

# POLICY ————— PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS

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### 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:167.1(c)3 and 7.3, and as outlined in Policy 5610, subsequent to a long-term suspension pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3; and
2. An appropriate educational program or service, 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:14-3 - Special Education, Program 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 service 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 Act,” N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq. Students in preschool shall not be expelled, except as provided pursuant to the “Zero Tolerance for Guns Act,” N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.

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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.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c, in the event a student 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. The purpose of the meeting shall be to identify any behavior or health difficulties experienced by the student and, where appropriate, to provide supportive interventions or referrals to school or community resources that may assist the student in addressing the identified difficulties.

The requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c shall not apply when a student's immediate removal or suspension from the school's regular education program is required pursuant to: the provisions of the "Zero Tolerance for Guns Act," (N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.); N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.1 – Assault by Pupil Upon Teacher, etc.; Suspension; Expulsion Proceedings; N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.2 – Offense by Pupil Involving Assault, Removal from Schools Regular Education Program; or in any other instance in which the safety and security of other students or school staff requires the student's immediate removal from school. In these instances, the meeting required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c shall take place as soon as practicable following the student's removal from the school's regular education program.

The provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c shall be construed in a manner consistent with the "Individuals with Disabilities Act," 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.

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 et seq.

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: 13 December 1999  
Revised and Adopted: 26 February 2007  
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Revised and Adopted: 17 August 2020