

R 2431.4 PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SPORTS-RELATED
CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a blow or motion to the head or body that disrupts the normal functioning of the brain and can cause significant and sustained neuropsychological impairments including, but not limited to, problem solving, planning, memory, and behavioral problems. Allowing a student to return to athletic competition or practice before recovering from a concussion increases the chance of a more serious brain injury. The following procedures shall be followed to implement N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.1 et seq. and Policy 2431.4.

A. Athletic Head Injury Safety Training Program

1. The school district will adopt an athletic head injury safety training program.
2. The training program shall be completed by the school physician, any individual who coaches in an athletic competition, an athletic trainer involved in any athletic competition, and the school nurse.
3. This training program shall be in accordance with the guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.2.

B. Prevention

1. The school district may require pre-season baseline testing of students before the student begins participation in athletic competition or practice. The baseline testing program shall be reviewed and approved by the school physician trained in the evaluation and management of sports-related concussions and other head injuries.
2. The Principal or designee will review educational information for students participating in athletic competition or practice on the prevention of concussions.
3. All school staff members, students participating in athletic competition or practice, and parents of students participating in athletic competition or practice shall be annually informed through the distribution of the NJDOE Concussion and Head Injury Fact Sheet and Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement Form and other communications from the Principal and coaches on the importance of early identification and treatment of concussions to improve recovery.



- C. Signs or Symptoms of Concussion or Other Head Injury
1. Possible signs of concussions may be observed by coaches, athletic trainer, school or team physician, school nurse, or other school staff members. Possible signs of a concussion may be, but are not limited to:
 - a. Appearing dazed, stunned, or disoriented;
 - b. Forgetting plays or demonstrating short-term memory difficulty;
 - c. Exhibiting difficulties with balance or coordination;
 - d. Answering questions slowly or inaccurately; and/or
 - e. Losing consciousness.
 2. Possible symptoms of concussion shall be reported by the student participating in athletic competition or practice to coaches, athletic trainer, school or team physician, school nurse, and/or parent. Possible symptoms of a concussion may be, but are not limited to:
 - a. Headache;
 - b. Nausea/vomiting;
 - c. Balance problems or dizziness;
 - d. Double vision or changes in vision;
 - e. Sensitivity to light or sound/noise;
 - f. Feeling sluggish or foggy;
 - g. Difficulty with concentration and short-term memory;
 - h. Sleep disturbance; or
 - i. Irritability.



D. Medical Attention for a Student Suspected of a Concussion or Other Head Injury

1. A student who participates in athletic competition or practice and who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury while engaged in an athletic competition or practice shall be immediately removed from athletic competition or practice.
 - a. A staff member supervising the student during the athletic competition or practice shall immediately contact the school physician, athletic trainer, or school nurse to examine the student.
 - (1) The school physician, athletic trainer, or school nurse shall determine if the student has sustained or may have sustained a concussion or other head injury. The school physician, athletic trainer, or school nurse shall determine if emergency medical responders shall be called to athletic competition or practice.
 - (2) In the event the school physician, athletic trainer, or school nurse determine the student did not sustain a concussion or other head injury, the student shall not be permitted to participate in any further athletic competition or practice until written medical clearance is provided in accordance with E. below.
2. The staff member supervising a student who has been removed from athletic competition or practice in accordance with D.1. above or another staff member shall contact the student's parent and the Principal or designee as soon as possible after the student has been removed from the athletic competition or practice.
 - a. A parent shall monitor their student for symptoms of a concussion or other head injury upon receiving such notification.

E. Medical Examination and Written Medical Clearance

1. A student who was removed from athletic competition or practice in accordance with D.1. shall not participate in further athletic competition or practice until:
 - a. The student is examined by a physician or other licensed healthcare provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions;
 - b. The student receives written medical clearance from a physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions to return to competition or practice; and



- \
- c. The student returns to regular school activities and is no longer experiencing symptoms of the injury while conducting those activities.
2. The student's written medical clearance from a physician must indicate a medical examination has determined:
 - a. The student's injury was not a concussion or other head injury, the student is asymptomatic at rest, and the student may return to regular school activities and is no longer experiencing symptoms of the injury while conducting those activities; or
 - b. The student's injury was a concussion or other head injury and the student's physician will monitor the student to determine when the student is asymptomatic at rest and when the student may return to regular school activities and is no longer experiencing symptoms of the injury while conducting those activities.
 3. The student's written medical clearance must be reviewed and approved by the school physician.
 4. The student may not begin the graduated return to athletic competition and practice protocol in F. below until the student receives a medical examination and provides the required written medical clearance.
 5. A written medical clearance not in compliance with the provisions of E. will not be accepted.
- F. Graduated Return to Athletic Competition and Practice Protocol
1. The return of a student to athletic competition and practice shall be in accordance with the graduated, six-step "Return to Play Progression" recommendations and any subsequent changes or updates to those recommendations as developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 - a. Back to Regular Activities (Such as School)

