may request a letter of intent from the parent, legal guardian, or other person confirming the child is receiving equivalent instruction elsewhere than at school. The Superintendent may report to the appropriate municipal authorities children whom he/she has reason to believe are not receiving an education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25. The New Jersey Department of Education encourages the parent, legal guardian, or other person having custody and control of a school-aged child to notify the Superintendent of the intent to educate the child elsewhere than at school to avoid questions with respect to compliance with the compulsory education laws.

The parent or legal guardian or other person having custody and control of a child between the ages of six and sixteen, who fails to comply with any of the compulsory education provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38 et seq. relating to his/her duties, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person and shall be subject to a fine.

If a child seeks admission to this school district from a program of home schooling, the school district will evaluate the work of the child to determine his/her appropriate grade placement.
The



COMMUNITY

9270/page 2 of 2

Home Schooling and Equivalent Education
Outside the Schools

Superintendent or designee will objectively evaluate the child's skill and achievement levels, as it would with any transfer student, before making a determination as to the acceptability of credits and/or the appropriate grade level placement.

When children are home schooled and are not enrolled in a school, the school district is not required to provide any of the entitlements or privileges of students enrolled in the school district unless an entitlement or privilege is specifically provided in Board Policy or required by Federal law, or State statute or administrative code. The school district's curriculum and other public record information will be provided to the parent, legal guardian, or other person having custody and control of a child upon request in accordance with the Open Public Records Act and Policy and Regulation 8310.

A child educated at home shall not receive a state endorsed high school diploma from the Board of Education.

N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25; 18A:38-25 through 18A:38-31

U.S.C.A. 1401 et seq.

New Jersey Department of Education – Frequently Asked Questions: Home Schooling

Adopted: 2 February 2010

Revised: 27 March 2012



9280 PARENT CONFERENCES

The Board of Education endorses the parent-teacher conference as an effective means of permitting parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and teachers to share information about students and the educational program in a constructive setting.

The Superintendent is directed to schedule parent-teacher conferences at such times as will permit the maximum attendance of parent(s) or legal guardian(s), including working parent(s) or legal guardian(s); to encourage the participation of parent(s) or legal guardian(s); and to provide in-service training to teachers to assist them in making most effective use of the conference.

The Board believes that the information exchanged in parent-teacher conferences can be of great importance to the student's ability to profit educationally; such conferences are, therefore, an essential part of the instructional program and an integral part of a teacher's professional responsibility. Accordingly, all teachers are required to attend the parent conferences scheduled for the children assigned to them. A teacher's failure to observe this policy may be cause for discipline.

The Board regards parent-teacher conferences as non-adversarial meetings in which all persons present are united in a common interest in the educational well-being of the student. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student may bring to the conference additional persons who share that interest and wish to aid the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the teacher. When a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) desires the representation of legal counsel at the conference, however, the Board may wish to be similarly represented. Accordingly, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who plans to bring legal counsel to a parent-teacher conference shall notify the school Principal of that intention no later than five working days in advance of the conference in order that the Superintendent may secure such legal representation as he/she may deem advisable.

The purposes of the parent-teacher conference are best served when all persons present share freely and candidly their knowledge of the student's educational progress and information relating to that progress. Any person present may make and preserve notes, for his/her benefit, of the information shared and may, if permitted, make a tape recording of the conference as an aid to memory or to share with an absent parent or legal guardian. Because the presence of the tape recorder may act to impede the free exchange necessary to an effective conference, however, either the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or the teacher may refuse the other's request that a tape recorder be used.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9320 COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Board of Education recognizes that keeping students and staff safe and helping children understand and respect the law is best served by a close and cooperative relationship with local law enforcement.

The Board adopts this Policy and Regulation 9320 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1. to ensure cooperation between school staff and law enforcement authorities in all matters relating to the unlawful possession, distribution and disposition of controlled dangerous substances, including anabolic steroids, as defined in N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2, drug paraphernalia as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:36-1, alcoholic beverages; firearms, as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1.f.; and other deadly weapons as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1.r.

