

Brookline School Board
Wednesday, September 28, 2022
Captain Samuel Douglass Academy
6:00 PM

All Times are estimates and subject to change without notice

- 6:00 Call to Order
- 6:05 Non-public under RSA 91-A: 3II (a) Compensation and/or (I) legal advice
- 6:35 Agenda adjustments
Correspondence/Resignations/Retirements/Nominations
Approval of Minutes – August, 2022
- 6:40 Public Input
- 7:10 Principal's Report
 - Opening of School
- 7:25 **Discussion**
Facilities update
 - Building Aid
 - Renovations updateStaffing update
- 7:45 **Deliberations**
 - To see what action the Board will take regarding the climate survey proposal provided at the Board's request
 - To see what action the Board will take regarding the Administrations recommendation to support the application(s) for building aid
 - To see what action the Board will take regarding the SAU Administrations recommendation for part-time administrative support
 - To see what action the Board will take regarding policy AC – Non-Discrimination, 1st Reading
 - To see what action the Board will take regarding policy BEDH – Public Participation at Board Meetings, 1st Reading and Adopt
 - To see what action the Board will take regarding policy IGE – Parental Objections to Specific Course Material, 3rd Reading and Adopt
 - To see what action the Board will take regarding policy IHAM – Health Education and Exemption from Instruction, 2nd Reading
 - To see what action the Board will take regarding policy JICK – Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention – Bullying, 2nd Reading
 - To see what action the Board will take regarding policy KEC – Policy on Reconsideration of Instructional Materials, 3rd Reading and Adopt
- 8:10 Motion to adjourn

Brookline School Administrator's Report

September 28, 2022

Enrollment History

Year	September Enrollment	June Enrollment
16-17	552	567
17-18	550	550
18-19	574	573
19-20	577	580
20-21	572	583
21-22	587	591

Brookline Enrollment for School Year 22-23

	PreK-3	PreK4	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
Enrollment Total	9	11	53	86	87	80	78	91	85
Ed 306.12 Class Size			25	25	25	30	30	30	30
Divisor according to Policy IIB			17	17	20	20	23	23	23
Sections according to Policy IIB	12	12	3.12 sections	5.06 sections	4.35 sections	4 sections	3.30 sections	4 sections	3.57 sections
Teacher/Class Size according to Policy IIB			4 = 13.25	5 = 17.2	5 = 17.4	4 = 20	4 = 19.5	5 = 18.2	4 = 21.25
NESDEC	13	13	51	86	89	89	76	92	82

Calendar, Events, Programs

Brookline School District Total Enrollment - 580 students
 RMMS - 326 CSDA - 254

RMMS Flag Pole Ceremony



RMMS September Assembly



Upcoming Events

September 19th RMMS Assembly
September 22nd RMMS - NSKA
September 23rd PTO Movie in the Park
October 4th PTO Meeting
October 6th RMMS PSU Tiger
October 17th PTO Golf Tournament
October 17th RMMS Book Fair
October 18th Parent Conferences begin
October 19th Grade 6 Miller State Park Field Trip

Brookline Staffing Needs:

RMMS:
3 Paraeducators
0.5 Custodian

CSDA Staffing Needs:

1 Case Manager
1 Paraeducator
1 Custodian



AC NON-DISCRIMINATION, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT and DISTRICT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PLAN

Category: Priority/Required by Law

Related Policies: [ACE](#), [GBAA](#), [JBAA](#), [JICK KED](#)

~~POLICY: The Brookline School District shall not discriminate in its education programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex,, sexual orientation, religion or handicap under the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Age Discrimination Act of 1967, and Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any person having inquiries concerning the District's compliance with the regulations implementing these laws may contact the Superintendent of Schools.~~

~~PROCEDURE: The Coordinator for 504 activities, Title VI and IX and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is the Superintendent of Schools, 4 Lund Lane, Hollis, New Hampshire 03049; Telephone (603) 465-7118. The Coordinator for Title IX is the Richard Maghakian Memorial School (or Capt. Samuel Douglass Academy) Principal, 27 Milford Street, Brookline, New Hampshire 03049; Telephone (603) 673-4640.~~