The student is back to their regular activities (such as school) and has the green-light from the student's physician approved by the school physician to begin the return to play process. A student's return to regular activities involves a stepwise process. It starts with a few days of rest (two-three days) and is followed by light activity (such as short walks) and moderate activity (such as riding a stationary bike) that do not worsen symptoms.



- b. Light Aerobic Activity

Begin with light aerobic exercise only to increase the student's heart rate. This means about five to ten minutes on an exercise bike, walking, or light jogging. No weight lifting at this point.
 - c. Moderate Activity

Continue with activities to increase the student's heart rate with body or head movement. This includes moderate jogging, brief running, moderate-intensity stationary biking, and/or moderate-intensity weightlifting (less time and/or less weight from their typical routine).
 - d. Heavy, Non-Contact Activity

Add heavy non-contact physical activity, such as sprinting/running, high-intensity stationary biking, regular weightlifting routine, and/or non-contact sport-specific drills (in three planes of movement).
 - e. Practice and Full Contact

The student may return to practice and full contact (if appropriate for the athletic competition) in controlled practice.
 - f. Athletic Competition

The student may return to athletic competition or practice.
- 2. It is important for a student's parent(s) and coach(es) to watch for concussion symptoms after each day's "Return to Play Progression" activity. A student should only move to the next step if they do not have any new symptoms at the current step.
 - 3. If a student's symptoms return or if they develop new symptoms, this is a sign that a student is pushing too hard. The student should stop these activities and the student's health care provider should be contacted. After more rest and no concussion symptoms, a student can start at the previous step if approved by the student's healthcare provider and provides written medical clearance to the school physician.



- G. Temporary Accommodations for Student's Participating in Athletic Competition with Sports-Related Head Injuries
1. The concussed brain is affected in many functional aspects as a result of the injury. Memory, attention span, concentration, and speed of processing significantly impact learning. Further, exposing the concussed student to the stimulating school environment may delay the resolution of symptoms needed for recovery. Accordingly, consideration of the cognitive effects in returning to the classroom is also an important part of the treatment of sports-related concussions and head injuries.
 2. To recover, cognitive rest is just as important as physical rest. Reading, studying, computer usage, testing, texting, and watching movies if a student is sensitive to light/sound can slow a student's recovery. The Principal or designee may look to address the student's cognitive needs as described below. Students who return to school after a concussion may need to:
 - a. Take rest breaks as needed;
 - b. Spend fewer hours at school;
 - c. Be given more time to take tests or complete assignments (all courses should be considered);
 - d. Receive help with schoolwork;
 - e. Reduce time spent on the computer, reading, and writing; and/or
 - f. Be granted early dismissal from class to avoid crowded hallways.

Adopted:



R 2460.30 ADDITIONAL/COMPENSATORY SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES

The Board of Education shall provide additional or compensatory special education and related services to students with disabilities beyond the age of twenty-one pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6.3.

As used in N.J.A.C. 18A:46-6.3(h) and this Regulation, “parent” means the natural or adoptive parent, the legal guardian, resource family parent when willing to so serve, a surrogate parent, or a person acting in the place of a parent, such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the student lives, or a person legally responsible for the student’s welfare. “Parent” shall also include an adult student who has attained the age of eighteen, who is not under legal guardianship, and who is entitled to receive special education and related services.

A. Additional Special Education and Related Services

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-8, or of any other law, rule, or regulation concerning the age of eligibility for special education and related services to the contrary, the Board shall:
 - a. In the 2021-2022 school year, provide special education and related services contained in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to a student with disabilities who attains the age of twenty-one during the 2020-2021 school year, provided the parent of the student and the IEP team determine that the student requires additional or compensatory special education and related services, including transition services, during the 2021-2022 school year.
 - (1) A student receiving special education and related services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6.3.a. and A.1. shall not be eligible to receive such education and services beyond June 30, 2022, unless otherwise provided in a student’s IEP or as ordered by a hearing officer, complaint investigation, or court of competent jurisdiction.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-8, or of any other law, rule, or regulation concerning the age of eligibility for special education and related services to the contrary, the Board shall:



REGULATION

NEW DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM

R 2460.30/page 2 of 3

Additional/Compensatory Special Education
and Related Services

a. In the 2022-2023 school year, provide special education and related services contained in an IEP to a student with disabilities who attains the age of twenty-one during the 2021-2022 school year, provided the parent of the student and the IEP team determine that the student requires additional or compensatory special education and related services, including transition services, during the 2022-2023 school year.

