

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
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Creating Positions

4111 CREATING POSITIONS

The Board of Education recognizes its authority to establish support staff positions that, when filled by qualified employees, will assist the district in the achievement of educational goals set by the Board.

The Board will create new positions as required, approve a job title appropriate to the position, and determine the number of persons required to staff adequately each such position.

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board such new positions or additional staffing in existing positions as may be required by pupil enrollments and the operational needs of the district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-1; 18A:17-24; 18A:28-1

Adopted: 15 January 2008

POLICY

**ROCKAWAY BOROUGH
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
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Probationary Period

4123 PROBATIONARY PERIOD

Each employee hired by the Rockaway Borough Board of Education shall serve a probationary period of ninety (90) days in duration during which the employee may be summarily dismissed without notice.

During the probationary period, time off the job for uncompensated leave, sick leave, temporary military leave, bereavement leave and personal days will not count toward the completion of the probationary period.

An employee who completes the probationary period will be entitled to all the rights and privileges accorded such employees by the policies of this Board and by contracts if any negotiated with the employee's representative.

An employee who successfully completes a probationary period in one classification of employment who is transferred to another classification of employment must serve a probationary period of sixty (60) days in the new classification.

If the employee does not perform successfully in the new classification, he/she shall be entitled to reinstatement in the former classification, provided there is available in that classification a position that is not filled by a permanent employee. If no position is available, the employee entitled to reinstatement shall be given the reemployment preference he/she would receive in a layoff.

Adopted: March 25, 2008

POLICY

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SUPPORT STAFF
4124 EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

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P 4124 EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

The Board of Education requires every nontenured support staff member annually sign an employment contract for a term of not more than one year.

The employment contract shall include the date; name of the employee; the beginning and ending dates of service (fixed term appointment); the salary to be paid and the manner of payment; an authorization for salary deductions as applicable; and such other terms and conditions as may be necessary to a complete statement of the employment relationship.

The contract may include a provision for a probationary employment period with a provision providing the Board the right to terminate the employment of the nontenured support staff member at the completion of the probationary employment period. The contract will include a provision for the termination of the nontenured support staff member's contract on **30 days** notice duly given by either party.

In the event the salary entered on the written contract differs from that formally approved by the Board, the salary approved by the Board shall be the salary paid.

Adopted: 15 August 2017

POLICY

ABOLISHED

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

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Employment of Support Staff Members

4125 EMPLOYMENT OF SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

The Board of Education believes it is vital to the successful operation of the school district that support staff member positions be filled with highly qualified and competent professionals.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1, the Board shall appoint, transfer, remove, or renew a certificated or non-certificated officer or employee only upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and by a recorded roll call majority vote of the full membership of the Board. The Board shall not withhold its approval for arbitrary and capricious reasons. The Board shall approve the employment, fix the compensation, and establish the term of employment for every support staff member employed by this district.

The Board will employ substitutes for absent support staff members in order to ensure continuity in a program and will annually approve a list of substitutes and rate of pay. The Superintendent or designee shall select substitutes from the list approved by the Board to serve in the place of an absent support staff member.

The Board may use a private contractor to secure a substitute support staff member.

The Board of Education shall not employ for pay or contract for the paid services of any support staff member or any other person serving in a position which involves regular contact with students unless the Board has first determined consistent with the requirements and standards of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq. that no criminal history record information exists on file in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Identification Division, or the State Bureau of Identification which would disqualify the individual from being employed or utilized in such capacity or position.

An individual employed by the Board or a school bus contractor holding a contract with the Board, in the capacity of a school bus driver, shall be required to meet the criminal history record requirements as outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.1.

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SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

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Employment of Support Staff Members

The Board will employ paraprofessional school aides and/or classroom aides to assist in the supervision of student activities under the direction of a Principal, teacher, or other designated certified professional personnel. Aides will serve the needs of students by performing nonprofessional duties and may work only under the direct supervision of a teaching staff member(s).

In accordance with the requirements of *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, paraprofessionals hired after January 8, 2002, who work in a program supported with Title I, Part A funds, with certain exceptions, must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Completed at least two years of study at an institution of higher education;
2. Obtained an associate's (or higher) degree; or
3. Met a rigorous standard of quality and be able to demonstrate, through a formal State or local academic assessment, knowledge of and the ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing, and mathematics (or, as appropriate, reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness).

Paraprofessional staff working in a Title I school, and whose salary is paid for in whole or in part with Title I funds, must have met one of the criteria listed above by the end of the 2005-2006 school year. The Superintendent will ensure paraprofessionals working in a program supported with Title I funds meet the above stated requirements.

An individual employed by the Board in any substitute capacity or position shall be required to undergo a criminal history record check in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1b.

An individual, except as provided in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1g, shall be permanently disqualified from employment or service in the school district if the criminal history record check reveals a record of conviction for any crime or offense as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.

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ROCKAWAY BOROUGH

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Employment of Support Staff Members

The Board or contracted service provider may employ an applicant on an emergent basis for a period not to exceed three months, pending completion of a criminal history record check if the Board or contracted service provider demonstrates to the Commissioner of Education that special circumstances exist which justify the emergent employment as prescribed in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.lc. In the event the criminal history record check is not completed for an emergent hired employee within three months, the Board or contracted service provider may petition the Commissioner for an extension of time, not to exceed two months, in order to retain the employee.

No criminal history record check shall be performed unless the applicant shall have furnished written consent to such a check. The applicant shall bear the cost for the criminal history record check, including all costs for administering and processing the check. The district will deny employment to an applicant if the applicant is required and refuses to submit to a criminal history record check.

The Board of Education prohibits any relative of a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools from being employed in an office or position in the school district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.2 and Board Policy 0142.1 – Nepotism.

A support staff member's misstatement of fact material to his/her qualifications for employment or the determination of his/her salary will be considered by the Board to constitute grounds for dismissal.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-5; 18A:6-6; 18A:6-7.1; 18A:6-7.1b; 18A:6-7.1c; 18A:6-7.2;
18A:16-1 et seq.; 18A:26-1 et seq.; 18A:27-1 et seq.; 18A:27-4.1;
18A:27-7; 18A:27-8; 18A:39-19.1

Adopted: July 2016

POLICY

**ROCKAWAY BOROUGH
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
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Assignment and Transfer

4130 ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER

The Board of Education and the Superintendent reserve the right to assign and transfer support staff members to the positions for which they are qualified and in which their service will best serve the operation of the district.

The Superintendent is responsible for the assignment and transfer of support staff members, except that the Board of Education is responsible for the assignment of support staff members in the positions of Treasurer of School Moneys, Board Attorney, or Board Secretary, except a Board Secretary who performs business administrator functions.

The Board will transfer support staff members only upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and by a recorded roll call majority vote of the full membership of the Board. The Board will not withhold its approval of the transfer for arbitrary and capricious reasons.

In considering any transfer, the Superintendent shall base the choice on the employee's success in former positions, the employee's attitude toward change, the employee's length of service in the district, the recommendation of the employee's supervisor, and the operational efficiency advanced by the proposed transfer. No support staff member shall be transferred for disciplinary reasons.

Employees may not transfer duties from one position to another nor may one employee perform the duties of another employee without the prior approval of the Superintendent.

N.J.S.A. 34:13A-1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1

Adopted: 15 January 2008

POLICY

**ROCKAWAY BOROUGH
BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Termination**

4140 TERMINATION

The Board of Education will enter a contract with each non-tenured support staff member providing, in part, for the termination of employment by either party. The Board may terminate the employment of an employee for incompetence, immorality, unfitness for service, insubordination, reduction in force, or other good cause. Any notification of termination for cause will include a full statement of the reasons for the dismissal on notice duly given a nonprobationary employee.

The Board may terminate an employment contract with a non-tenured support staff member only upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and by a recorded roll call majority vote of the full membership of the Board. The Board will not withhold its approval for arbitrary and capricious reasons. N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1.

The Board may temporarily suspend an employee with or without pay and without notice when his/her continued services may be inimical to the interests of pupils.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10; 18A:17-2; 18A:17-3; 18A:27-4.1

Adopted: 15 January 2008

POLICY

**ROCKAWAY BOROUGH
BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Layoffs**

4145 LAYOFFS

The Board of Education shall provide the support staff necessary for the operation of the district in a manner that is efficient and economical.

The Board reserves the right to abolish support staff positions and reduce district staff commensurately whenever reasons of economy, reorganization of the school district, reduction in the number of pupils, or other good cause so warrant. The Superintendent shall continually review the efficiency and effectiveness of district organization and recommend to the Board the creation and abolishment of support staff positions and the reallocation of duties and positions.

When two or more employees are employed in the same classification of employment in which a position is abolished, the employee shall be reemployed who has demonstrated greater competence.

When, as the result of the abolishment of a position, an employee is demoted in position, the employee shall receive the salary of the position to which he/she has been assigned.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10; 18A:17-4

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF

4146 NONRENEWAL OF NONTENURED SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER

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P 4146 NONRENEWAL OF NONTENURED SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER

The Board will renew the employment contract of a nontenured support staff member only upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and by a recorded roll call majority vote of the full membership of the Board. The Board will not withhold its approval for arbitrary and capricious reasons. A nontenured support staff member who is not recommended for renewal by the Superintendent is deemed nonrenewed.