The Board adopts Policy and Regulation 9320 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1. to ensure cooperation between school district staff and law enforcement authorities in all matters relating to the planning and conduct of law enforcement activities and operations occurring on school grounds, including arrest procedures, undercover school operations, and mandatory reporting the offenses listed in the Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (MOA).

The Superintendent or designee shall institute a program of such communication and cooperation with law enforcement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1.

This Policy and Regulation 9320 shall be submitted for review and approval to the Executive County Superintendent in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(a)2.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually review the MOA as adopted by the Board to ensure this Policy and Regulation 9320 are in accordance with the requirements outlined therein.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1.; 6A:16-6.2; 6A:16-6.4.

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 15 August 2022



9323 NOTIFICATION OF JUVENILE OFFENDER CASE DISPOSITION

School Principals have a need to receive and have access to juvenile justice proceedings involving juveniles who are registered students in the school building. The school Principal shall have access to information relating to juvenile justice proceedings in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-60.

The school Principal may request from law enforcement agencies at the time of charge, adjudication or disposition, information as to the identity of a juvenile student charged, the adjudication and the disposition. The school Principal may inform school staff members of this information if the Principal deems it appropriate for maintaining order, safety or discipline in the school or for planning programs relevant to the juvenile's educational and social development. This information will not become part of the juvenile student's permanent school record and shall not be maintained except as authorized by regulation of the Department of Education.

A law enforcement or prosecuting agency shall at the time of charge, adjudication or disposition, advise the school Principal of the school where the juvenile is enrolled, of the identity of the juvenile charged, the offense charged, the adjudication and the disposition if:

1. The offense occurred on school property or a school bus, occurred at a school-sponsored function or was committed against an employee or official of the school; or
2. The juvenile was taken into custody as a result of information or evidence provided by school officials; or
3. An offense, if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime and the offense:
 - a. Resulted in death or serious bodily injury or involved an attempt or conspiracy to cause death or serious bodily injury; or
 - b. Involved the unlawful use or possession of a firearm or other weapon; or
 - c. Involved the unlawful manufacture, distribution or possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance or controlled substance analog; or



Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition

- d. Was committed by a juvenile who acted with a purpose to intimidate an individual or group of individuals because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation or sex, social or economic status, or disability; or
- e. Would be a crime of the first or second degree.

Information provided in accordance with the section above shall be treated as confidential. The school Principal may inform school staff members of this information if the Principal deems it appropriate for maintaining order, safety or discipline in the school or to planning programs relevant to the juvenile's educational and social development. This information will not become part of the juvenile student's permanent school record and shall not be maintained except as authorized by regulation of the Department of Education.

Law enforcement or the prosecuting agency may provide the school Principal with information identifying one or more juveniles who are under investigation or who have been taken into custody for the commission of any act that would constitute an offense if committed by an adult when the law enforcement or prosecuting agency determines that the information may be useful to the Principal in maintaining order, safety, or discipline in the school or in planning programs relevant to the juvenile's educational and social development. Information provided in accordance with the section above shall be treated as confidential, but the school Principal may inform school staff members of this information if the Principal deems it appropriate for maintaining order, safety or discipline in the school or for planning programs relevant to the juvenile's educational and social development. No information provided in accordance with this paragraph shall be maintained.

The Principal who requests and/or receives information as specified in this policy shall notify the Superintendent or designee within twenty-four hours.

The school district shall comply with the Department of Education rules and regulations concerning the creation, maintenance and disclosure of student records regarding school Principal notification of juvenile offender case disposition and this policy.

P.L.1982, c.79
R.S.53:1-15
P.L.1985, c.69

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9324 SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION

The Board of Education and administration will comply with the guidelines developed by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and will work cooperatively with the County Prosecutor's Office and the North Caldwell Police Department regarding the requirements of N.J.S.A. 2C:7-1 et seq. (Megan's Law).

The Megan's Law notification statute applies to all sex offenders who are required to register pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:7-1 et seq. The offenses requiring registration by persons convicted, an adjudicated delinquent or a person acquitted by reason of insanity are as indicated in New Jersey Statutes Annotated.