~~Inquiries may be directed to the coordinators listed herein or to the Regional Office for Civil Rights, US Dept. of HHS, Government Center, JFK Federal Building, Room 1875, Boston, MA 02203 or the NH Human Rights Commission, 2 Chennel Drive, Concord, NH 03301 or the Special Education Bureau, NH Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301.~~

~~Grievance procedures are available which provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging violations to Titles VI and IX, Section 504, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1990. Grievance procedures may be obtained at the office of the Coordinators listed herein.~~

A. Prohibition Against Discrimination of Students in Educational Programs and Activities.

No person shall be excluded from, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in the District's public schools because of their age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, marital status, familial status, disability, religion or national origin. Discrimination, including harassment, against any student in the District's education programs, on the basis of any of the above classes, or a student's creed, is prohibited. Finally, there shall be no denial to any person of the benefits of educational programs or activities, on the basis of any of the above classes, or economic status.

Harassment of students other than on the basis of any of the classes or categories listed above is prohibited under Board policy [JICK](#) Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention.

B. Equal Opportunity of Employment and Prohibition Against Discrimination in Employment.

The School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The District ensures equal employment opportunities without regard to age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. The District will employ individuals who meet the physical and mental requirements, and who have the education, training, and experience established as necessary for the performance of the job as specified in the pertinent job description(s).

Discrimination against and harassment of school employees because of age, sex, race, creed, religion, color, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability, genetic information, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, or gender identity are prohibited. Additionally, the District will not discriminate against any employee who is a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, or stalking.

C. Policy Application.

This Policy is applicable to all persons employed or served by the District. It applies to all sites and activities the District supervises, controls, or where it has jurisdiction under the law, including where it (a) occurs on, or is delivered to, school property or a school-sponsored activity or event on or off school property; or (b) occurs off of school property or outside of a school-sponsored activity or event, if the conduct interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operations of the school or school-sponsored activity or event, as set forth in Board policy [JICK](#), Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention. Examples of sites and activities include all District buildings and grounds, school buses and other vehicles, field trips, and athletic competitions.

D. District Anti-Discrimination Plan.

The Superintendent shall develop and provide to the Board for approval, a coordinated written District Anti- Discrimination Plan (the "Plan") to include guidelines, protocols and procedures intended to prevent, assess the presence of, intervene in, and respond to incidents of discrimination.

Among other things, the Plan should include provisions, and recommendations with respect to resources, policies, complaint procedures, student education programs, Plan dissemination and training appropriate to carrying out the Plan objectives stated in the preceding paragraph.

In developing the Plan, the Superintendent is encouraged to seek input from appropriate groups of the school and local community and coordinate with the District's Human Rights Officer and Title IX and 504 Coordinators.

No less than once every two years (off years from review of the District's Suicide Prevention Plan, the Superintendent shall update the District Anti-Discrimination Plan, and present the same to the Board for review. Such Plan updates should be submitted to the Board in time for appropriate budget consideration.

E. Human Rights [or Non-Discrimination], Title IX, 504 and other Coordinators or Officers.

The Superintendent shall assure that District and or building personnel are assigned to the positions listed below. Each year, the Superintendent shall prepare and disseminate as an Appendix AC-E to this Policy an updated list of the person or persons acting in those positions, along with their District contact information, including telephone number, email, postal and physical addresses.

<u>Human Rights Officer</u>	<u>Director of Student Services for Students</u>
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<u>Human Rights Officer</u>	<u>HR Administrator for Employees</u>
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<u>Title IX Coordinator</u>	<u>Director of Student Services</u>
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<u>504 Coordinator</u>	<u>Director of Student Services</u>
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The Appendix will also include current contact for relevant state and federal agencies including:

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Civil Rights

N.H. Human Rights Commission

N.H. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Unit

N.H. Department of Education, Commissioner of Education

F. Complaint and Reporting Procedures.

Any person who believes that they have been discriminated against, harassed, or bullied in violation of this policy by any student, employee, or other person under the supervision and control of the school District, or any third person who knows or suspects conduct that may constitute discrimination, harassment, or bullying, should contact the District Human Rights Officer, or otherwise as provided in the policies referenced below under this same heading.