When the nontenured support staff member's performance does not meet the standards of the district, the Superintendent shall recommend not to renew the support staff member's contract. Prior to notifying the nontenured support staff member of the nonrenewal, the Superintendent will notify the Board of the recommendation not to renew the support staff member's contract and the reasons for the recommendation. The Superintendent may notify the Board in a written notice or in executive session at a full Board meeting. In the event the Board is notified in executive session, the Superintendent will comply with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and provide reasonable notice to the nontenured support staff member their employment will be discussed in executive session in order for the support staff member to exercise their statutory right to request a public discussion.

The Superintendent shall notify each nontenured support staff member to whom reemployment will not be offered in writing in accordance with the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, individual contract, or any other agreement between the parties. Paraprofessionals continuously employed since the preceding September 30 as a school aide or classroom aide in a school district that receives funding under Title I of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 shall be notified of renewal or nonrenewal on or before May 15 in each year in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:27-10.2.

A nontenured support staff member whose contract is not renewed shall have the right to a written statement of the reasons for nonrenewal, provided the request for the statement of reasons is made within fifteen days of the Superintendent's written notification of nonrenewal to the support staff member. The statement of reasons shall be provided to a nontenured support staff member within thirty days after the receipt of the request.

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4146 NONRENEWAL OF NONTENURED SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER

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Whenever a nontenured support staff member has requested in writing and received a written statement of reasons for non-reemployment, the nontenured support staff member shall have the right to an informal appearance before the Board to permit the support staff member an opportunity to convince the members of the Board to offer reemployment, provided that a request for such an appearance is received within ten days after the support staff member receives the statement of reasons provided by the Superintendent. The informal appearance before the Board shall be held in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:10-8.1.

The Board is not required to offer reemployment or vote on reemployment after an informal appearance with a nontenured support staff member who was not recommended for reemployment by the Superintendent. The Board may, with a majority vote of its full membership in public session and without the recommendation of the Superintendent, offer the nontenured support staff member reemployment after the informal appearance before the Board. The support staff member will be notified of the Board's final determination within three days following the informal appearance before the Board.

The provisions as outlined in Policy and Regulation 4146 may be revised or adjusted by the Superintendent of Schools to be in accordance with the terms and timelines of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, individual contract, or any other agreement between the parties provided the terms are not contrary to any statute, administrative code, or any management rights of the Board.

This policy does not apply to the contract renewal of the Treasurer of School Moneys, Board Auditor, Board Attorney or Board Secretary, except a Board Secretary who performs business administration functions.

N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4.1.

Adopted: 15 August 2017

POLICY

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BOARD OF EDUCATION**
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Discipline

4150 DISCIPLINE

The Board of Education directs all support staff members to observe statutes, rules of the State Board of Education, policies of this Board, and duly promulgated administrative rules and regulations governing staff conduct. Violations of those statutes, rules, policies, and regulations will be subject to discipline.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and/or Superintendent shall deal with disciplinary matters on a case-by-case basis. Discipline will include, as appropriate, verbal and written warnings, transfer, suspension, freezing wages, and dismissal; discipline will provide, wherever possible, for progressive penalties for repeated violations.

In the event disciplinary action is contemplated, notice will be given to the employee in ordinary and concise language of the specific acts and omissions upon which the disciplinary action is based; the text of the statute, policy, rule, or regulation that the employee is alleged to have violated; a date when the employee may be heard and the administrator who will hear the matter; and the penalty that will be imposed.

N.J.S.A. 18A:25-7; 18A:27-4

N.J.S.A. 34:13A-1 et seq.; 34:19-1

Adopted: 15 January 2008

POLICY

**ROCKAWAY BOROUGH
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
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Freezing or Reducing Wages

4152 FREEZING OR REDUCING WAGES

The Board of Education recognizes that any advancement on a salary schedule, including annual increments and raises, is not automatic but rests within the discretion of the Board.

Advancement on any salary schedule shall require favorable reports covering the employee's competence and thoroughness in the performance of assigned duties as well as the employee's record of attendance and compliance with district regulations.

The Superintendent shall base a recommendation for wage freeze on evaluations of the employee's performance and conduct. The Superintendent must also show to the satisfaction of the Board that the standards by which an employee has been evaluated are not exceptional or unusual and are expected of all employees in a similar classification.

N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14

Adopted: 15 January 2008

POLICY

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SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

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Support Staff Member/School District
Reporting Responsibilities

Aug 10

4159 SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER/SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

All support staff members shall be required to report their arrest or indictment for any crime or offense to the Superintendent of Schools within fourteen calendar days of the arrest or indictment. For purposes of this policy, "support staff members" shall include all school district employees who hold a position in the school district for which no certificate issued by the New Jersey State Board of Examiners is required.

The report submitted to the Superintendent shall include the date of arrest or indictment and charge(s) lodged against the support staff member. Such support staff members shall also report to the Superintendent the disposition of any charges within seven calendar days of the disposition. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements may be deemed "just cause" for disciplinary action, which may include termination or non-renewal of employment in accordance with law.

Teaching staff members are required to report their arrest or indictment for any crime or offense in accordance with Policy 3159 and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-4.3.

The school district shall make these reporting requirements known to all new support staff members upon initial employment and to all employees on an annual basis.

Adopted: January 2017

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ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF

4160 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION (M)

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The Board of Education requires each candidate for employment who receives a conditional offer of employment to undergo a physical examination(s) to determine whether the candidate is able to perform with reasonable accommodation job-related functions pursuant to P.L. 101-336, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

If upon completing an examination(s) it is determined a candidate for employment who received a conditional offer of employment is unable to perform with reasonable accommodation job-related functions pursuant to the provisions of the ADA, the conditional offer of employment will be rescinded either by the Superintendent of Schools, if the Board has not yet approved the appointment, or by the Board, if the Board had approved the appointment at a Board meeting.

The physical examination shall include, but is not limited to, a health history to include past serious illnesses and injuries; current health problems; allergies; and a record of immunizations. The physical examination shall also include a health screening to include, but not limited to: height and weight; blood pressure; pulse and respiratory rate; vision screening; and hearing screening.

Candidates for employment who have received a conditional offer of employment will be required to be tested for the usage of controlled dangerous substances as they are defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2. This testing will be completed in accordance with New Jersey Department of Health and Department of Education guidelines. Testing for the usage of controlled or dangerous substances, if required by the Board, will be required for all candidates for employment who have received a conditional offer of employment.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:16-3, the Board shall bear the cost of physical examinations required by this Policy performed by a physician or institution designated by the Board. However, the candidate shall bear the cost if the examination is performed by a physician or institution designated by the candidate with approval of the Board. In the event the Board approves the physician or institution designated by the candidate to complete an examination required by this Policy, the candidate will be provided with the detailed requirements of the examination.

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ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF

4160 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION (M)

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School employee physicals, examinations, and/or annual medical updates do not require screening or disclosure of HIV status.

A Mantoux tuberculosis test shall be given to all student teachers, school bus drivers on contract with the district, and contractors or volunteers who have contact with students.

All staff members' medical and health records, including computerized records, will be secured, stored, and maintained separately from other personnel files. The information contained in medical records will be kept confidential. Only the staff member, the Superintendent, and the school medical inspector shall have access to medical information regarding an individual employee. Health records may be shared only with authorized individuals in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-5. The staff member may provide health-status information, including medications that may be of value to medical personnel in the event of an emergency requiring treatment. In such instances, the staff member may also choose to share with the staff member's Building Principal and, if desired, with the certified school nurse, information regarding current health status to assure ready access in a medical emergency.

Additional individual psychiatric or physical examinations of any staff member may be required by the Board whenever, in the judgment of the Board, a staff member shows evidence of deviation from normal physical or mental health. Any additional individual examinations will be pursuant to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3. Additional examinations and/or certifications may be required to verify fitness in accordance with Policy 4161 or disability in accordance with Policies 4425 and 4435.

42 U.S.C.A. 12101

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.1; 6A:32-6.2; 6A:32-6.3

Adopted: 15 August 2017

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF
4161 EXAMINATION FOR CAUSE

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4161 EXAMINATION FOR CAUSE

- A. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3, the Board of Education may require physical or psychiatric examinations of a support staff member whenever, in the judgment of the Board, a support staff member shows evidence of deviation from normal physical or mental health, to determine the support staff member's physical and mental fitness to perform, with reasonable accommodation, the position the support staff member currently holds, or to detect any health risk(s) to students and other employees. When the Board requires a support staff member to undergo a physical or psychiatric examination:
1. The Board shall provide the support staff member with a written statement of the reasons for the required examination; and
 2. The Board shall provide the support staff member with a hearing, if requested.
 - a. Notice of the support staff member's right to a hearing shall be provided with the statement of reasons for the required examination;
 - b. The support staff member must request the Board hearing, in writing, within five working days of the support staff member's receipt of the written statement of reasons:
 - (1) The support staff member shall be ordered to submit to the appropriate examination(s) by the physician or institution designated by the Board if the support staff member failed to timely request a hearing before the Board;
 - c. The Board hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:25-7 and will offer the support staff member the opportunity to appear before the Board to refute the reason(s) for the required examination(s);
 - d. The support staff member shall be ordered to submit to the appropriate examination(s) by the physician or institution designated by the Board if the support staff member failed to persuade the Board at the hearing that the support staff member should not be required to submit to the appropriate examination(s); and
 - e. The determination of such a hearing shall be appealable to the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:4 - Appeals.