(1) A student receiving special education and related services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6.3.b. and A.2. shall not be eligible to receive such education and services beyond June 30, 2023, unless otherwise provided in a student's IEP or as ordered by a hearing officer, complaint investigation, or court of competent jurisdiction.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-8, or of any other law, rule, or regulation concerning the age of eligibility for special education and related services to the contrary, the Board shall:

a. In the 2023-2024 school year, provide special education and related services contained in an IEP to a student with disabilities who attains the age of twenty-one during the 2022-2023 school year, provided that the parent of the student and the IEP team determine that the student requires additional or compensatory special education and related services, including transition services, during the 2023-2024 school year.

(1) A student receiving special education and related services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6.3.c. and A.3. shall not be eligible to receive such education and services beyond June 30, 2024, unless otherwise provided in a student's IEP or as ordered by a hearing officer, complaint investigation, or court of competent jurisdiction.

B. Rights, Privileges, and Remedies

1. A student receiving special education and related services, including transition services, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6.3 and this Regulation shall be afforded the same rights, privileges, and remedies provided to students with disabilities pursuant to State law, New Jersey State Board of Education regulations concerning special education, and the Federal "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act," (IDEA) 20 USC §1400 et seq.



REGULATION

NEW DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM

R 2460.30/page 3 of 3

Additional/Compensatory Special Education
and Related Services

2. Any disputes that arise with respect to the provision or nature of services provided to a student with disabilities in the additional year as provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6.3.a., b. and c., and A. above may be addressed as determined by the parent of the student with disabilities, by either:
 - a. Mediation;
 - b. A written request for a complaint investigation submitted to the Director of the Office of Special Education Policy and Dispute Resolution in the New Jersey Department of Education; or
 - c. A special education due process hearing pursuant to IDEA, N.J.S.A. 18A:46, or administrative code.

C. Funding

1. The special education and related services, including transition services, provided to students with disabilities pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6.3 and this Regulation, to the extent permitted by Federal law, be paid for from the monies received by the State or a school district under the Federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act,” Pub.L.116-136, the Federal “Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021,” Pub.L.116-260, the Federal “American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act,” Pub.L.117-2, or any other Federal funding provided to address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on elementary and secondary schools as it becomes available.
2. To the extent the Federal funds described in N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6.3.e.(1) and C.1. above do not cover the costs borne by the school district to provide the special education and related services, including transition services, to students with disabilities pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6.3 and this Regulation, the State of New Jersey shall appropriate funds as necessary from the Property Tax Relief Fund to reimburse the school district for these costs.
3. The special education and related services funded pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6.3.e. may include, but are not limited to, the additional staff, programs, and facilities deemed necessary by the school district to provide the special education and related services, including transition services, required under N.J.S.A. 18A:46-6.

Adopted:



R 2622 STUDENT ASSESSMENT

A. Statewide Assessment System – N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1

1. The school district shall, according to a schedule prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, administer the applicable Statewide assessments, including the following major components: the elementary assessment component for grades three through five; the middle school assessment component for grades six through eight; the high school assessment component; and the alternative State assessment for students with disabilities; and provide notification to each student entering grades three through twelve of the Statewide assessment schedule.
2. 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 of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(a), shall take all appropriate Statewide assessments as scheduled.
 - a. The school district shall provide all appropriate accommodations or modifications to the Statewide assessment system as specified by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for English language learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 or eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as specified in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d)1.
 - (1) The school district may administer the Statewide assessments in mathematics to ELLs in their native language, when available, and/or English.
 - (2) The school district shall have the option for a first-year ELL of substituting a NJDOE-approved language proficiency test only for the English language arts component of the Statewide assessment, when the student has entered the United States after June 1 of the calendar year prior to the test administration.
 - b. The school district shall ensure students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 participate in Statewide assessments in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10.