Definitions

- A. Tier One offenders encompass those that are a "low risk of re-offense", thus constituting a low risk of harm to the community. This offender is one who, because of the type of crime, the lack of violence in his/her behavior, the lack of a substantial criminal history and the existence of ties to the community presents no more than a possible risk of re-offense.
- B. Tier Two offenders encompass those who are a "moderate risk of re-offense", thus constituting a moderate risk of harm to the community in that the pertinent documents demonstrate that they are reasonably likely to re-offend, warranting limited notice for the protection of the public.
- C. Tier Three offenders encompass those who are a "high risk of re-offense" in that the available record demonstrates that there is a probable risk of re-offense, warranting notice to the community likely to encounter the offender.

The County Prosecutors Office determines the specific schools, community organizations and residences to receive notification.

The School District is automatically included on the notification list and is not required to register to be notified under Tier Two or Tier Three notifications. Where the risk of re-offense is determined by the County Prosecutor's Office to be moderate or high in accordance with the law, the County Prosecutor's Office and/or the appropriate law enforcement office will notify the Superintendent and the Principal of the targeted school(s). The Superintendent should not notify the target school(s), but may contact the Prosecutor's Office if the Superintendent thinks that a



COMMUNITY
9324/page 2 of 2

Sex Offender Registration and Notification

school in the notification area has been inadvertently omitted. The school district is entitled to receive the offender's name and a recent photograph, along with a physical description, the offense of which he/she was convicted, their address, place of employment and/or schooling, and vehicle license number.

The Board of Education shall take appropriate steps to educate and alert those staff members who are charged with the care and supervision of children, emphasizing that this information is intended to assist such staff members in the protection of their charges, not to provide notification to the community at large. All sex offender notification information to the community must be released by the appropriate law enforcement agency or the County Prosecutor's Office. The school district and/or any school staff member shall keep all sex offender notification information confidential. In the event the school district is notified a student is a Tier One or Two sex offender, the school district will cooperate with the local law enforcement and the County Prosecutor's Office on community notification consistent with the law and guidelines of the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

The County Prosecutor's Office will be asked to provide guidance to the school district staff members. The Board of Education, working in conjunction with the County Prosecutor's Office and/or a local law enforcement office, will hold meetings and other educational programs at a particular school for staff regarding the safeguarding of the school district's children. There will be a strong emphasis on providing pertinent information, constructive knowledge and guidance to the community, as well as advice concerning the consequences of vigilante activity.

The Building Principal of each school notified by the Prosecutor's Office will have the discretion to make the determination as to which employees within the school should be informed of the notification. The Building Principal should share the notice with any person who in the course of the duties of his/her employment or assignment is regularly in a position to observe unauthorized persons in or near the property of the notified school. If any persons to be notified by the Building Principal are employees of private contractors, the Principal or the Superintendent will notify the private vendor who will provide notice to the employees. The Principal shall only notify school appropriate district staff of Tier Two or Tier Three notifications and not to provide notification to the community at large. Guidance to the school district in providing this information to staff members will be obtainable from the County Prosecutor's Office.

N.J.S.A. 2C:7-1 et seq.
Guidelines - New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9400 MEDIA RELATIONS

The maintenance of a good working relationship with the media is essential to meeting the objectives of the school district's community relations program.

The Board of Education must give formal approval to all basic practices governing relations between the media and the school district and reserves the right to negotiate, on terms most favorable to the school district, for the broadcasting, filming, or sound recording of any school event by an outside agency.

The Superintendent or designee shall be the chief communications representative of the school district. The chief communications representative shall be readily available to provide media representatives with all appropriate and necessary information; suggest or supply feature articles or stories; prepare information to be released to the media; assist school and parent organizations with media press relations; meet periodically with media representatives; protect school personnel from any unnecessary demands on their time by media representatives; and provide additional information as appropriate.

The Superintendent or designee must authorize in advance interviews between staff members and media representatives when the staff member is representing or speaking on behalf of the Board of Education or the school district.

A school district staff member not designated by the Superintendent or designee to assist in any of the media responsibilities outlined in this Policy, including speaking to a representative of the media, is not prohibited from doing so on their own behalf as a private citizen provided the staff member does not indicate or imply they represent or are speaking on behalf of the Board of Education or the school district and indicate they are speaking on their own behalf as a private citizen.