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SUPPORT STAFF
4161 EXAMINATION FOR CAUSE

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3. The support staff member may, without reprisal, refuse to waive their right to protect the confidentiality of medical information, in accordance with P.L. 104-191, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.
- B. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:16-3, the Board shall bear the cost of examinations made by a physician or institution designated by the Board. However, the support staff member shall bear the cost if the examination is performed by a physician or institution designated by the support staff member with approval of the Board.
1. If the support staff member submits names of physicians or institutions to the Board for consideration to complete the appropriate examination(s), the Board is not required to designate the physician or institution submitted for consideration by the support staff member, but shall not act unreasonably in withholding its approval of the physician or institution.
 2. The support staff member shall authorize the physician or institution performing the examination to immediately release the examination results to the Superintendent.
 3. All records and reports relating to any such examination shall be the property of the Board, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-5.
 - a. Health records of support staff members, including computerized records, shall be secured, stored, and maintained separately from other personnel files; and
 - b. Health records may be shared only with authorized individuals in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-5.
 4. If the results of any such examination indicate mental abnormality or communicable disease, the support staff member shall be ineligible for further service until proof of recovery, satisfactory to the Board, is furnished, but if the support staff member is under contract or has tenure, they may be granted sick leave with compensation as provided by law and shall, upon satisfactory recovery, be permitted to complete the term of their contract, if they are under contract, or be reemployed with the same tenure as they possessed at the time their services were discontinued, if they have tenure, unless their absence shall exceed a period of two years in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-4.

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ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF
4161 EXAMINATION FOR CAUSE

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- C. In order to return to work, the support staff member must submit to an appropriate examination and submit the results of the examination to the Superintendent.
1. The examination must be conducted by a physician or institution upon which the Board and support staff member confer and agree;
 2. If the physician or institution conducting the examination is conducted by the Board's choice, the cost shall be borne by the Board; if the physician or institution conducting the examination is conducted by the support staff member's choice, the cost shall be borne by the support staff member; and
 3. The support staff member shall authorize the physician or institution performing the examination to immediately release the examination results to the Superintendent.
- D. A support staff member who refuses to submit to the examination required by the Board in accordance with this Policy and has exhausted the hearing procedures established by law and this Policy shall be subject to discipline, which may include, but is not limited to, termination or certification of tenure charges to the Commissioner of Education, as applicable.

42 U.S.C.A. 12101

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10; 18A:16-2; 18A:16-3; 18A:16-4; 18A:16-5
18A:25-7; 18A:28-5; 18A:30-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.2; 6A:32-6.3

Adopted: December 12, 2023

POLICY

**ROCKAWAY BOROUGH
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
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Attendance

4211 ATTENDANCE

Employee attendance is an important factor in the successful operation of any school district and in the maintenance of the continuity of the educational program. The Board of Education is vitally and continually interested in the attendance of each employee and considers satisfactory attendance an important criterion of satisfactory job performance.

The privilege of district employment imposes on each employee the responsibility to be on the job on time every scheduled working day. This responsibility requires that the employee maintain good health standards, take intelligent precautions against accidents both on and off the job, and manage personal affairs in order to satisfy district attendance requirements.

The Board is required by the high costs of absences and disrupted work schedules to give continuing attention to the maintenance of regular attendance by employees. Chronic absenteeism and tardiness are subject to discipline and may be cause for dismissal.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations to implement this policy.

N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

POLICY

**ROCKAWAY BOROUGH
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
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Consulting Outside the District

4211.3 CONSULTING OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT

The Board of Education recognizes that support staff members will have expertise and knowledge in areas that other school districts, agencies, and other entities may desire. Recognizing that the school district will request the expertise from support staff members from other school districts, agencies and other entities, the Board supports sharing of its support staff members with other school districts, agencies, and other entities to the extent it does not interfere with the efficient operation of the school district.

The Superintendent may recommend to the Board a support staff member's attendance in another school district, agency or other entity without additional remuneration to the support staff member or school district, upon a written request from the agency or from the support staff member.

The Board of Education recognizes support staff members will have expertise and knowledge in areas that other school districts, public and private agencies, and private business organizations may desire to compensate as a paid consultant. When a support staff member serves as a paid consultant, the support staff member is not permitted to use normal work hours for any paid consulting activities. The support staff member must complete any paid consulting activities on their own time to include vacation days, evenings, weekends, and/or school holidays.

The support staff member must comply with the New Jersey School Ethics Act N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq. and, if required, must comply with financial disclosure requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24 and 12-25.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-21 et seq.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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4212 ATTENDANCE (M)

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The regular and prompt attendance of support staff members is an essential element in the efficient operation of the school district and the effective conduct of the educational program. Support staff member absenteeism disrupts the educational program and the Board of Education considers attendance an important component of a support staff member's job performance.

Support staff members shall provide notice for the use of sick time as required in N.J.S.A. 18A:30-4 and Policy and Regulation 1642.01 in accordance with the district's procedure for support staff members to report the use of sick leave and other absences. A support staff member who fails to give prompt notice of an absence, misuses sick leave, fails to verify an absence in accordance with statute, administrative code, or Board policy; falsifies the reason for an absence; is absent without authorization; is repeatedly tardy; or accumulates an excessive number of absences may be subject to appropriate consequences, which may include, but not be limited to, the withholding of a salary increment, termination, nonrenewal, and/or certification of tenure charges.

Sick leave is defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1 and Policy and Regulation 1642.01. No support staff member will be discouraged from the prudent, necessary use of sick leave and any other leave provided for by statute; administrative code; the collective bargaining agreement; in an individual employment contract; or the policies of the Board. The Superintendent or Board of Education may require verification to be filed with the Secretary of the Board in order to obtain sick leave in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:30-4 and Policy and Regulation 1642.01.

The Superintendent, in consultation with administrative staff members, will review the rate of absence among support staff members. The review will include the collection and analysis of attendance patterns, the training of support staff members in their attendance responsibilities, and the counseling of support staff members for whom regular and prompt attendance is a problem.

N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1; 18A:30-2; 18A:30-4

Adopted: December 12, 2023

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Conflict of Interest**

4214 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No support staff member of the Board of Education shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity which is in conflict with the proper discharge of the support staff member's duties.

No support staff member shall use or attempt to use his/her position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages.

No support staff member of the Board shall act in his/her official capacity in any matter wherein he/she has a direct or indirect personal financial interest.

No support staff member of the Board shall accept any gift, favor, service or other thing of value under circumstances from which it might be reasonably inferred that such gift, service or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing the support staff member in the discharge of his/her duties.

The Board of Education discourages the presentation of gifts to support staff members by pupils and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s), because it may embarrass pupils with limited means and give the appearance of currying favor.

The Board directs that support staff members instruct pupils to express their appreciation by means other than gifts.

Support staff members may receive gifts of only nominal value from pupils or their parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

The Superintendent may approve an act or gift of appreciation to an individual support staff member when special circumstances warrant.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-8; 18A:11-1

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Code of Ethics

4215 CODE OF ETHICS

All support staff employees will:

Represent themselves honestly in the application and selection procedure;

Report to work as scheduled;

Discuss complaints with their immediate superior, or through approved channels;

Not advise or counsel pupils except in special cases with the knowledge and consent of the Principal;

Complete thoroughly their assigned tasks;

Endeavor to establish good working relationships with other employees, professional as well as non-professional;

Commit themselves to providing the best possible services for pupils;

Uphold all rules and regulations as set by the Board, the Superintendent, and the Principals;

Keep the trust under which confidential information may be given;

Adhere to all the conditions of a contract;

Give prompt notice of any change in availability for continued employment; and

Protect and care for district property.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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4217 USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

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4217 USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

No support staff member employed by the Board or a person engaged in any school in the school district shall inflict or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment upon a student attending any school in the school district; but any such support staff member may, within the scope of their employment, use and apply such amounts of force as is reasonable and necessary:

1. To quell a disturbance, threatening physical injury to others;
2. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person or within the control of a student;
3. For the purpose of self-defense; and
4. For the protection of persons or property;

and such acts, or any of them, shall not be construed to constitute corporal punishment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1. Every resolution, bylaw, rule, ordinance, or other act or authority permitting or authorizing corporal punishment to be inflicted upon a student attending any school in the district shall be void.

Any support staff member employed by the Board found to have violated this Policy may be subject to discipline by the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1; 18A:37-1

Adopted: December 12, 2023

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SUBSTANCES

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4218 USE, POSSESSION, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SUBSTANCES

The Board of Education recognizes a support staff member who reports to work under the influence of a substance poses a significant threat to their health, safety, and welfare and the health, safety, and welfare of others, including students and other staff members. The Board strongly advises any support staff member that has a dependency on a substance as defined in this Policy to seek appropriate treatment. The Board has an obligation and the right to maintain a safe and healthy work environment and adopts this Policy as an important component toward maintaining a safe environment in the school district.

For the purpose of this Policy, “substance” or “substances” as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(a) means alcoholic beverages; any controlled dangerous substances, including anabolic steroids as defined in N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2; any chemical or chemical compound which releases vapors or fumes causing a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system, including, but not limited to, glue containing a solvent having the property of releasing toxic vapors or fumes as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10.4; and over-the-counter and prescription medications that are improperly used to cause intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system.

A support staff member shall be required to submit to an immediate medical examination to include a substance test if the support staff member’s supervisor has reasonable suspicion to believe a support staff member is under the influence of a substance during work hours or at a school-sponsored function where the support staff member has been assigned job responsibilities. Refusal by a support staff member to consent to the medical examination including a substance test will be deemed a positive result for substances. In the event the results of the medical examination and substance test are not provided to the Superintendent, within twenty-four hours or as soon as the test results are available, it will be deemed a positive result for substances and the support staff member shall be subject to appropriate discipline. Any required medical examination and testing shall be paid for by the Board.

In the event the Board physician determines the support staff member was under the influence of a substance, the determination shall be reported to the Superintendent and the support staff member will be subject to appropriate discipline. Appropriate discipline may include, but not be limited to, withholding an increment, terminating a non-tenured support staff member, and/or filing tenure charges for a tenured support staff member in accordance with law. The support staff member will be afforded the opportunity to have positive test results confirmed using

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4218 USE, POSSESSION, OR DISTRIBUTION OF
SUBSTANCES

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acceptable confirmation test practices. This confirmation test shall be paid for by the support staff member.

In the event a support staff member's medical examination and substance test results are negative for a substance or if the Board physician determines the support staff member was not under the influence of a substance, the results or determination shall be reported to the Superintendent and the support staff member shall be returned to their position unless the Superintendent has a reason the support staff member should not be returned to their position.

In accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(a), any staff member who, in the course of their employment, has reason to believe a staff member has unlawfully possessed or in any way been involved in the distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, or drug paraphernalia, shall report the matter as soon as possible to the Principal, or in the absence of the Principal, to the staff member's supervisor responsible at the time of the alleged violation. Either the Principal or the staff member's supervisor responsible at the time of the alleged violation shall notify the Superintendent who shall notify, as soon as possible, the County Prosecutor or other law enforcement official designated by the County Prosecutor to receive such information. The Superintendent or designee shall provide to the County Prosecutor or designee all known information concerning the matter, including the identity of the staff member involved.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(a)3, the Superintendent or designee shall not disclose the identity of a staff member who has voluntarily sought and participated in an appropriate treatment or counseling program for an alcohol or drug abuse problem, provided the staff member is not reasonably believed to be involved or implicated in drug-distribution activities. An admission by a staff member in response to questioning initiated by the Principal or Superintendent's designee or following the discovery by the Principal or Superintendent's designee of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, or drug paraphernalia, shall not constitute a voluntary, self-initiated request for counseling and treatment.

A staff member who unlawfully possessed or in any way has been involved in the distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids or drug paraphernalia, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3, shall be subject to appropriate discipline which may include, but not be limited to, termination of a non-tenured support staff member or the filing of tenure charges for a tenured support staff member in accordance with law.

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A support staff member who has been determined by the Board physician to be under the influence of a substance during work hours or at a school-sponsored function where the support staff member has been assigned job responsibilities may be offered a Last Chance Agreement upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and approval by the Board. A written Last Chance Agreement must be approved by the Board.

42 CFR Part 2

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-3; 18A:40A-9

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1; 6A:16-6.3; 6A:16-6.5

Adopted: 15 OCTOBER 2019

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4219 COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL USE TESTING

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4219 COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL USE TESTING

The Board of Education is committed to a safe, efficient, alcohol and drug-free workplace that protects the district's students as well as the health and safety of its employees and the general public.

In the event the Board contracts with a service provider for transportation, the Business Administrator and/or the Transportation Coordinator will ensure all transportation contractors comply with the drug and alcohol testing requirements of Policy 4219 pursuant to 49 CFR 382 et seq. and 49 CFR 40 et seq.

The school district shall maintain and retain all records as required by Federal regulation.

[Option 2 – For School Districts That Have School Buses, Bus Drivers, or Employees Who Operate a School Vehicle Requiring a Commercial Driver's License

The Board requires all employees of the Board performing any safety-sensitive function to be free of drugs and alcohol and will test those employees who operate a commercial motor vehicle in accordance with 49 CFR 382 et seq. and 49 CFR 40 et seq. For the purpose of this Policy "employee" means a person required to have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) in the performance of their job responsibilities. Safety-sensitive functions as defined by 49 CFR 382.107 means any time from the time an employee begins to work or is required to be in readiness to work until the time the employee is relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work. Safety-sensitive functions shall include:

1. All time at the terminal, facility, other property, or on any public property, waiting to be dispatched, unless relieved from duty;
2. All time inspecting equipment as required by Federal law or otherwise inspecting, servicing, or conditioning any commercial motor vehicle, at any time;
3. All time spent at the driving controls of a commercial motor vehicle in operation;
4. All time, other than driving time, in or upon the commercial motor vehicle except time spent resting in an area defined as a sleeping berth;
5. All time loading or unloading a vehicle, supervising, or assisting in the loading or unloading, attending a vehicle being loaded or unloaded, remaining in readiness to operate the vehicle, or in giving or receiving receipts for shipments loaded and unloaded; and
6. All time repairing, obtaining assistance, or remaining in attendance upon a disabled vehicle.

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The Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 requires all operators of commercial motor vehicles subject to the CDL requirements to be tested for controlled substances and alcohol. Federal regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation require that any employee using a CDL be required to submit to alcohol and controlled substance testing in accordance with 49 CFR 40.

The Board designates the Business Administrator as the Designated Employer Representative (DER) of the Board of Education. The Board may contract with a service agent to provide the testing services as required by Federal law. In the event the Board contracts with a service provider for transportation, the Board designee will ensure all transportation contractors comply with the drug and alcohol testing requirements of Policy 4219 pursuant to 49 CFR 382 et seq. and 49 CFR 40 et seq.

No employee at any work site will possess, manufacture, use, sell, or distribute any quantity of any controlled substance, lawful or unlawful, which in sufficient quantity could result in impaired performance, with the exception of substances administered by or under the instructions of a physician. No employee shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four hours after using alcohol and the district will not permit an employee that used alcohol within four hours of performing safety-sensitive functions to perform such functions if the district has actual knowledge of the use, in accordance with 49 CFR 392.5.

Violations

Any violation of this Policy may result in discipline, up to and including termination.

Prohibited Substances

The presence of any of the controlled substances, listed in 49 CFR 40.87, in the body, as evidenced by the results of the initial screening and subsequent confirmatory analysis provided in this Policy, is prohibited for any employee assigned to a classification covered by this Policy. All cutoff concentrations shall be in accordance with 49 CFR 40.87. All test results shall be measured against the cutoff concentrations outlined in 49 CFR 40.87.

Testing Procedures

All testing for controlled substances will be conducted in accordance with 49 CFR 40, Subparts A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and I. The district will only test for drugs or classes of drugs in accordance with 49 CFR 40.85. Testing for alcohol will be conducted in accordance with 49 CFR 40, Subparts J, K, L, M and N.

Definitions

“Alcohol use” means the drinking or swallowing of any beverage, liquid mixture or preparation (including medication), containing alcohol.

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“Aliquot” means a fractional part of a specimen used for testing. It is taken as a sample representing the whole specimen.

“Confirmatory drug test” means a second analytical procedure performed on an aliquot of the original specimen to identify and quantify the presence of a specific drug or drug metabolite.

“Confirmed drug test” means a confirmation test result received by a Medical Review Officer (MRO) from a laboratory.

“Controlled substances” means those substances identified in 49 CFR 40.85.

“CCF” means the Federal Drug Testing Custody and Control Form.

“Designated Employer Representative (DER)” is an employee of the district authorized to take immediate action(s) to remove employees from safety-sensitive duties, or cause employees to be removed from these covered duties, and to make required decisions in the testing and evaluation processes. The DER shall receive test results and other communications for the employer consistent with the requirements of this Policy and 49 CFR 40. Service agents cannot act as a DER.

“FMCSA” means Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

“Initial drug test (also known as a “Screening drug test”)” means the test used to differentiate a negative specimen from one that requires further testing for drugs or drug metabolites.

“Initial specimen validity test” means the first test used to determine if a urine specimen is adulterated, diluted, substituted, or invalid.

“Medical Review Officer (MRO)” is a licensed physician responsible for receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by the district’s drug testing program and evaluating medical explanations for certain drug test results.

“Possess” includes, but is not limited to, either in or on the driver’s person, personal effects, motor vehicle, or areas substantially entrusted to the control of the driver.

“Service agent” is any person or entity, other than an employee of the Board, who provides services specified under 49 CFR 40 to the Board.

“Substance Abuse Professional (SAP)” is a person who evaluates employees who have violated a Federal or State drug and alcohol regulation and makes recommendations concerning education, treatment,

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follow-up testing, and aftercare. An individual permitted to act as a SAP must possess the credentials as outlined in 49 CFR 40.281.

“Work Site” means any motor vehicle, office, building, yard, or other location at which the driver is to perform work or any other school district property or at any school district event.

Categories of Testing

For the purpose of this Policy, the occurrence of the following circumstances/instances shall require an employee to submit to a controlled substance and alcohol screening:

1. Pre-Employment Testing

An individual who has applied for and has been selected to operate a Board vehicle shall, before beginning employment with the Board, submit to a controlled substance screening in conjunction with any required physical examination as per Policy 4160. Such screening shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Policy and 49 CFR 40. No individual receiving a positive confirmed test result will be employed by the Board.

An employer is not required to administer a controlled substances test required by 49 CFR 382.301(a) if:

- a. The employee has participated in a controlled substances testing program that met the requirements of 49 CFR 382 et seq. within the previous thirty days; and
- b. The employee while participating in that program either:
 - (1) Was tested for controlled substances within the past six months (from the date of application with the employer); or
 - (2) Participated in the random controlled substances testing program for the previous twelve months (from the date of application with the employer.)
- c. The DER must ensure that no prior employer, to the DER's knowledge, has records of a violation of a controlled substances testing program within the previous six months.

If an individual is so exempted, the DER shall contact the controlled substances testing programs in which the individual participated and shall obtain and retain from the testing program(s) the following information in accordance with 49 CFR 382.301©:

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- a. Name and address of the program;
- b. Verification of the individual's participation;
- c. Verification that the program conforms to Federal guidelines;
- d. Verification the individual qualified under the law and did not refuse to be tested for controlled substances;
- e. The date the individual was last tested for controlled substances; and
- f. The results of any tests taken within the previous six months and any other violations.

[Optional for Districts that Conduct Pre-Employment Alcohol Tests

In accordance with 49 CFR 382.301(d), the Board will conduct pre-employment alcohol tests before the first performance of safety-sensitive functions by a new employee or someone who has transferred to a position involving the performance of safety-sensitive functions. The alcohol test will be conducted after making a contingent offer of employment or transfer, subject to the employee passing the pre-employment alcohol test. All alcohol testing will be completed in accordance with 49 CFR 40 et seq. An employee will:

not begin working unless the result of the test indicates an alcohol concentration of less than 0.04.

not be offered employment and/or the transfer unless the result of the test indicates an alcohol concentration of less than 0.04.

An employee who has applied for and has been selected to operate a Board vehicle or any existing employee transferring into a new position requiring the employee to operate a Board vehicle, shall submit a written consent authorizing the Board to obtain the following information from other employers who have employed the employee during any period during the two years before the date of the employee's application or transfer into the new position. The written consent from the employee will permit the DER to obtain the following information from previous Division of Transportation (DOT) - regulated employers:

- a. Alcohol tests with a result of 0.04 or higher alcohol concentration;

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- b. Verified positive drug tests;
- c. Refusals to be tested (including verified adulterated or substituted drug test results);
- d. Other violations of DOT agency drug and alcohol testing regulations; and
- e. With respect to any employee who violated a DOT drug and alcohol regulation, documentation of the employee's successful completion of DOT return-to-duty requirements (including follow-up tests). If this information is not available from the previous employer, the DER must seek to obtain this information from the employee.

The DER will obtain and review this information before the employee first performs safety-sensitive functions. If this is not feasible, the DER will not permit the employee to perform safety-sensitive functions after thirty days from the date the employee first performed safety-sensitive functions, unless the DER has obtained or made and documented a good faith effort to obtain this information.

2. Random Testing

Every employee shall submit to random alcohol and controlled substance testing on an unannounced and random basis resulting from the selection by a random generation methodology in accordance with 49 CFR 383.305(i). Random testing will be spread reasonably throughout any given calendar year.

The minimum annual percentage rate for random alcohol testing shall be ten percent of the average number of driver positions. The minimum annual percentage rate for random controlled substances testing shall be twenty-five percent of the average number of driver positions. The minimum annual percentage rates may be adjusted as determined by the FMCSA Administrator in accordance with 49 CFR 382.305.

Employees shall only be random tested when performing safety-sensitive functions or immediately prior to or immediately following the performance of safety-sensitive functions.

3. Post-Accident Testing

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The involvement by an employee in a motor vehicle collision while operating a Board vehicle when such accident results in property damage or personal injury, may trigger a post-accident drug and alcohol test.

As soon as practical following an occurrence, the DER will require post-accident alcohol screening for each of the surviving drivers:

- a. Who was performing safety-sensitive functions with respect to a vehicle, if the accident involves the loss of human life; or
- b. Who receives a citation within eight hours of the occurrence under State or local law for a moving traffic violation arising from the accident, if the accident involved:
 - (1) Bodily injury to any person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or
 - (2) One or more motor vehicles incurring disabling damage as a result of the accident, requiring the motor vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle.
- c. If the alcohol test is not administered within two hours following the accident, the DER will prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons the test was not promptly administered. If the alcohol test is not administered within eight hours following the accident, the DER shall cease attempts to administer the alcohol test and shall prepare and maintain the same record. Records shall be submitted to the FMCSA upon request.

As soon as possible following an occurrence, the district will require post-accident controlled substance screening for each of the surviving drivers:

- a. Who was performing safety-sensitive functions with respect to a vehicle, if the accident involves the loss of human life; or
- b. Who receives a citation within thirty-two hours of the occurrence under State or local law for a moving traffic violation arising from the accident, if the accident involved:
 - (1) Bodily injury to any person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or

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- (2) One or more motor vehicles incurring disabling damage as a result of the accident, requiring the motor vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle.
- c. If the controlled substance test is not administered within thirty-two hours following the accident, the DER shall cease attempts to administer the controlled substance test and shall prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons the test was not promptly administered. Records shall be submitted to the FMCSA upon request.

An employee who is subject to post-accident testing shall remain readily available for such testing or may be deemed by the employer to have refused to submit for testing. (An employee who is injured in an accident and requires medical care, shall submit to post-accident drug and controlled substance testing by the medical care facility providing the treatment or a designee of the Board if the facility is unable to provide the testing.) Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the employee from leaving the scene of the accident for the period required to obtain necessary assistance or to obtain emergency medical care.

4. Reasonable Suspicion Testing

The DER shall require an employee to submit to an alcohol and/or controlled substance test when the employee is observed by a supervisor or school official who is trained in accordance with 49 CFR 382.603 and causes the observer to have reasonable suspicion to believe the employee has violated 49 CFR 382 et seq. Reasonable suspicion must exist to require the employee to undergo a test and must be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the appearance, behavior, speech or body odors of the employee. The observations may include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances.

Reasonable suspicion alcohol testing is authorized only if the required observations are made during, just preceding, or just after the period of the work day the employee is required to be in compliance with the testing requirements of 49 CFR 382 et seq.

Reasonable suspicion testing may be required of an employee while the employee is performing, just before the employee will perform, or just after the employee has ceased performing safety-sensitive functions.

If the alcohol test is not administered within two hours following the determination a reasonable suspicion test is required, the DER will prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons the test was not promptly administered. If the alcohol test is not

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administered within eight hours following the determination, the DER shall cease attempts to administer the alcohol test and shall state in the record the reasons for not administering the test.

No employee shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while the employee is under the influence of or impaired by alcohol, as shown by the behavioral, speech, and performance indicators of alcohol misuse. The employee will also not be able to perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions until an alcohol test is administered and the employee's concentration measures less than 0.02 or twenty-four hours have elapsed following the determination that reasonable suspicion existed to require an alcohol test.

A written record of the observations leading to a reasonable suspicion test shall be made and signed by the supervisor and/or school official that made the observations. This record shall be made within twenty-four hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the test are released, whichever is earlier.

5. Return to Duty Testing

The district is not required to return an employee to a safety-sensitive position upon receipt of a confirmed drug and/or alcohol test.

The DER may recommend to the Superintendent of Schools the employee's employment be terminated depending on the circumstances.

The DER shall ensure that before an employee returns to duty requiring the performance of a safety-sensitive function, the employee shall undergo a return to duty alcohol test indicating a breath alcohol concentration of less than 0.02 and a controlled substances test with a result indicating a verified negative result for controlled substances use as required in 49 CFR 40.305.

Employees permitted to return to duty are required to take return-to-duty tests and shall be evaluated by a SAP. These employees must participate in an assistance program prescribed by the SAP and as required in 49 CFR 40 Subpart O.

The SAP will determine a written follow-up testing plan for any employee who has been permitted to return to work and has successfully complied with the SAP's recommendations for education and/or treatment. Such employees are subject to a minimum of six unannounced, follow-up drug screenings and alcohol tests over the following twelve months. The testing shall not exceed forty-eight additional months. Alcohol follow-up testing shall be performed only when the employee is performing

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safety-sensitive functions or immediately prior to performing or immediately after performing safety-sensitive functions. All follow-up testing will be completed in accordance with 49 CFR 40.307. The SAP will comply with all reporting requirements of 49 CFR 40.311.

The Board shall make the ultimate determination to return or not return an employee to a safety-sensitive position subject to any collective bargaining agreements, if any, or other legal requirements.

Medical Review Officer (MRO) Notifications

The Board shall employ or contract with a MRO who is a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.) and shall designate the MRO as the individual responsible for receiving laboratory results generated by the testing program. The MRO shall have knowledge of controlled substances abuse disorders and have appropriate medical training to interpret and evaluate the employee's confirmed drug test results together with his/her medical history and other biomedical data. The MRO will perform all functions and responsibilities as required in 49 CFR 40.121.

Employer Notification

The MRO may report controlled substances test results to the DER by any means of communication; however, a signed, written notification must be forwarded within three business days of the completion of the MRO's evaluation. The MRO must report all drug test results to the employer. The MRO may use a signed or stamped and dated legible photocopy of Copy 2 of the CCF to report test results or a written report that must include, at a minimum, the information required in 49 CFR 40.163.

Split Specimen Tests

Split specimen testing will be conducted in accordance with 49 CFR 40 Subpart H. The MRO will notify the Superintendent of Schools or designee if split specimen testing is requested by the employee.

Designated Collection Facility

The Board shall designate the facility to be used for the collection of the specimen; provided, however, that the designated facility shall possess all required licenses and permits. The collection site will take place in a facility meeting the requirements of 49 CFR 40 Subpart D. The DER will ensure the collection site meets the security requirements of 49 CFR 40.43.

Designated Screening Laboratory

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The Board shall designate the laboratory to which collected fluid samples will be forwarded for drug/alcohol screening. Drug testing laboratories must be certified by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the National Laboratory Certification Program (NLCP) for all testing required under 49 CFR 40. The laboratory will perform all responsibilities as required in accordance with 49 CFR 40 Subpart F.

Specimens

The normal screening methodology for controlled substances shall be urinalysis, collected by a trained representative of the Board with appropriate documentation at a site designated and approved by the Board. The presence of alcohol will be determined by an Alcohol Screening Device (ASD) or an Evidential Breath Testing Device administered by an individual certified in accordance with 49 CFR 40.211 and 49 CFR 40.213.

Refusal to Submit

An employee will be deemed as refusing to take a drug test as described in 49 CFR 40.191. As per 49 CFR 40.191, an employee refuses to take a drug test if he/she:

1. Fails to appear for any test (except a pre-employment test) within a reasonable time, as determined by the DER, consistent with applicable DOT agency regulations, after being directed to do so by the DER;
2. Fails to remain at the testing site until the testing process is complete. An employee who leaves the testing site before the testing process commences for a pre-employment test is not deemed to have refused to test;
3. Fails to provide a urine specimen for any drug test required by this Policy. An employee who does not provide a urine specimen because he or she has left the testing site before the testing process commences for a pre-employment test is not deemed to have refused to test;
4. Fails to permit the observation or monitoring of providing a specimen in the case of a directly observed or monitored collection in a drug test;
5. Fails to provide a sufficient amount of urine when directed, and it has been determined, through a required medical evaluation, that there was no adequate medical explanation for the failure;
6. Fails or declines to take an additional drug test the DER or collector has directed the employee to take;

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7. Fails to undergo a medical examination or evaluation, as directed by the MRO as part of the verification process, or as directed by the DER under 49 CFR 40.193(d). In the case of a pre-employment drug test, the employee is deemed to have refused to test on this basis only if the pre-employment test is conducted following a contingent offer of employment;
8. Fails to cooperate with any part of the testing process (e.g., refuses to empty pockets when so directed by the collector, behaves in a confrontational way that disrupts the collection process, fails to wash hands after being directed to do so by the collector);
9. Fails to follow the collection observer(s) instructions of which could be used to interfere with the collection process;
10. Possesses or wears a prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process; or
11. Admits to the collector or MRO he/she has adulterated or substituted the specimen.

If the MRO reports the employee had a verified adulterated or substituted test result, the result will be deemed refusal to take a drug test.

If an employee refuses to participate in a part of the testing process, the collector or MRO, must terminate the portion of the testing process, document the refusal on the CCF (including in the case of the collector, printing the employee's name on Copy 2 of the CCF), immediately notify the DER by any means (e.g., telephone or secure fax machine) that ensures that the refusal notification is immediately received. A referral physician (e.g., physician evaluating a "shy bladder" condition or a claim of a legitimate medical explanation in a validity testing situation) must notify the MRO, who in turn will notify the DER. In addition, the collector must note the refusal in the "Remarks" line (Step 2), and sign and date the CCF. The MRO must note the refusal by checking the "Refused to Test" box (Step 6) on Copy 2 of the CCF, and add the reason on the "Remarks" line. The MRO must then sign and date the CCF. When the employee refuses to take a non-DOT test or to sign a non-DOT form, the employee has not refused to take a DOT test. There are no consequences under DOT agency regulations for refusing to take a non-DOT test.

Record of Negative Screening

An employee required to submit to an alcohol and/or controlled substance screening as provided in this Policy and whose screening results are negative may, at their option, have their personnel file documented to reflect the negative result.

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Prescription Drugs

All bus drivers shall notify the DER of the use of any prescription drugs. The Board may require certification from the prescribing physician that the use of the prescription drug will not have an adverse effect on the driver's ability to properly perform safety-sensitive functions.

Consequences to Employees Engaging in Prohibited Conduct

An employee whose screening produces a positive result for a prohibited substance who is permitted to return to work:

1. Shall not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions;
2. Shall be advised by the DER of resources available to them in evaluating and resolving problems associated with the misuse of alcohol or the use of controlled substances;
3. Shall be evaluated by a SAP who shall determine what assistance, if any, is needed to resolve problems with alcohol or controlled substance use;
4. Undergo, before returning to duty, a return to duty alcohol test indicating a breath level of less than 0.02 if the conduct involved alcohol or a controlled substance test with a verified negative result;
5. If assistance was required, the employee must be evaluated by a SAP to determine that the employee has followed the rehabilitation program prescribed;
6. Be subject to unannounced follow-up alcohol and/or controlled substance abuse testing; and
7. Be subject to the disciplinary Policy and Regulations of the Board.

Return-to-Work Agreement

An employee who has been permitted to return to work and who fails to comply with any of the terms of a Return to Work Agreement, if provided at the employer's discretion, shall be subject to disciplinary action which may include termination.

Maintenance and Retention of Records

The DER shall maintain and retain all records as required by Federal regulation. Records shall include at least the following:

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1. Records Related to the Collection Process
 - a. Collection logbooks (if used);
 - b. Documents related to the random selection process;
 - c. Calibration documentation for Evidential Breath Testing Devices (EBT's);
 - d. Documentation of Breath Alcohol Technician (BAT) training;
 - e. Documentation of reasoning for reasonable suspicion testing;
 - f. Documentation of reasoning for post-accident testing;
 - g. Documents verifying a medical explanation for the inability to provide adequate breath or urine for testing; and
 - h. Consolidated annual calendar year summaries.
2. Records Related to the Employee's Test Results
 - a. Employer's copy of the alcohol test form, including results;
 - b. Employer's copy of the controlled substance test chain of custody and control form;
 - c. Documents sent to the employer by the MRO;
 - d. Documentation of any employee's refusal to submit to a required alcohol or controlled substance test; and
 - e. Documents provided by an employee to dispute results of test.
3. Documentation of any Other Violations of Controlled Substance Use or Alcohol Misuse Policies
4. Records Related to Evaluations and Training
 - a. Records pertaining to the SAP's determination of an employee's need for assistance;

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- b. Records concerning an employee's compliance with the SAP's recommendations, and records related to education and training;
- c. Materials on drug and alcohol awareness, including a copy of the employer's policy on drug use and alcohol misuse;
- d. Documentation of compliance with the requirement to provide employees with educational material, including an employee's signed receipt of materials;
- e. Documentation of supervisor training; and
- f. Certification that training conducted under this Policy complies with all requirements of the Policy.

5. Records Related to Drug Testing

- a. Agreements with collection site facilities, laboratories, MROs, and consortia;
- b. Names and positions of officials and their role in the employer's alcohol and controlled substance testing program;
- c. Monthly statistical summaries of urinalysis; and
- d. The employer's drug testing policy and procedures.

6. Required Period of Retention

Document to be maintained	Period required to be maintained
Alcohol test results indicating a breath alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater	5 Years
Verified positive controlled substance test results	5 Years
Documentation of refusals to submit to required alcohol or controlled substance tests	5 Years
Calibration documentation	5 Years
Records related to the administration of the alcohol and controlled substances testing	5 Years

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program, including records of all driver violations	
Driver evaluations and referrals	5 Years
A copy of each annual calendar year summary	5 Years
Records obtained from previous employers concerning alcohol and drug testing	3 Years
Records related to the alcohol and controlled substances collection process (except calibration of evidential breath testing devices)	2 Years
Records related to negative and canceled controlled substance test results	1 Year
Alcohol test results indicating a breath alcohol concentration less than 0.02	1 Year
Records related to the education and training of breath alcohol technicians, screening test technicians, supervisors, and drivers shall be maintained by the employer while the individual performs the functions which require the training and for two years after ceasing to perform those functions	Indefinite time period

Other specific types of records shall be maintained in accordance with 49 CFR 382.401.

7. Location of Records

All required records shall be maintained in accordance with Policy 8320. Records shall be made available for inspection at the Board Offices within two business days after a request has been made by an authorized representative of the FMCSA.

8. Annual Calendar Year Summary

The DER shall prepare and maintain an annual calendar year summary of the results of its alcohol and substance abuse testing programs. The summary shall be completed no later than March 15 of each year covering the previous calendar year. The DER upon

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request of the FMCSA will provide the annual summary to that agency in the required format.

9. Employee Information Program

The Board will provide an employee information program. The DER will be responsible for implementing the program and shall ensure that each employee receives information in the manner specified below:

- a. By receiving a copy of this Policy and any subsequent revisions.
- b. The DER will provide written notice to employees of the following information:
 - (1) The identity of the person designated by the employer to answer employee questions about the materials;
 - (2) Which employees are subject to the alcohol misuse and controlled substance requirements;
 - (3) Explanation of what constitutes a safety-sensitive function, so as to make clear what period of the workday the employee is required to be in compliance;
 - (4) Specific information concerning employee conduct that is prohibited;
 - (5) The circumstances under which an employee will be tested for alcohol and/or controlled substances;
 - (6) The procedures that will be used to test for the presence of alcohol and controlled substances;
 - (7) The requirement that an employee submit to alcohol and controlled substance tests;
 - (8) An explanation of what constitutes a refusal to submit to an alcohol or controlled substance test;
 - (9) The consequences for employees found to have violated the prohibitions of this Policy, including the immediate removal of the employee from safety-sensitive functions;

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- (10) The consequences for employees found to have an alcohol concentration level of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04; and

- (11) Information concerning the effects of alcohol and controlled substances use on an individual's health, work, and personal life. Signs and symptoms of an alcohol or controlled substances problem, and available methods of intervening when an alcohol or a control substances problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to any employee assistance program and/or referral to management.]

Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991

49 CFR 40 et seq.

49 CFR 382 et seq.

49 CFR 395.2

Adopted: 15 OCTOBER 2019

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Employee Evaluation

4220 EMPLOYEE EVALUATION

The Superintendent shall maintain factual personnel records on all support employees and shall direct evaluation procedures.

Before increments for support staff members are approved for succeeding years, administrative and supervisory personnel in the schools shall submit to the Superintendent a report on the work and attitude of each employee under their jurisdiction.

The employee's Supervisor has the responsibility for seeing that each employee knows the basis upon which he/she is to be evaluated in advance of the evaluation.

The Superintendent shall ensure development of procedures for observation and supervision of all employees so that optimum support is provided for the educational program.

Such observation and supervision shall not be limited to that which is required for effective performance evaluation.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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SUPPORT STAFF
4230 OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

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P 4230 OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education recognizes that support staff members enjoy a private life outside their job responsibilities in the school district. The Board believes that school employees exert a continuing influence away from the school district. Accordingly, the Board reserves the right to determine if activities outside the support staff member's job responsibilities interfere with their performance and the discharge of the support staff member's responsibilities to this district.

All support staff members are advised to be governed in their activities outside the school by the following guidelines:

1. Support staff members shall not devote time during their work day to an outside private enterprise, business, or business organization. They shall not solicit or accept customers for a private enterprise, business, and/or business organization on school grounds during their work day without the express permission of the Superintendent;
2. The Board does not endorse, support, or assume liability in any way for any support staff member of this district who conducts a private activity in which students or employees of this district participate;
3. Support staff members shall not send campaign literature home with students, or request, direct or have students distribute campaign literature on behalf of any candidate for local, State, or national office or for any bond issue, proposal, or any public question submitted at any general, municipal, or school election. No student shall be requested or directed by any support staff member to engage in any activity which tends to promote, favor, or oppose any such candidacy, bond issue, proposal, or public question; and
4. Copyrights and patents to materials or equipment developed, written, prepared, processed, or tested by support staff members in the performance of their school district duties reside with and may be claimed by the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4

N.J.S.A. 19:1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 August 2017

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BOARD OF EDUCATION**
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Political Activities

4233 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education recognizes and encourages the right of all citizens, including school employees, to engage in political activity. However, the Board prohibits the use of school premises and school time for partisan political purposes.

The Board establishes the following guidelines to govern all support staff members in their political activities:

1. An employee shall not engage in political activity on school premises unless permitted in accordance with Policy No. 7510 - Use of School Facilities and/or applicable Federal and State laws;
2. An employee shall not post political circulars or petitions on school premises nor distribute such circulars or petitions to pupils nor solicit campaign funds or campaign workers on school premises;
3. An employee shall not display any material that would tend to promote any candidate for office on an election day in a school facility that is used as a polling place;
4. An employee shall not engage in any activity in the presence of pupils while on school property, which activity is intended and/or designed to promote, further or assert a position(s) on labor relations issues.

The provisions of this policy do not apply to the conduct of employee representative elections.

N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4
Green Township v. Rowe, Superior Court of New Jersey - Appellate Division A-2528-98T5

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Employee Training

4240 EMPLOYEE TRAINING

The Board of Education believes that continuing training and study is essential to the improvement of employee performance and the acquisition of technological skills. The Board encourages all employees to participate in appropriate training programs.

The immediate supervisor shall prepare rules for employee participation in programs of job skill improvement. The rules will include methods of reporting and verifying claims for participation in such activities.

The Board will reimburse employee requests for attendance at training programs provided participation has been approved in advance by the Superintendent.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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4281 INAPPROPRIATE STAFF CONDUCT

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P 4281 INAPPROPRIATE STAFF CONDUCT

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of all students within this school district. Furthermore, the Board recognizes there exists a professional responsibility for all school staff to protect a student's health, safety and welfare. The Board strongly believes that school staff members have the public's trust and confidence to protect the well-being of all students attending the school district.

In support of this Board's strong commitment to the public's trust and confidence of school staff, the Board of Education holds all school staff to the highest level of professional responsibility in their conduct with all students. Inappropriate conduct and conduct unbecoming a school staff member will not be tolerated in this school district.

The Board recognizes and appreciates the staff-student professional relationship that exists in a school district's educational environment. This Policy has been developed and adopted by this Board to provide guidance and direction to avoid actual and/or the appearance of inappropriate staff conduct and conduct unbecoming a school staff member toward students.

School staff's conduct in completing their professional responsibilities shall be appropriate at all times. School staff shall not make inappropriate comments to students or about students and shall not engage in inappropriate language or expression in the presence of students. School staff shall not engage in inappropriate conduct toward or with students. School staff shall not engage or seek to be in the presence of a student beyond the staff member's professional responsibilities. School staff shall not provide transportation to a student in their private vehicle or permit a student into their private vehicle unless there is an emergency or a special circumstance that has been approved in advance by the Building Principal/immediate supervisor and the parent/legal guardian.

Inappropriate conduct by a school staff member outside their professional responsibilities may be considered conduct unbecoming a staff member. Therefore, school staff members are advised to be concerned with such conduct which may include, but is not limited to, communications and/or publications using e-mails, text-messaging, social networking sites, or any other medium that is directed and/or available to students or for public display.

A school staff member is always expected to maintain a professional relationship with students and school staff members shall protect the health, safety and welfare of school students. A staff member's conduct will be held to the professional standards established by the New Jersey State Board of Education and the New Jersey Commissioner of Education. Inappropriate conduct or conduct unbecoming a staff member may also include conduct not specifically listed in this Policy, but conduct determined by the

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4281 INAPPROPRIATE STAFF CONDUCT

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New Jersey State Board of Education, the New Jersey Commissioner of Education, an arbitration process, and/or appropriate courts to be inappropriate or conduct unbecoming a school staff member.

School personnel, compensated and uncompensated (volunteers), are required to report to their immediate supervisor or Building Principal any possible violations of this Policy. In the event the report alleges conduct by the Building Principal or the immediate supervisor, the school staff member may report directly to the **Superintendent**. In addition, school personnel having reasonable cause to believe a student has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or acts of child abuse or neglect as defined under N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10 are required to immediately report to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1 and inform the Building Principal or immediate supervisor after making such report. However, notice to the Building Principal or designee need not be given when the school staff member believes such notice would likely endanger the referrer or child(ren) involved or when the staff member believes that such disclosure would likely result in retaliation against the child or in discrimination against the referrer with respect to his/her employment.

Reports may be made in writing or with verbal notification. The immediate supervisor or Building Principal will notify the Superintendent of Schools of all reports, including anonymous reports. The **Building Principal** will investigate all reports with a final report to the Superintendent of Schools. The **Building Principal** or the Superintendent may, at any time after receiving a report take such appropriate action as necessary and as provided for in the law. This may include, but is not limited to, notifying law enforcement, notifying the New Jersey Department of Children and Families in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1 and/or any other measure provided for in the law.

This Policy will be distributed to all school staff and provided to staff members at any time upon request.