Any employee who has witnessed, or who has reliable information that another person may have been subjected to discrimination, harassment, or bullying in violation of this policy shall report such conduct to their immediate supervisor, the District Human Rights Officer, or as provided in one of the policies or administrative procedures referenced below under this same heading. Employees who observe an incident of harassment or bullying are expected to intervene to stop the conduct in situations in which they have supervisory control over the perpetrator and it is safe to do so. If an employee knows of an incident involving discrimination, harassment, or bullying and the employee fails to report the conduct or take proper action or knowingly provides false information in regard to the incident, the employee will be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, dismissal.

Investigations and resolution of any complaints shall be according to the policies listed below and related administrative procedures or regulations. Complaints or reports regarding matters not covered in one or the other of those policies should be made to the District Human Rights Officer.

1. Reports or complaints of sexual harassment or sexual violence by employees or third party contractors should be made under Board policy [GBAA](#);
2. Reports or complaints of sexual harassment or sexual violence by students should be made under Board policy [JBAA](#);
3. Reports or complaints of discrimination on the basis of disability should be made under Board policy [ACE](#), except for complaints regarding facilities accessibility by disabled non-students or employees, which should be made under Board policy [KED](#); and
4. Reports or complaints of bullying or other harassment of pupils should be made under Board policy [JICK](#).

G. Alternative Complaint Procedures and Legal Remedies.

An individual may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"), of the United States Department of Education, or with the New Hampshire Commissioner for Human Rights.

1. Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 5 Post Office Square, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02109-3921; Telephone number: (617) 289-0111; Fax number: (617) 289-0150; Email: OCR.Boston@ed.gov

Note: Complaints to OCR must be filed in writing no later than 180 days after the alleged act(s) of discrimination. OCR may waive its 180 day time limit based on OCR policies and procedures.

2. New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights, 2 Industrial Park Drive, Concord, NH 03301; Telephone number: (603) 271-2767; Email: humanrights@nh.gov

Notwithstanding any other remedy, any person may contact the police or pursue a criminal prosecution under state or federal criminal law.

H. Retaliation Prohibited.

No reprisals or retaliation of any kind will be taken by the Board or by any District employee against the complainant or other individual on account of his or her filing a complaint or report or participating in an investigation of a complaint or report filed and decided pursuant to this policy, unless that person knew the complaint or report was false or knowingly provided false information.

I. Administrative Procedures and Regulations.

The Superintendent shall develop such other procedures and regulations as are necessary and appropriate to implement this Policy.

J. Notice of Compliance.

The Superintendent will provide notice of compliance with federal and state civil rights laws to all applicants for employment, employees, students, parents, and other interested persons, as appropriate.

Legal Reference:

RSA 186:11, XXXIII, Discrimination

RSA 193:38, Discrimination in Public Schools

RSA 193-F, Student Safety and Violence Protection Act RSA 275:71, Prohibited Conduct by Employer

RSA 354-A, State Commission for Human Rights

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C. 621, et seq. Title II of The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12101, et seq. Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000c

Title VII of The Civil Rights Act of 1964 (15 or more employees), 42 U.S.C. 2000d, et seq. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C 1681, et seq

NH Dept of Ed. Rule 303.01 (i), School Board Substantive Duties

Adoption: May 25, 2004

1st Reading: September 28, 2022

Policy BEDH - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The primary purpose of School Board meetings is to conduct the business of the Board as it relates to school policies, programs and operations. The Board encourages residents to attend Board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools. All official meetings of the Board shall be open to the press and public. However, the Board reserves the right to meet and to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time. The Board also reserves the right to enter non-public session at any time, in accordance with the provisions [RSA 91-A:3](#).

In order to assure that persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard and, at the same time, it may conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at Board meetings:

Rules of Order

1. The Board will provide a maximum of ~~fifteen~~ thirty minutes to hear public comments from residents at the beginning of each regular Board meeting. This period may be extended by a majority vote of the Board. Additionally, the Board may include additional public comment period for specific agenda items with a time limit for public comment specified on the pertinent agenda.
2. Individual speakers will be allotted three minutes per person. Speakers may not relinquish allotted time to another speaker. For specific meetings and/or specific agenda items, The Board may at the outset of the public comment period increase the individual time limit for all speakers.
3. The Chair will recognize speakers on a first come basis.
4. Speakers shall identify themselves and their home address clearly for the record.
5. Except as otherwise provided in this policy, members of the public may offer comments on agenda items. In the interest of preserving individual privacy and due process rights, the Board requests that comments (including complaints) regarding individual employees (other than the Superintendent) or individual students be directed to the Superintendent in accord with the complaint/grievance resolution processes set forth in School Board Policies KE and/or KEB. Complaints regarding the Superintendent, may be made either during public comment, or directed to the School Board Chair as described in Board Policy KEB.
6. Any comments which do not adhere to the above, or which disrupt the official business of the Board may be ruled out of order by the Chair. Repeated disruption may result in the individual being asked to leave the meeting. Obscene speech, comments threatening bodily harm, or other unprotected speech will not be tolerated.
7. The Board Chair may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if the speaker does not follow the above rules of order. Repeated violations or disruptions may result in the intervention of law enforcement, with the potential for criminal charges.