2. The school district shall transmit within ten business days any official records, including transcripts, of students who transfer to other school districts or institutions.
 3. The school district shall maintain an accurate record of each student's performance on Statewide assessments.
 4. The school district shall maintain for every student a ninth grade through graduation transcript that contains the following, as available:
 - a. Results of all applicable State assessments, including assessments that satisfy graduation requirements set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6;
 - b. Results of any English language proficiency assessments according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(h);
 - c. Evidence of instructional experience and performance in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS);
 - d. Evidence of technological literacy;
 - e. Evidence of career education instructional experiences and career development activities;
 - f. Evidence of State-issued occupational licenses and credentials, industry-recognized occupational credentials, and/or technical skill assessments for students enrolled in NJDOE-approved career and technical education programs pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:19-3.2; and
 - g. Any other information deemed appropriate by the school district.
- C. Accountability – N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.3
1. The Superintendent shall report final results of annual assessments to the Board and members of the public at a public meeting within sixty days of receipt of the information from the NJDOE.
 2. The Superintendent shall provide educators, parents, and students with results of annual assessments as required under N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2(a) and B.1. above, within thirty days of receipt of information from the NJDOE.



3. The school district shall provide appropriate instruction to improve skills and knowledge for students performing below the established levels of student proficiency in any content area either on the Statewide or local assessments.
 4. All students shall be expected to demonstrate the knowledge and skills of the NJSLs as measured by the Statewide assessment system.
- D. Annual Review and Evaluation of School Districts – N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.4
1. The NJDOE shall review the performance of schools and school districts by using a percent of students performing at the proficient level as one measure of annual measurable objective (AMO) and incorporating a progress criterion indicative of systemic reform.
 - a. The review shall include the performance of all students, including students with disabilities as defined by N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3, students from major racial and ethnic groups, economically disadvantaged students, and ELLs.
 - b. The review shall take place at each grade level in which Statewide assessments are administered, using the AMO targets.
- E. Public Reporting – N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.5
1. In accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.5, the NJDOE shall report annually to the New Jersey State Board of Education and the public on the progress of all students and student subgroups in meeting the NJSLs as measured by the Statewide assessment system by publishing and distributing the NJDOE's annual New Jersey School Report Card in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7E-2 through 5.
 2. After each test administration, the NJDOE shall report to the Board on the performance of all students and of student subgroups.
- F. Parental Notification
- Parents shall be informed of the school district assessment system and of any special tests that are to be administered to their children.

Adopted:



R 8465 BIAS CRIMES AND BIAS-RELATED ACTS

A. Definitions

1. 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.
2. 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; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; national origin; or ethnic prejudice. A bias-related act need not involve conduct that constitutes a criminal offense.
3. All bias crimes are also bias-related acts, but not all bias-related acts will constitute a bias crime.

B. Procedure For Reporting Bias Crimes and Bias-Related Acts

1. A school employee shall immediately notify the Principal and the Superintendent or designee when in the course of their employment, they develop reason to believe that:
 - a. A bias crime or a bias-related act has been committed or is about to be committed on school grounds;
 - b. A bias crime or a bias-related act has been or is about to be committed by student on or off school grounds, and whether such offense was or is to be committed during operating school hours; or
 - c. A student enrolled in the school has been or is about to become the victim of a bias crime or bias-related act on or off school grounds, or during operating school hours.
2. The Superintendent or designee shall promptly notify the local 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 on school grounds, or has been or is about to be committed by a student on or off school grounds, and whether such offense was or is to be committed during operating school hours, or a student enrolled in the school has been or is about to become the victim of a bias crime or bias-related act on or off school grounds, or during operating school hours.



REGULATION

NEW DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS

R 8465/page 2 of 2

Bias Crimes and Bias-Related Acts

3. The Superintendent or designee shall immediately notify the local police department and the bias investigation officer for the county prosecutor's office where there is reason to believe 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 a life has been or will be threatened.

C. Nature of Referral

1. The mandatory referral for suspected or committed bias crimes and bias-related acts as described in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(e) and this Regulation is only a request to the law enforcement agencies to conduct an investigation and is nothing more than the transmittal of information which may be pertinent to any such law enforcement investigation.

D. Concurrent Jurisdiction

1. Unless the local police department or the county prosecutor's office request otherwise, school officials 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.
2. School officials will immediately discontinue any ongoing school investigation if the local police department or the county prosecutor's office believe the school investigation could jeopardize an on-going law enforcement investigation or otherwise endanger the public safety.
 - a. Upon notice provided in D.2. above, school officials will take no further action without providing notice to and receiving the assent of the local police department or the county prosecutor's office.

E. Preservation of Evidence

1. 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 local police department or the county prosecutor's office.
2. The school officials, when feasible, will cover or conceal such evidence until the arrival of the local police department or county prosecutor's office in a manner designed to minimize the harm and continued exposure to students by such evidence.

Issued:

