

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Chester, New Jersey

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 X **Monitored**
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 X **Other Reasons**

Policy

VANDALISM/VIOLENCE

Vandalism

The board of education views vandalism against school property by pupils as reprehensible. The causes of such misbehavior often are complex, calling for careful study by parents/guardians, school staff and appropriate community officials.

The board believes that pupils should respect property and take pride in the schools of this district. Whenever a pupil has been found to have done willful and malicious damage to property of the board, the principal of the school shall notify the chief school administrator. The board will hold the pupil or his/her parents/guardians liable for the damage caused by him/her.

When vandalism is discovered, the administration is directed to take such steps as are necessary to identify the vandals. If pupils have taken part in the vandalism, the appropriate administrator shall:

- A. Identify the pupils involved;
- B. Call together persons, including the parents/guardians, needed to study the causes;
- C. Decide upon disciplinary and/or legal action possibly including suspension. Should parents/guardians fail to cooperate in the discussions, the administration may charge the pupil with being delinquent by a petition stating the offense and requesting appearance in juvenile court;
- D. Take any constructive actions needed to try to guard against further such pupil misbehavior;
- E. Seek appropriate restitution.

Violence

Physical violence including assault with or without a weapon, against another pupil, a staff member or board member is prohibited and will result in the disciplinary sanctions included in policies on suspension and expulsion and conduct/discipline. Disruptive behavior that is characterized by violence, even though not directed toward another person, should be reported by the classroom teacher to the school principal, unless instructed otherwise, so that possible program adjustments may be identified.

Any pupil who is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for possession of a firearm or a crime while armed with a firearm or found knowingly in possession of a firearm or any school property or on a school bus or at a school-sponsored function shall be immediately removed from the school's regular education program for a period of not less than one calendar year. The chief school administrator may modify this suspension on a case-by-case basis. Each pupil so removed shall be placed in an alternative educational program or on home instruction and shall be entitled to a hearing before the board.

Any school employee observing or having direct knowledge from a participant or victim of an act of violence in the district public school(s) should complete the standard report form and submit it to the school principal who is responsible for preparing the official report to the chief school administrator. Staff will report

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accurately and not falsify information.

The board shall provide ongoing staff training, in cooperation with the Department of Education, in fulfilling the reporting requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46.

Two times each year between September 1 and January 1 and between January 1 and June 30, the school board(s) shall hold a public hearing at which the chief school administrator reports to the board of education all acts of violence, vandalism, and harassment, intimidation, or bullying (HIB) which occurred during the previous reporting period. The report shall include the number of HIB reports in the schools, the status of all investigations, the nature of the HIB, and other data required by law.

Threats of Violence

The board is committed to promoting healthy relationships and a safe learning environment. Therefore, it shall not tolerate pupil threats of harm to self or others or other threatening behaviors, including threats to damage school property. Threatening behaviors shall not be tolerated on school property or at activities under the jurisdiction of the board of education.

Pupils shall inform a teacher, guidance counselor or principal when he/she is in possession of knowledge of such threats. Staff shall immediately notify the principal of any threat or threatening behavior that he/she has knowledge of, has witnessed or received. All such threats shall be promptly reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Pupils who perpetrate threatening behaviors shall be disciplined in accordance with policy and regulations on suspension and expulsion and conduct/discipline.

Threat Assessment Team

The board shall direct the establishment of a threat assessment team(s) in each school. The purpose of the team shall be to provide school teachers, administrators, and other staff with assistance in identifying students of concern, assessing those students' risk of engaging in violence or other harmful activities. The team shall also be responsible for delivering intervention strategies to manage the risk of harm for students who pose a potential safety risk, to prevent targeted violence in the school, and ensure a safe and secure school environment that enhances the learning experience for all members of the school community.

The threat assessment team at each school shall be multidisciplinary in membership and, to the extent possible, shall include the following individuals:

- A. A school psychologist, school counselor, school social worker, or other school employee with expertise in student counseling;
- B. A teaching staff member;
- C. A school principal or other senior school administrator;
- D. A safe schools resource officer or school employee who serves as a school liaison to law enforcement; and
- E. The school safety specialist designated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3, in the event that the school safety specialist is not already a school administrator or school employee required to be a part of the threat assessment team in accordance with this policy.

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

This policy shall be consistent with guidelines adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education and include, but not be limited to:

- A. Guidance for students, teachers and all staff regarding the recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior in a student that may represent a threat to the school community;
- B. The designation of members of the school community to whom threatening behavior shall be reported; and
- C. Appropriate actions to be taken, including available social, developmental, and law enforcement resources, for students whose behavior is identified as posing a threat to the safety of the school community.

The threat assessment team shall not disclose or disseminate any information obtained during their assessment beyond the purpose for which the information was provided to the threat assessment team, except that the team is authorized to disclose the information to applicable agencies to pursue appropriate action under paragraph C., above, for any student whose behavior is identified as posing a threat to the safety of the school community.

Classified Students

Where a student whose behavior is being assessed has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan, the threat assessment team shall consult with the IEP team or 504 team to determine whether the aberrant behavior is a threat to school safety and is being properly addressed in a manner that is required by N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and all federal and State special education laws.

Training

Each member of the threat assessment team shall participate in training provided by the school safety specialist designated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as affecting the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement or individual contract of employment in effect on the date of the policy's adoption.

Unsafe School Choice Option

The chief school administrator shall comply with all requirements of the Unsafe School Choice Option policy adopted by the State Board of Education for schools in districts that receive funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA). He/she shall keep the board informed of all state requirements and actions taken to implement the policy.

Particularly, if a school in the district is designated as "persistently dangerous" as defined in the policy, corrective action plans shall be prepared and presented to the board for review. The corrective action plans shall be in the format provided by the Department of Education and shall describe how the schools will reduce the number of incidents of violence as determined by the Student Safety Data System (SSDS).

Likewise, if a student while at school or on school grounds becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense as

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defined by state statute, he/she shall be offered the option of transferring to another safe school within the district.

Parents/Guardians shall be informed according to law and policy.

The board shall be provided with access to a copy of the current statewide Unsafe School Choice Option Policy.

School Violence Awareness Week

This school district shall observe School Violence Awareness Week, the week beginning on the third Monday in October of each year. Organized activities focused on the prevention of school violence will be offered to students, employees and board members. Local law enforcement personnel will be invited to participate.

Violence and Vandalism Reporting

The chief school administrator will biannually submit a report utilizing the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) accurately reporting on each incident of violence, vandalism and alcohol and other drug abuse and harassment, intimidation and bullying within the school district. Any allegations of falsification of data will be reviewed by the board of education using the requirements and procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3(f). Board action shall be based on a consideration of the nature of the conduct, the circumstances under which it occurred, and the employee's prior employment record.

Implementation

The chief school administrator shall oversee the development of implementing regulations on all aspects of this policy, including the establishment of procedures for cooperation between school staff and law enforcement officials for all situations involving firearms or other deadly weapons.

Adopted: April 29, 2009

NJSBA Review/Update: Nov. 2008, Aug. 2016, Sept. 2018

Readopted: Jan. 3, 2013, Sept. 17, 2018, Aug. 16, 2021, Oct. 17, 2023

Key Words

Conduct, Discipline, Pupil Conduct, Student Conduct, Vandalism, Violence

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-60 et al.

N.J.S.A. 2A:53A-15

N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46

N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-5.1

N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1 et seq.

See particularly:

N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, -2.1

through -2.5, -3, -7

through -12

Disclosure of juvenile information; penalties for disclosure

Liability of parent or guardian for willful destruction of property by infant under 18

Unlawful possession of weapons

Act of violence; report by school employee; notice of action taken; annual report,

Authority over pupils

School Violence Awareness Week

Discipline of Pupils

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N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13 et seq. Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.8 Discipline/suspension/expulsion
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1 et seq. Programs to Support Student Development

See particularly:

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1,
-5.2, -5.3, -5.5, -5.6, -5.7,
-6.1

"H.A. v. Warren Hills Regional School District, 1976 S.L.D. 336

See also Commissioners' Decisions indexed under "Pupils – Punishment of" in Index to N.J. School Law Decisions

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. 114-95. 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

A Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials

Unsafe School Choice Option Policy, New Jersey Department of Education, June 30, 2003

Possible

Cross References: *1120 Board of education meetings
*3250 Income from fees, fines, charges
3517 Security
*4131/4131.1 Staff Development, Inservice Education, Visitations, Conferences
4148/4238 Employee protection
*5114 Suspension and expulsion
*5119 Transfers
*5124 Reporting to parents/guardians
*5131 Conduct/discipline
*5131.1 Harassment, intimidation and bullying
5131.4 Campus disturbances
*5131.6 Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)
*5131.7 Weapons and dangerous instruments
*6114 Emergencies and disaster preparedness
*6172 Alternative educational programs

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Policy

INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES FOR GENERAL EDUCATION PUPILS

The board of education shall establish and implement in each school building 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. The board adopts the Response to Intervention (RTI) model as the districts appropriate multidisciplinary team approach for planning and delivering the following required services:

- A. The intervention and referral services shall be provided to support students in the general education program; and
- B. The intervention and referral services may be provided for students who have been determined to need special education programs and services.
 - 1. The intervention and referral services provided for students determined to need special education programs and services shall be coordinated with the student's individualized education program team, as appropriate.
- C. 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 chief school administrator shall prepare procedures to:

- A. Identify learning, behavior and health difficulties of students;
- B. Collect thorough information on the identified learning, behavior and health difficulties;
- C. Identify the roles and responsibilities of the building staff who participate in planning and providing intervention and referral plan and services;
- D. Develop and implement action plans which provide for appropriate school or community interventions or referrals to school and community resources, based on the collected data and desired outcomes for the identified learning, behavior and health difficulties;
- E. Provide support, guidance and professional development to school staff who identify learning, behavior and health difficulties and refer pupils to school staff who participate in planning and providing intervention and referral services;
- F. Actively involve parents/guardians in the development and implementation of intervention and referral plans;
- G. Coordinate the access to and delivery of school resources and services for achieving the outcomes identified in the intervention and referral services action plan;

**INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES FOR GENERAL
EDUCATION PUPILS** (continued)

- H. Coordinate the services of community-based social and health provider agencies and other community resources for achieving the outcomes identified in the intervention and referral services action plans;
- I. Maintain records of all requests for assistance and all intervention and referral services plans in accordance with federal and state law and regulation;
- J. Review and assess the effectiveness of the services provided in achieving the outcomes identified in the intervention and referral plan and modify each plan to achieve the outcomes as appropriate; and
- K. At a minimum, 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.

The board shall review and adopt these procedures, and the chief school administrator shall report to the board on their implementation.

Adopted: Oct. 2, 2008

NJSBA Review/Update: Dec. 2008, Aug. 2016, Sept. 2018

Readopted: April 27, 2009, Jan. 3, 2013, Sept. 17, 2018, Aug. 16, 2021, Oct. 17, 2023

Key Words

Pupil Assistance Committee, Intervention and Referral Services for General Education Pupils

Legal Reference: N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.1 et seq. Intervention and Referral Services

Possible

Cross References: *6164.4 Child study team
*6172 Alternative educational programs

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Policy

RELATIONS WITH VENDORS

The board of education wishes to maintain good working relations with vendors who supply materials and services to the school system. Constructive efforts by the administration to seek the advice and counsel of vendors about how to improve such relationships are encouraged.

In the schools, vendors shall be seen by appointment only. Vendors who call upon a school shall be governed by policy 1250 Visitors. Teachers or supervisors of instruction who have invited vendors to call should notify the principal's office in advance so that proper courtesies may be extended.

No agents, canvassers, or vendors shall have access to teachers during their classes. No business concern which solicits or gains business through the school system shall use school facilities for this purpose.

Nondiscrimination

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 pupils or employees by their representatives is prohibited.

Honest and Ethical Relations with Vendors: Pay to Play Restrictions

The district shall maintain honest and ethical relations with vendors and shall guard against favoritism, improvidence, extravagance and corruption in its contracting processes and practices. The school board will not vote upon or award a contract in the amount of \$17,500 or greater to any business entity which has made a reportable contribution to a member of the district board of education during the previous one-year period. Such contributions, to any member of the school board, from any entity doing business with the district are prohibited during the term of the contract, including contributions by a vendor's spouse or child, or contributions by any person having an interest in the business entity. Disclosure of contributions shall be made when contracts are required by law to be publicly bid. However, these limitations do not apply when a district emergency requires the immediate delivery of goods or services.

Disbarred Vendors Will Not Be Used

When acquiring goods and services under federally sponsored programs, the school district will not contract with a vendor who is currently either debarred or suspended from doing business with the Federal government. Prior to contract award, and in accordance with Federal requirements, the business administrator or contracting specialist will check the System for Award Management (SAM) to ensure that the prospective contractor is not found in the SAM. Results from the SAMsearch shall be made part of the purchase order/contract documentation. Should a prospective vendor be found to be debarred or suspended by the Federal government, the business administrator's office will notify the chief school administrator of this finding and will place a hold on the supplier's registration within the school district financial system.

Strategies to Avoid Excessive Professional Services Expenditures

The board will seek to avoid excessive professional services expenditures, such as by:

RELATIONS WITH VENDORS (continued)

- A. Establishing a maximum dollar limit, for budgetary purposes;
- B. Following state legal requirements and procedures to obtain the highest quality services at a fair and competitive price or through a shared service arrangement. This may include issuance of such contracts through a request for proposals (RFP) based on cost and other specified factors or other comparable process such as the use of the “fair and open process” as defined in N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7; and
- C. Limiting professional services contracts to non-recurring or specialized work for which the district does not possess adequate in-house resources or expertise.

Prudent Use of Legal Services

All contracts for legal services must comply with the payment requirements and restrictions set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1 as follows:

- A. Advance payments for legal services are prohibited;
- B. Services to be provided shall be described in detail in the contract;
- C. Invoices for payment shall itemize the services provided for billing period; and
- D. Payment shall only be for services actually provided.

If at any time the district’s legal costs exceed 130 percent of the Statewide average per pupil amount, the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(a)3 will be implemented, unless evidence can be provided that such procedures would not result in a reduction of cost.

These procedures require the district to:

- A. Limit and designate the persons with the authority to request services or advice from contracted legal counsel;
- B. Legal counsel will not be used unnecessarily to make management decisions or to obtain readily available information such as district policies;
- C. Requests for legal advice shall be made in writing; and
- D. Contact logs and records shall be kept and reviewed to determine that the requests for legal advice are necessary.

Adopted: January 2003

NJSBA Review/Update: Sept. 2008, Aug. 2016, Sept. 2018

Readopted: Nov. 10, 2008, Sept. 17, 2018, Aug. 2021, Oct. 17, 2023

Key Words

Vendors, Sexual Harassment, Harassment, Nondiscrimination, Affirmative Action

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.
See particularly:

Law Against Discrimination

RELATIONS WITH VENDORS (continued)

services	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 10:5-31 through -35	
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:6-8	Interest of school officers, etc., in sale of textbooks or supplies, royalties
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:12-2	Inconsistent interests or office prohibited
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:12-21 <u>et seq.</u>	<u>School Ethics Act</u>
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:18A-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Public School Contracts Law
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:54-20	Powers of board (county vocational schools)
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:32-44	Business registration for providers of goods and
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:7-1.8	Equality in employment and contract practices
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:23A-5.2	Public relations and professional services; board policies; efficiency
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:23A-6.3	Contributions to board members and contract awards
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:28-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	School Ethics Commission
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:30-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts

Comprehensive Equity Plan, New Jersey State Department of Education

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*1250	Visitors
	1313	Gifts to district employees
	*1330	Use of school facilities
	*2224	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
	*3320	Purchasing procedures
	*4119.21/4219.21	Conflict of interest
	*9270	Conflict of interest

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Policy

SCHOOL MEAL ARREARS PROGRAM

The school meal program shall make a nutritionally adequate meal (breakfast and/or lunch) available to every student and shall operate on the most economically feasible basis. It shall be operated in strict compliance with all laws and regulations pertaining to health; sanitation and safety; internal accounting; employment practices; nutritional standards; costs of meals; and periodic reporting required by New Jersey law.

The board of education believes that regularly consumed nutrition helps maintain the students' energy and facilitates concentration, supporting student achievement (see board policy 3542.1 Wellness and Nutrition). Therefore, it is the expectation of the board that students with the assistance of their parents/guardians come prepared for school each day with lunch/breakfast or meal money. Students repeatedly forgetting their breakfast or lunch meal or their meal money may be subject to consequences including parent/guardian conference, loss of privileges and detention according to the school code of student conduct.

Qualified students whose families have a financial hardship may apply for assistance according to policy 3542.31 Free or Reduced Price Lunches, Milk. The procedures for the administration of the free and reduced price meal program of this school district will be the same as those prescribed in current state and federal laws and regulations.

The board shall strive to make affordable meals available to all students. Students who do not qualify for free or reduced price meals or milk may receive school lunch through the school meal program for a fee that is approved by the board. Any student who has a hardship but does not qualify for free and reduced price lunches or milk, may be considered for other assistance on a case by case basis.

The purchase of meals through the school program shall be optional and shall not prevent any student from bringing their own lunch or breakfast to school.

The school business administrator shall be responsible for the accounting and tracking of revenues and expenses generated by the school meal program. The principal or his or her designee shall oversee the notification of parents/guardians for the payment of charges and arrears associated with the school meal program. Being in arrears shall be defined as being behind in meal payments due, resulting in debt or liability to the district.

Procedures for Charging Lunch

In the event a student's school lunch or breakfast bill is in arrears, the principal or his or her designee shall contact the student's parent/guardian to provide notice of the amount in arrears and shall provide the parent/guardian a period of ten school days to pay the full amount due. If the student's parent/guardian does not make full payment to the school by the end of the ten school days, the principal or his or her designee shall again contact the student's parent/guardian to provide a second notice that their child's lunch or breakfast bill is in arrears to provide notice of any action to be taken by the school district in response to a student's school breakfast or school lunch bill being in arrears (N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21).

The building principal or his or her designee shall implement appropriate measures that ensure that students who cannot pay for a school breakfast or a school lunch or whose school breakfast or school lunch bill is in arrears shall not be publicly identified or stigmatized.

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM ARREARS (continued)

The district shall report at least biannually to the Department of Agriculture the number of students who are denied school breakfast or school lunch.

No district staff member shall:

- A. Publicly identify or stigmatize a student who cannot pay for a school breakfast or a school lunch or whose school breakfast or school lunch bill that is in arrears, for example, by requiring that the student sit at a separate table or wear a wristband, hand stamp, or identifying mark or by serving the student an alternative meal;
- B. Require a student who cannot pay for a school breakfast or a school lunch or whose school breakfast or school lunch bill that is in arrears to do chores or other work to pay for the school breakfast or school lunch; or
- C. Require a student to discard a school breakfast or school lunch after it has been served because of the student's inability to pay for a school breakfast or a school lunch or because money is owed for previously provided meals.
- D. Prohibit an unsubsidized student, or a sibling of such a student, from attending or participating in non-fee based extracurricular activities, field trips, or school events, from receiving grades, official transcripts, or report cards, or from graduating or attending graduation events, solely because of the student's unresolved meal debt, or
- E. Require the parent or guardian of an unsubsidized student to pay fees or costs in excess of the actual amounts owed for meals previously served to the student.

Procedures

If a student owes money for the equivalent of five or more school meals, the district shall:

- A. Determine whether the student is categorically eligible or income-eligible for free or reduced price meals, by conducting a review of all available records related to the student, and by making at least two attempts, not including the initial attempt at the beginning of the school year, to contact the student's parent or guardian and have the parent or guardian fill out a school meals application; and
- B. The principal, or a person designated by the principal shall contact the parent or guardian of the unsubsidized student to offer assistance with respect to the completion of the school meals application, to determine if there are other issues in the household that have caused the child to have insufficient funds to purchase a school breakfast or school lunch, and to offer any other appropriate assistance.

The district shall direct communications about a student's school breakfast or school lunch bill being in arrears to the parent or guardian and not the student. The district may send a student home with a letter addressed to a parent or guardian;

An unsubsidized student shall not be denied access to a school meal, regardless of the student's ability to pay or the status of the student's meal arrearages, during any period of time in which the school is making a determination as to whether the student is eligible for and can be certified to receive, free or reduced price meals.

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM ARREARS (continued)Payment of Charges

The school business administrator shall be responsible for tracking and billing all lunch accounts in arrears. The following guidelines shall apply:

- A. Charges will show a negative account balance on the student's school meal program account, and billed, at a minimum, quarterly to the parent/guardian;
- B. Payments on charges shall be brought directly to the main office or mailed to the main office;
- C. The payment shall be recorded and a receipt generated and given or mailed in acknowledgement of payment received according to the established district business procedures.

Implementation

At the beginning of the school year, and upon initial enrollment in the case of a student enrolling during the school year, the district shall provide to the parent or guardian of each student:

- A. Information on the National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program including, but not limited to, information on the availability of free or reduced price meals for eligible students, information on the application and determination processes that are used to certify eligible students for subsidized school meals, and information on the rights that are available to students and their families ;
- B. An application to apply for the school lunch and school breakfast programs and instructions for completing the application;

The school meals information and application provided to parents and guardians shall:

- A. Be communicated in a language that the parent or guardian understands;
- B. Specify the limited purposes for which collected personal data may be used, as provided by subsection c. of this section; and
- C. Are submitted to the parent or guardian either in writing or electronically. In the latter case, the school district shall use the usual means by which it communicates with parents and guardians electronically.

A school meals application that is completed by a parent or guardian shall be confidential, and shall not be used or shared by the student's school or school district, except as may be necessary to:

- A. Determine whether a student identified in the application is eligible for free or reduced price school meals;
- B. Determine whether the school or school district is required to establish a breakfast after the bell program, or to participate as a sponsor or site in the federal Summer Meals Service Program;
- C. Ensure that the school receives appropriate reimbursement, from the state and federal governments, for meals provided to eligible students, free of charge, through a school lunch program, a school breakfast program, a breakfast after the bell program, a summer meals program, or an emergency meals distribution program; and

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM ARREARS (continued)

D. Facilitate school aid determinations under the “School Funding Reform Act of 2008,”

The district liaison for the education of homeless children shall coordinate with school personnel to ensure that a homeless student receives free school meals and is monitored according to the board policies.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to require a school district to deny or restrict the ability of an unsubsidized student to access school breakfast or school lunch when the student's school breakfast or school lunch bill is in arrears.

The policy shall be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary.

Adopted: Oct. 17, 2023

Key Words

School Lunch, Food Service, Nutrition, Wellness,

Legal References:	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:18A-5	Exceptions to requirement for advertising
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:18A-5a(6)	
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:18A-6	Standards for purchase of fresh milk; penalties; rules and regulations
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:33-3	
	through -5	Cafeterias for students
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:33-21	Schools meals, notification to parent of payment in arrears before denying to student
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:33-21a	Hunger-Free Students Bill of Rights Act
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:33-21b	Information provided to parents, guardians
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:33-21c	Provision of meals to homeless students
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:33-21.1	State required to pay difference between federal allocation and total cost of reduced price breakfast, lunch
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:54-20	Powers of board (county vocational schools)
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:58-7.1	
	through -7.2	School lunch program ...
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 2:36-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Child Nutrition Programs
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:23A-16.5	Supplies and equipment
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:30-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Section 143), P.L. 111-296; December 13, 2010.

Federal policy guidance and resources guidance at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/policy>. **See:**

SP 17-2014, January 22, 2014	<i>Discretionary Elimination of Reduced Price Charges in the School Meal Program</i>
SP 46-2016, July 8, 2016.	<i>Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies</i>
SP 46-2016, July 8, 2016	<i>Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments</i>
SP 23-2017, March 23, 2017.	<i>Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A</i>

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM ARREARS (continued)**Possible**

<u>Cross References:</u>	*1200	Participation by the public
	*1220	<u>Ad hoc</u> advisory committees
	*3000/3010	Concepts and roles in business and noninstructional operations; goals and objectives
	*3220/3230	State funds; federal funds
	*3250	Income from fees, fines and charges
	*3450	Money in school buildings
	*3510	Operation and maintenance of plant
	*3542.1	Wellness and nutrition
	*3542.31	Free or reduced-price lunches/milk
	*3542.44	Purchasing
	*4222	Noninstructional aides
	*5131	Conduct/discipline
	9123	Appointment of board secretary
	9124	Appointment of business official

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Policy

<u> X </u>	Monitored
<u> X </u>	Mandated
<u> </u>	Other Reasons

<u>Cross</u> <u>References:</u>	*2224	Affirmative action/nondiscrimination
	*3000/3010	Concepts and roles in business and noninstructional operations; goals and objectives
	*3220/3230	State funds; federal funds
	*3450	Money in school buildings
	*3510	Operation and maintenance of plant
	*3542	Food Service
	*3542.1	Wellness and nutrition
	*3542.44	Purchasing
	*4222	Noninstructional aides
	9123	Appointment of board secretary
	9124	Appointment of business official

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.