Persons appearing before the Board are reminded that members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters. Thus, questions may be directed

to individual Board members, but answers must be deferred pending consideration by the full Board.

With the aim of maintaining focus on the issues in discussion, it is desired that all speakers strive to adhere to ordinary norms of decorum and civility.

Legal Reference:

RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public

RSA 91-A:3

Adoption: April 20, 2004

First Reading: November 26, 2013

Second Reading: December 10, 2013

Third Reading: January 28, 2104

Adopted: January 28, 2014

1st Reading: September 22, 2021

2nd Reading: October 27, 2021

3rd Reading: November 17, 2021

Adopted: November 17, 2021

1st Reading and Adopt: September 28, 2022

PARENTAL OBJECTIONS TO SPECIFIC COURSE MATERIAL

The Board recognizes that there may be specific topics and/or instructional materials that some parents/guardians may find objectionable.

Parents/guardians who do not want their child to participate in a particular unit of study must notify the building principal or designee in writing. Opt-out requests must be submitted annually and are valid only for the school year in which they are submitted.

Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment sufficient to meet state requirements. The alternative assignment must be proposed by the parent/guardian and approved by the principal.

Any cost associated with the alternative independent work or topic shall be borne by the parent. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as giving parents/guardians the right to appeal to the school board. Parents who wish for particular instructional material be reviewed for appropriateness may submit a request for review in accordance with Board Policy [KEC](#).

The name of the parent or legal guardian and any specific reasons disclosed to school officials for the objection to the material shall not be public information.

Legal References:

RSA [186:11](#), IX-c, State Board of Education; Duties. New Sample Policy: January 2012

RSA 193:40, Prohibition on Teaching Discrimination

1st Reading: May 25, 2022

2nd Reading: June 22, 2022 (as amended)

3rd Reading and Adopt: September 28, 2022

Category: Priority/Required by Law

Related Policy: [IGE](#)

Consistent with state law and Department of Education requirements, health and physical education, including, instruction about parts of the body, reproduction, and related topics, will be included in the instructional program.

Instruction must be appropriate to grade level, course of study, and development of students and must occur in a systematic manner. The Superintendent will require that faculty members who present this instruction receive continuing in-service training, which includes appropriate teaching strategies and techniques.

Parents/guardians shall receive a minimum of 2 weeks advance notice of all materials to be used with respect to such instruction. This notification may be in the form of e-mail, newsletter, or website posting.

Parents/guardians will have the right to inspect and review health and physical instruction materials which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable.

Parents/guardians who wish to review or inspect health and physical education materials may arrange a meeting with the Principal to review the materials.

Parents/guardians who do not want their child to participate in a particular unit of health or sex education instruction for religious reasons or religious objections, are allowed to have their child opt-out of such instruction.

Parents/guardians who do not want their child to participate in a particular unit of health or for religious reasons must notify the building principal or designee in writing 48 hours prior to scheduled instruction. Opt-out requests must be submitted annually and are valid only for the school year in which they are submitted.

Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment sufficient to meet state requirements for health education. The alternative assignment must be proposed by the parent/guardian and approved by the principal.

Legal References:

20 U.S.C §1232h, (c)(1)(C), Protection of Pupil Rights

RSA 186:11, IX, Instruction as to Intoxicants and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

RSA 186:11, IX-b, Health and Sex Education

RSA 186:11, IX-c, Objectionable Course Material

RSA 186:11, IX-e Notice to Parents/Guardian Required

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.40, Health Education Program

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.41, Physical Education Program

District Policy History:

1st Reading: June 22, 2022

2nd Reading: September 28, 2022

Policy JICK - PUPIL SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION - BULLYING

Category: Priority/Required by Law See also JBAA, JIC, JICD, IHBA

I. Definitions (RSA [193-F:3](#))

1. **Bullying.** Bullying is hereby defined as a single significant incident or a pattern of incidents involving a written, verbal, or electronic communication, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another pupil which:

- (1) Physically harms a pupil or damages the pupil's property;
- (2) Causes emotional distress to a pupil;
- (3) Interferes with a pupil's educational opportunities;
- (4) Creates a hostile educational environment; or
- (5) Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying shall also include actions motivated by an imbalance of power based on a pupil's actual or perceived personal characteristics, behaviors, or beliefs, or motivated by the pupil's association with another person and based on the other person's characteristics, behaviors, or beliefs.

2. **Cyberbullying.** Cyberbullying is defined as any conduct defined as "bullying" in this policy that is undertaken through the use of electronic devices. For purposes of this policy, any references to the term bullying shall include cyberbullying.

3. **Electronic devices.** Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, telephones, cellular phones, computers, pagers, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, and websites.

4. **School property.** School property means all real property and all physical plant and equipment used for school purposes, including public or private school buses or vans and any school sponsored activity.

Any reference in this policy to "parent" shall include parents or legal guardians.

Any reference in this policy to "Superintendent" or "Principal" shall include his or her designee.

II. Statement Prohibiting Bullying or Cyberbullying of a Pupil (RSA 193-F:4, II(a))

The Board is committed to providing all pupils a safe and secure school environment. This policy is intended to comply with RSA 193-F. Conduct constituting bullying and/or cyberbullying will not be tolerated and is hereby prohibited.

Further, in accordance with RSA 193-F:4, the District reserves the right to address bullying and, if necessary, impose discipline for bullying that:

- (1) Occurs on, or is delivered to, school property or a school-sponsored activity or event on or off school property; or
- (2) Occurs off of school property or outside of a school-sponsored activity or event, if the conduct interferes with a pupil's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operations of the school or school-sponsored activity or event.

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented.

III. Statement prohibiting retaliation or false accusations (RSA 193-F:4, II(b))

False Reporting

A student found to have *intentionally* and *wrongfully* accused another of bullying may face discipline or other consequences, ranging from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion.

A school employee found to have wrongfully and intentionally accused a student of bullying shall face discipline or other consequences to be determined in accordance with applicable law, District policies, procedures and collective bargaining agreements.

Reprisal or Retaliation

The District will discipline and take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, or other employee who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged bullying or *retaliation* against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such bullying.

1. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, or other employee who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the Principal after consideration of the nature, severity and circumstances of the act, in accordance with law, Board policies and any applicable collective bargaining agreements.

2. Any student found to have engaged in reprisal or retaliation in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion.

3. Any teacher, administrator, volunteer, or other employee found to have engaged in reprisal or retaliation in violation of this policy shall be subject to discipline up to, and including, termination of employment *and exclusion from school grounds*.

Process To Protect Pupils From Retaliation

If the alleged victim or any witness expresses to the Principal or other staff member that he/she believes he/she may be retaliated against, the Principal shall develop a process or plan to protect that student from possible retaliation.

Each process or plan may be developed on a case-by-case basis. Suggestions include, but are not limited to, re-arranging student class schedules to minimize their contact, stern warnings to alleged perpetrators, temporary removal of privileges, or other means necessary to protect against possible retaliation.

IV. Protection of all Pupils (RSA 193-F:4, II(c))

This policy shall apply to all pupils and school-aged persons on school district grounds and participating in school district functions, regardless of whether or not such pupil or school-aged person is a student within the District.

V. Disciplinary Consequences for Violations of This Policy (RSA 193-F:4, II(d))

The district reserves the right to impose disciplinary measures against any student who commits an act of bullying, falsely accuses another student of bullying, or who retaliates against any student or witness who provides information about an act of bullying.

In addition to imposing discipline under such circumstances, the board encourages the administration and school district staff to seek alternatives to traditional discipline, including but not limited to early intervention measures, alternative dispute resolution, conflict resolution and other similar measures.

VI. Distribution and Notice of This Policy (RSA 193-F:4, II(e))

Staff and Volunteers

All staff will be provided with a copy of this policy annually. The Superintendent may determine the method of providing the policy (employee handbook, hard copy, electronically, etc.)

The Superintendent will ensure that all school employees and volunteers receive annual training on bullying and related district's policies.

Students

All students will be provided with a copy of this policy annually. The Superintendent may determine the method of providing the policy (student handbook, mailing, hard copy, electronically etc.)

Students will participate in an annual education program which sets out expectations for student behavior and emphasizes an understanding of harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students, the District's prohibition of such conduct and the reasons why the conduct is destructive, unacceptable, and will lead to discipline. Students shall also be informed of the consequences of bullying conduct toward their peers.

The Superintendent, in consultation with staff, may incorporate student anti-bullying training and education into the district's curriculum, but shall not be required to do so.

Parents

All parents will be provided with a copy of this policy annually. The Superintendent may determine the method of providing the policy (parent handbook, mailing, hard copy, electronically, etc.). Parents will be informed of the program and the means for students to report bullying acts toward them or other students. They will also be told that to help prevent bullying at school they should encourage their children to:

1. Report bullying when it occurs;
2. Take advantage of opportunities to talk to their children about bullying;
3. Inform the school immediately if they think their child is being bullied or is bullying other students;
4. Cooperate fully with school personnel in identifying and resolving incidents.

Additional Notice and School District Programs

The *District* may, from time to time, host or schedule public forums in which it will address the anti-bullying policy, discuss bullying in the schools, and consult with a variety of individuals including teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, school psychologists and other interested persons.

VII. Procedure for Reporting Bullying (RSA 193-F:4, II(f))

At each school, the Principal shall be responsible for receiving complaints of alleged violations of this policy.

Student Reporting

1. Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of bullying should report the alleged acts immediately to the Principal or if the student is more comfortable reporting the alleged act to a person other than the Principal, the student may tell any school district employee or volunteer about the alleged bullying.
2. Any school employee or volunteer who witnesses, receives a report of, or has knowledge or belief that bullying may have occurred shall inform the Principal as soon as possible, but no later than the end of that school day.
3. The Principal may develop a system or method for receiving anonymous reports of bullying. Although students, parents, volunteers and visitors may report anonymously, formal disciplinary action may not be based solely on an anonymous report. Independent verification of the anonymous report shall be necessary in order for any disciplinary action to be applied.
4. The administration may develop student reporting forms to assist students and staff in filing such reports. An investigation shall still proceed even if a student is reluctant to fill out the designated form and chooses not to do so.
5. Upon receipt of a report of bullying, the Principal shall commence an investigation consistent with the provisions of Section XI of this policy.

Staff Reporting

1. An important duty of the staff is to report acts or behavior that they witness that appears to constitute bullying.
2. All district employees and volunteers shall encourage students to tell them about acts that may constitute bullying. *For young students, staff members given such information will need to provide direct assistance to the student.*
3. Any school employee or volunteer who witnesses, receives a report of, or has knowledge or belief that bullying may have occurred shall inform the Principal as soon as possible, but no later than the end of that school day.

4. Upon receipt of a report of bullying, the Principal shall commence an investigation consistent with the provisions of Section XI of this policy.

VIII. Procedure for Internal Reporting Requirements (RSA 193-F:4, II(g))

In order to satisfy the reporting requirements of RSA 193-F:6, the Principal or designee shall be responsible for completing all New Hampshire Department of Education forms and reporting documents of substantiated incidents of bullying. Said forms shall be completed within 10 school days of any substantiated incident. Upon completion of such forms, the Principal shall retain a copy for him/herself and shall forward one copy to the Superintendent and may forward one copy to the local authority. The Superintendent shall maintain said forms in a safe and secure location.

IX. Notifying Parents of Alleged Bullying (RSA 193-F:4, II(h))

The Principal shall report to the parents of a student who has been reported as a victim of bullying and to the parents of a student who has been reported as a perpetrator of bullying within 48 hours of receiving the report. Such notification may be made by telephone, writing or personal conference. The date, time, method, and location (if applicable) of such notification and communication shall be noted in the report. All notifications shall be consistent with the student privacy rights under the applicable provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

X. Waiver of Notification Requirement (RSA 193-F:4, II(i))

The Superintendent may, within a 48 hour time period, grant the Principal a waiver from the requirement that the parents of the alleged victim and the alleged perpetrator be notified of the filing of a report. A waiver may only be granted if the Superintendent deems such a waiver to be in the best interest of the victim or perpetrator. Any waiver granted shall be in writing.