A staff member who is acting on their own behalf as a private citizen should be cognizant of their obligations to protect the privacy and confidentiality of students and school operations in accordance with Federal and State laws.

The Board of Education reserves its right to regulate the exercise of school district staff members' First Amendment rights of the United States Constitution in such situations to the extent that such exercise may interfere with the safe and orderly operation of the schools and the learning environment.

The Superintendent or designee must authorize the release of any images of district subjects, personnel, or students.



POLICY

NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION

COMMUNITY
9400/page 2 of 2
Media Relations

Any images of a student with a disability shall not be disseminated or used in print or media in any way if they are identified as a student with a disability unless permission is granted by the parent(s) Any images of a child placed in the district by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency shall not be published without the permission of the Department case worker. Where the release of any a-images may violate the privacy of any student or staff member, the Superintendent or designee must first secure the written permission of the staff member or the student's parent(s).

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 7 January 2020



9500 COOPERATION WITH EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

The Board of Education recognizes the need for communication between this district and other districts and educational institutions that provide programs, training, and services not otherwise available to children residing in this district.

The Board acknowledges the responsibility for the education and conduct of the student in the school district in which he/she is enrolled.

The Board will attempt to meet periodically with the governing boards of other educational institutions that receive from this district a significant number of students or that send to this district a significant number of students.

In order to maintain a cordial and constructive relationship with the West Essex Regional School District, the Superintendent shall cooperate with the professional staff in articulation studies to assure that students of this district are properly prepared to enter the schools of the receiving district; inform students in their final year in this district of program options in the receiving district and counsel them regarding their program choices; provide an orientation program to students in their final year in this district to familiarize them with the facilities, procedures, and rules of the receiving district; develop procedures to follow the progress of our students during their careers in the receiving school; and keep the Board informed of any problems of an individual or group nature that may be a threat to the educational progress of our students.

In order to maintain cordial and constructive relationships with nonpublic schools, the Superintendent shall maintain liaison with the administration of all nonpublic schools located within this school district in order to be aware of any program changes that may be planned that could affect this district; determine how this district can advance the education of resident students attending parochial or private schools by the provision in these schools of special programs; and cooperate fully in the implementation of all state and federal programs administered by this district that benefit, in whole or in part, eligible students attending such nonpublic school.

20 U.S.C.A. §3066
N.J.S.A. 18A:38-13.1 et seq.; 18A:40-23 et seq.;
18A:46-19.1 et seq.; 18A:46A-1 et seq.; 18A:58-37.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:23-6.1 et seq.; 6A:14-6.2 et seq.

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9541 STUDENT TEACHERS/INTERNS

The Board of Education encourages cooperation with the state colleges and universities in the education of teachers, because the public school offers an experience essential to their training, interaction with students and teachers at work in the classroom. Accordingly, the schools of this district will accept students from accredited institutions of higher learning as junior or senior student teachers/interns.

The Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, shall approve all student teachers/interns.

Student teachers/interns shall be selected and assigned by the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall assign student teachers/interns throughout the district in a manner that assures that no single group of students will be subject to excessive student teacher/intern classroom hours.

Student teachers/intern shall comply with the health examination required by rules of the State Board of Education and that required for teaching staff members by this Board.

The Board of Education requires every student teacher/intern possess a county substitute credential issued in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-6.5.

Student teachers shall at all times be subject to the policies of this Board. Student teachers serving in the schools of this district shall be responsible to the Principal for their conduct and to the cooperating teacher for their performance.

Students and other affiliates of educational institutions will be offered the opportunity to visit and observe our district in the course of teacher training programs and educational research projects. Such students will be treated as visitors and will be under the direct supervision of the Principal.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-6.5; 6A:9-10.2; 6A:9-10.3; 6A:9-10.4

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9550 EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Board of Education will cooperate, whenever appropriate and feasible, with organizations and individuals conducting bona fide educational research involving students enrolled in the schools of this district.

All educational research must be approved in advance by the Board. A written application for approval must state the purpose of the research, the specific ways in which students will be involved, the estimated duration of the project, the persons who will conduct the research project and their relevant affiliations, and any possible benefits to students or to the school district. Approval will be granted only to those projects that will serve the interests of students and the educational program; approval will not be granted to projects that will impede or significantly disrupt the instructional program approved by the Board.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be informed of any educational research project that involves their children and may request the removal of their children from the project.

The conduct of research activities must rigorously protect students' privacy. Approved researchers may be given access to student records in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and Board Policy No. 8330, but shall not abuse this privilege by using information in any way that may embarrass or harm individual students or their families. The Board must be satisfied that strict standards of anonymity and confidentiality will be observed.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9560 ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOL SURVEYS

The Board of Education believes the administration of school surveys may be necessary and valuable to the educational program in the school district. The Board recognizes certain student information is personal and some students or parents may not want this information shared with the school district. Therefore, the Board shall ensure school surveys are administered in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34 and 18A:36-34.1 and this Policy.

- A. School Surveys, Certain, Parental Consent Required Before Administration – N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34
1. Unless the school district receives prior written informed consent from a student's parent and provides for a copy of the document to be available for viewing at convenient locations and time periods, the school district shall not administer to a student any academic or nonacademic survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation which reveals information concerning:
 - a. Political affiliations;
 - b. Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or the student's family;
 - c. Sexual behavior and attitudes;
 - d. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior;
 - e. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom a respondent has a close family relationship;
 - f. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as lawyers, physicians, and ministers;



2. Written notification provided by the school district to the parent of the student shall be delivered to the parent by regular mail, electronic mail, or a written acknowledgement form to be delivered by the student at least two weeks prior to administration of the survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation. Written notification shall contain, at minimum, the following information:
 - a. A description of the survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation;
 - b. The purpose for which the survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation is needed;
 - c. The entities and persons that will have access to the information generated by the survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation;
 - d. Specific instruction as to when and where the survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation will be available for parental review prior to its administration;
 - e. The method by which the parent can deny permission to administer the survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation to the student; a form specifically providing for such denial shall be included with this notice;
 - f. The names and contact information of persons to whom questions can be directed; and
 - g. A statement advising that failure to respond indicates approval of participation in the survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation.
3. Information obtained through a survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation administered to a student in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34.1 and B. above, shall be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health. Information may be used to develop public health initiatives and prevention programs. Information shall not be used for marketing or other commercial purposes that are not related to student health.



C. Violations – N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34.d.

A violation by the school district of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34; 18A:36-34.1, and this Policy shall be subject to such monetary penalties as determined by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education.

D. Compliance with Federal Law

In addition to compliance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34, 18A:36-34.1, and this Policy, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure compliance with the provisions of Policy 2415.05 – Student Surveys, Analysis, Evaluations, Examinations, Testing, or Treatment before students are required to participate in a survey, analysis, evaluation, examination, testing, or treatment funded in whole or part by a program of the United States Department of Education that concerns one or more of the areas outlined in Policy 2415.05.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34; 18A:36-34.1

Adopted: 2 February 2010
Revised: 18 October 2022



9700 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Board of Education recognizes that the contributions of persons and organizations outside the schools may from time to time take the form of materials, activities, and awards that tend to serve the interests of the contributor as well as benefit the school district generally and students individually.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that only materials which have a direct educational benefit to the children of North Caldwell are accepted for posting and/or distribution in the North Caldwell School District.

The Superintendent must first approve any and all material accepted for posting and/or distribution.

The Superintendent shall exercise appropriate discretion in the implementation of this policy. Such discretion shall permit the inclusion of notices pertaining to scouting, township activities, and the PTO; but shall not permit the posting and/or distribution of materials promoting the interests of:

1. Individuals;
2. Partisan, political and/or employee organizations; or
3. Charitable or religious organizations.

Students and staff must abide by this policy. (Exception: teachers' lounge)

Upon request, the Superintendent will report to the Board regarding this policy with representative examples of items accepted and not accepted during the current school year.

The Board reserves the right to review all such proposed contributions and to reject those that have the primary effect of advancing the name, product, or special interest of a person, corporation, or organization; fail to meet district standards of accuracy and good taste; are of little or no educational value to students; make unreasonable demands upon the time and energies of staff and students or upon the resources of the district; interrupt or interfere with the regular school program; or involve a direct cost to the district.

The approval of the use of any material or the conduct of any activity offered by an agency outside the schools shall not under any circumstances be construed as an endorsement by this Board of any interest, cause, or organization.



Permission to solicit funds on school premises will be granted only to those persons and organizations whose purposes are consonant with the goals of this district and the interests of the community. Solicitation may not interfere with the orderly operation of the schools. The Board will not be responsible for the protection of or accounting for such funds nor may any such funds be deposited in any district account.

The Board forbids the distribution of political literature to or through the students of this district; further, no student under the jurisdiction of this Board shall be requested or directed to engage in any activity that tends to promote, favor, or oppose a candidate for political office or a public question submitted at any election.

The Board will only prohibit the distribution of literature or material to students on school premises that tends to advance or is inimical to the interests of a religious sect or religion if the distribution method is inconsistent with the governing principles of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The Board will permit the award of scholarships or prizes to deserving students provided that information regarding students is released only in accordance with Policy No. 8330 on Student Records, the manner of selection of the recipient is approved by the Building Principal and includes consultation with appropriate staff members, the nature of the prize or award is approved by the Superintendent, and the Board determines the manner of presentation.

N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4

United States Department of Education - Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

Adopted: 2 February 2010



9713 RECRUITMENT BY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Board of Education prohibits recruitment activities by outside organizations on school premises, regardless of the purpose of the recruitment or the nature of the recruitment agency. Except as required and referenced below, no information about individual students will be released for the purpose of approaching students for educational, occupational, military, or any other recruitment purpose.

However, a school district that receives funds under ESEA, on request from a military recruiter or an institution of higher education, must provide access to the names, addresses, and telephone listings of each secondary students served by the Board of Education. Parents, and/or ~~the~~ adult students may submit a written request to the Superintendent or designee to opt out of the disclosure of such information for the student in which case the information will not be released without the parent's or adult student's written consent

Parent(s) of secondary students and adult students shall be informed annually in writing of their right to request a secondary student's excusal from participation in all recruitment activities and/or from ~~a~~ having their child's name, address, and/or telephone listing provided to a military recruiter, an institution of higher education, or a prospective employer.

The district will give military recruiters the same right of access to secondary students as generally provided to post-secondary institutions and prospective employers.

Representatives of bona fide educational institutions, occupational agencies, and the United States Armed Forces may recruit students on school premises by participation in assembly programs, career day activities, and the like and by distributing literature. Permission to recruit on school premises must be requested in writing at least forty-five working days before the planned activity and must be approved in advance by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall not favor one recruiter over another, but shall not approve an activity that, in the judgment of the Superintendent or designee, carries a substantial likelihood of disrupting the educational program of the school or school district.

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed as requiring the Board to approve or participate in an activity that appears to advance or inhibit any particular religious sect or religion generally.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.1

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 – §8528

Adopted: 2 February 2010

Revised: 15 March 2022



9720 SOLICITATIONS BY VENDORS

The Board of Education will permit vendors to solicit students and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for the sale of goods and services through the schools of this district, provided that the Board has given prior approval to the vendor and to the solicitation.

The Superintendent shall review each vendor's request to solicit sales and shall recommend to the Board for its approval only those that offer a product or service that is related to the educational goals of this district and offers good value to purchasers.

Any funds collected on behalf of a vendor approved by the Board under this policy shall be kept in a separate account pending transfer to the vendor. The Board disclaims any responsibility for any such funds.

In the event that more than one vendor requests permission to solicit sales of a particular product or service, or the Superintendent seeks a vendor to provide a particular product or service to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or students, the Superintendent shall seek quotations from qualified vendors in order to determine which will provide the greater value to purchasers.

The Board reserves the right to withdraw its approval of any vendor at any time.

Adopted: 2 February 2010