XI. Investigative Procedures (RSA 193-F:4, II(j))

1. Upon receipt of a report of bullying, the Principal shall, within 5 school days, initiate an investigation into the alleged act. If the Principal is directly and personally involved with a complaint or is closely related to a party to the complaint, then the Superintendent shall direct another district employee to conduct the investigation.

2. The investigation may include documented interviews with the alleged victim, alleged perpetrator and any witnesses. All interviews shall be conducted consistent with the developmental needs of the students in mind and shall be confidential.

3. If the alleged bullying was in whole or in part cyberbullying, the Principal may ask students and/or parents to provide the District with printed copies of e-mails, text messages, website pages, or other similar electronic communications.

4. A maximum of 10 school days shall be the limit for the initial filing of incidents and completion of the investigative procedural steps.

5. Factors the Principal or other investigator may consider during the course of the investigation, including but not limited to:

- Description of incident, including the nature of the behavior;
- How often the conduct occurred;
- Whether there were past incidents or past continuing patterns of behavior;
- The characteristics of parties involved, (name, grade, age, etc.);
- The identity and number of individuals who participated in bullying behavior;
- Where the alleged incident(s) occurred;
- Whether the conduct adversely affected the student's education or educational environment;
- Whether the alleged victim felt or perceived an imbalance of power as a result of the reported incident; and
- The date, time and method in which parents or legal guardians of all parties involved were contacted.

6. The Principal shall complete the investigation within 10 school days of receiving the initial report. If the Principal needs more than 10 school days to complete the investigation, the Superintendent may grant an extension of up to 7 school days. In the event such extension is granted, the Principal shall notify in writing all parties involved of the granting of the extension.

7. Whether a particular action of incident constitutes a violation of this policy shall require a determination based on all facts and surrounding circumstances and shall include recommended remedial steps necessary to stop the bullying and a written final report to the Principal.

8. Students who are found to have violated this policy may face discipline in accordance with other applicable board policies, up to and including suspension. Students facing discipline will be afforded all due process required by law.

9. Consistent with applicable law, the District will not require or request that a student disclose or provide to the District the student's user name, password or other authenticating information to a student's personal social media account. However, the District may request to a student or a student's parent/guardian that the student voluntarily share printed copies of specific information from a student's personal social media account if such information is relevant to an ongoing District investigation.

XII. Response to Remediate Substantiated Instances of Bullying (RSA 193-F:4, II(k))

Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for a student or staff member who commits one or more acts of bullying or retaliation may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion of students and dismissal from employment for staff members.

Consequences for a student who commits an act of bullying or retaliation 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. Remedial measures shall be designed to correct the problem behavior, prevent another occurrence of the problem, protect and provide support for the victim, and take corrective action for documented systematic problems related to bullying. If the selected remedial measure requires the victim's participation, the victim's family will be notified of the remedial measure. *Corrective action measures shall be found in the District's Student Handbook.*

Examples of consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- Admonishment
- Temporary removal from classroom
- Deprivation of privileges
- Classroom or administrative detention
- Referral to disciplinarian
- In-school suspension

- Out-of-school suspension
- Expulsion

Examples of remedial measures may include, but are not limited to:

- Restitution
- Mediation
- Peer support group
- Corrective instruction or other relevant learning experience
- Behavior assessment
- Student counseling
- Parent conferences

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of aggressive behavior, including bullying. The Board encourages the Superintendent to work collaboratively with all staff members to develop responses other than traditional discipline as a way to remediate substantiated instances of bullying.

XIII. Reporting of Substantiated Incidents to the Superintendent (RSA 193-F:4, II(l))

The Principal shall forward all substantiated reports of bullying to the Superintendent upon completion of the Principal's investigation.

XIV. Communication with Parents upon Completion of Investigation (RSA 193-F:4, II(m))

1. Within two school days of completing an investigation, the Principal will notify the students involved in person of his/her findings and the result of the investigation.
2. The Principal will notify via telephone the parents of the alleged victim and alleged perpetrator of the results of the investigation. The Principal will also *send* a letter to the parents within 24 hours again notifying them of the results of the investigation.
3. If the parents request, the Principal shall schedule a meeting with them to further explain his/her findings and reasons for his/her actions.

4. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other law concerning student privacy, the District will not disclose educational records of students including the discipline and remedial action assigned to those students and the parents of other students involved in a bullying incident.

XV. Appeal

A parent or guardian who is aggrieved by the investigative determination letter of the principal or his/her designee may appeal the determination to the Superintendent for review. The appeal shall be in writing addressed to the Superintendent, shall state the reason(s) why the appealing party is aggrieved, and the nature of the relief they seek. The Superintendent shall not be required to re-investigate the matter and shall conduct such review as he/she deems appropriate under the circumstances.

It is in the best interests of students, families and the District that these matters be promptly resolved. Therefore, any such appeal to the Superintendent shall be made within ten (10) calendar days of the parent/guardian's receipt of the investigative determination letter of the principal or his/her designee. The Superintendent shall issue his/her decision in writing. If the parent or guardian is aggrieved by the decision of the Superintendent, they may appeal the decision to the school board within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the parent/guardian's receipt of the Superintendent's decision. An appeal to the Superintendent shall be a prerequisite to any appeal to the School Board. The appeal to the School Board shall be in writing, addressed to School Board Chair in care of the Superintendent, shall state the reason(s) why the appealing party is aggrieved, and the nature of the relief they seek.

An aggrieved parent/guardian has the right to appeal the final decision of the local School Board to the State Board within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the written decision of the local School Board in accordance with RSA 541-A and State of New Hampshire Department of Education Regulations set forth in ED 200. The State Board may waive the thirty-day requirement for good cause shown, including, but not limited to, illness, accident, or death of a family member.

XVI. School Officials (RSA 193-F:4, II(n))

The Superintendent of schools is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented. In order to facilitate the implementation of this policy, the Superintendent may establish further administrative rules or regulations.

XVII. Capture of Audio Recordings on School Buses

Pursuant to RSA 570-A:2, notice is hereby given that the Board authorizes audio recordings to be made in conjunction with video recordings of the interior of school buses while students are being transported to and from school or school activities. The Superintendent shall ensure that there is a sign informing the occupants of school buses that such recordings are occurring.

XVIII. Use of Video or Audio Recordings in Student Discipline Matters

The District reserves the right to use audio and/or video recording devices on District property (including school buses) to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all staff, students and visitors. Placement and location of such devices will be established in accordance with the provisions of Policies EEAA, EEAE and ECAF.

In the event an audio or video recording is used as part of a student discipline proceeding, such video may become part of a student's education record. If an audio or video recording does become part of a student's education record, the provisions of Policy JRA shall apply.

The Superintendent is authorized to contact the District's attorney for a full legal opinion relative in the event of such an occurrence.

Legal References:

RSA [189:70](#), Educational Institution Policies on Social Media

RSA [193-F:3](#), Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention Act

RSA [570-A:2](#), Capture of Audio Recordings on School Buses Allowed

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(8), Student Harassment

First Reading October 26, 2010

Second Reading : November 23, 2010

Third Reading (waived) & Approved: November 23, 2010

First Reading: June 22, 2022

Second Reading: September 28, 2022

POLICY ON RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Persons not in agreement with the school on its selection of books or other instructional material and who wish a particular book or material to be reviewed must submit a request for reconsideration of instructional materials in writing to the Principal.

Once notified, the Principal will acknowledge receipt to the complainant and list anticipated steps to be taken. The Principal will then convene a Book Review Committee and schedule meetings necessary to review the complaint and to make a decision. The composition of the Book Review Committee will vary based on the book/material in question or the nature of the request.

The final decision will be forwarded to the complainant and the Superintendent of Schools. If the complainant is dissatisfied, the next step is to submit the request to the Superintendent of Schools for action. If the complainant does not accept the Superintendent's decision, the complainant may request a review by the Brookline School Board, whose decision will be final.

During the investigation the instructional material will remain in use unless the Book Review Committee votes to remove or restrict the material until a final decision is made.

1st Reading: May 25, 2022

2nd Reading: June 22, 2022 (as amended)

3rd Reading and Adopt: September 28, 2022