N.J.S.A. 18A:28-5 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1

Adopted: 15 August 2017

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SUPPORT STAFF

4282 USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

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P 4282 USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

The Board of Education has a strong commitment to quality education and the well-being of all students, as well as the preservation of the school district's reputation. The Board believes staff members must establish and maintain public trust and confidence and be committed to protecting all students attending the school district. In support of the Board's strong commitment to the public's trust and confidence, the Board holds all staff members to the highest level of professional responsibility.

The Commissioner of Education has determined inappropriate conduct outside a staff member's professional responsibilities may determine them as unfit to discharge the duties and functions of their position. Staff members should be advised communications, publications, photographs, and other information appearing on social networking sites deemed inappropriate by the Board could be cause for dismissal of a non-tenured staff member or to certify tenure charges against a tenured staff member to the Commissioner of Education.

Staff members are advised to be concerned and aware such conduct deemed inappropriate may include, but is not limited to, communications and/or publications using e-mails, text-messaging, social networking sites, or any other form of electronic communication that is directed and/or available to students or for public display or publication.

While the Board respects the right of staff members to use social networking sites, staff members should recognize they are held to a higher standard than the general public with regard to standards of conduct and ethics. It is important that a staff member's use of these sites does not damage the reputation of the school district, employees, students, or their families. Staff members who utilize, post or publish images, photographs, or comments on social networking sites, blogs, or other forms of electronic communication outside their professional responsibilities shall ensure their use, postings, or publications are done with an appropriate level of professionalism and are appropriate conduct for a school staff member. Staff members should exercise care in setting appropriate boundaries between their personal and public online behavior, understanding that what is private in the digital world often has the possibility of becoming public even without their knowledge or consent.

The school district strongly encourages all staff members to carefully review the privacy settings on social networking sites they use and exercise care and good judgment when posting content and information on such sites. Staff members should adhere to the following guidelines, which are consistent with the district's workplace standards on harassment, student relationships, conduct, professional communication, and confidentiality.

When using personal social networking sites, school staff members:

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4282 USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

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1. Should not make statements that would violate any of the district's policies, including its policies concerning discrimination or harassment;
2. Must uphold the district's value of respect for the individual and avoid making defamatory statements about the school district, employees, students, or their families;
3. May not disclose any confidential information about the school district or confidential information obtained during the course of his/her employment, about any individual(s) or organization, including students and/or their families;
4. Shall not use social networking sites to post any materials of a sexually graphic nature;
5. Shall not use social networking sites to post any materials which promote violence;
6. Shall not use social networking sites which would be detrimental to the mission and function of the district;
7. Are prohibited from using their school district title as well as adding references to the district in any correspondence including, but not limited to, e-mails, postings, blogs, and social networking sites unless the communication is of an official nature and is serving the mission of the district. This prohibition also includes signature lines and personal e-mail accounts;
8. Shall not post updates to their status on any social networking sites during normal working hours including posting of statements or comments on the social networking sites of others during school time unless it involves a school project. Employees must seek approval from the Superintendent of Schools for such use; and
9. Shall not post or publish any information the Commissioner of Education would deem to be inappropriate conduct by a school staff member.

The Policy of this district is to maintain a level of professionalism both during and after the school day. Any publication through any means of electronic communication which is potentially adverse to the operation, morale, or efficiency of the district, will be deemed a violation of this Policy. If the Board or Superintendent believes that a staff member's activity on any social networking site violates the district's policies, the Board or Superintendent may request that the employee cease such activity. Depending on the severity of the incident, the staff member may be subject to disciplinary action.

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4282 USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

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This Policy has been developed and adopted by this Board to provide guidance and direction to staff members on how to avoid actual and/or the appearance of inappropriate conduct toward students and/or the community while using social networking sites.

Adopted: 15 August 2017

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ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

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Acceptable Use of Computer Network(s)/Computers and Resources by Support Staff Members

4321 ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTER NETWORK(S)/COMPUTERS AND RESOURCES BY SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

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

The Board also recognizes that telecommunications will allow support staff members access to information sources that have not been pre-screened using Board approved standards. The Board therefore adopts the following standards of conduct for the use of computer network(s) and declares unethical, unacceptable, inappropriate or illegal behavior as just cause for taking disciplinary action, limiting or revoking network access privileges, instituting legal action or taking any other appropriate action as deemed necessary.

The Board provides access to computer network(s)/computers for administrative and educational purposes only. The Board retains the right to restrict or terminate support staff members access to the computer network(s)/computers at any time, for any reason. The Board retains the right to have the Superintendent or designee monitor network activity, in any form necessary, to maintain the integrity of the network(s) and ensure its proper use.

Standards for Use of Computer Network(s)

Any individual engaging in the following actions declared unethical, unacceptable or illegal when using computer network(s)/computers shall be subject to discipline or legal action:

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Acceptable Use of Computer Network(s)/Computers and Resources by Support Staff Members

- A. Using the computer network(s)/computers for illegal, inappropriate or obscene purposes, or in support of such activities. Illegal activities are defined as activities which violate federal, state, local laws and regulations. Inappropriate activities are defined as those that violate the intended use of the network(s). Obscene activities shall be defined as a violation of generally accepted social standards for use of publicly owned and operated communication vehicles.
- B. Using the computer network(s)/computers to violate copyrights, institutional or third party copyrights, license agreements or other contracts.
- C. Using the computer network(s) in a manner that:
 - 1. Intentionally disrupts network traffic or crashes the network;
 - 2. Degrades or disrupts equipment or system performance;
 - 3. Uses the computing resources of the school district for commercial purposes, financial gain or fraud;
 - 4. Steals data or other intellectual property;
 - 5. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to the files of others or vandalizes the data of another user;
 - 6. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to resources or entities;
 - 7. Forges electronic mail messages or uses an account owned by others;
 - 8. Invades privacy of others;
 - 9. Posts anonymous messages;
 - 10. Possesses any data which is a violation of this policy; and/or
 - 11. Engages in other activities that do not advance the educational purposes for which computer network(s)/computers are provided.

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SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS**

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Acceptable Use of Computer Network(s)/Computers and
Resources by Support Staff Members

Violations

Individuals violating this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions as defined by Policy No. 4150, Discipline which includes but are not limited to:

1. Use of the network(s)/computers only under direct supervision;
2. Suspension of network privileges;
3. Revocation of network privileges;
4. Suspension of computer privileges;
5. Revocation of computer privileges;
6. Suspension;
7. Dismissal;
8. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities; and/or
9. Any appropriate action that may be deemed necessary as determined by the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Education.

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

Adopted: 15 January 2008

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPPORT STAFF

4322 STAFF MEMBER'S USE OF PERSONAL CELLULAR TELEPHONES/OTHER
COMMUNICATION DEVICES

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P 4322 STAFF MEMBER'S USE OF PERSONAL CELLULAR TELEPHONES/OTHER
COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The Board of Education recognizes a support staff member may need to electronically communicate on a non-school related, personal matter using a personal cellular telephone or other personal communication device during their workday. Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: voice conversations, text-messaging, accessing social networking or other internet sites, or any other type of electronic communication.

In the event the support staff member needs to electronically communicate on a non-school related, personal matter using a personal cellular telephone or other personal communication device during their workday, the support staff member may do so provided the communication is made during the support staff member's free lunch or break periods and is made outside the presence of students

A support staff member's personal cellular telephone or other personal communication device shall be secured by the support staff member and outside the view of others when the support staff member is performing assigned school district responsibilities.

An electronic communication by a support staff member on a non-school related, personal matter using a personal cellular telephone or other personal communication device shall not be made while the support staff member is performing assigned school district responsibilities.

In the event the support staff member has an emergency requiring immediate attention that requires such a communication while performing assigned school district responsibilities, the support staff member shall inform their Principal or immediate supervisor before or immediately after the communication, depending on the nature of the emergency. The Board of Education is not responsible if a support staff member's personal cellular telephone or other communication device is lost, stolen, or missing.

Adopted: 15 August 2017

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4324 RIGHT OF PRIVACY

The Board of Education will provide facilities and school district-owned property to assist support staff members in their job responsibilities or for the support staff members' convenience. These facilities or district-owned property may include, but are not limited to, an office, a storage closet, a filing cabinet, a locker, and/or a desk. The Principal or designee may provide a support staff member with exclusive use and access to such facilities or school district-owned property or may require the facility or school district-owned property be shared with other staff members. The support staff member may be provided a lock or key by the school district or may secure the facility or school district-owned property using their own locking device with permission from the Principal or designee, or immediate supervisor.

Support staff members should be aware their expectation of privacy in these facilities and/or the school district-owned property provided by the Board of Education is reduced by virtue of actual office practices and procedures, for searches conducted pursuant to an investigation of work-related employee misconduct, or by school district policies or regulations. In addition, support staff members shall have a reduced expectation of privacy in these facilities and school district-owned property if there is reasonable suspicion the support staff member is violating a law or school policy. Support staff members shall be on notice this reduced expectation of privacy may result in such facilities and/or school district-owned property being searched without a search warrant. In order to avoid exposing personal belongings to such a search, support staff members are discouraged from storing personal papers and effects in these facilities or school district-owned property.

The Board prohibits any audio or video recording of a support staff member or student by any student; other school staff member; visitor; or any other person while a support staff member is performing their Board-assigned job responsibilities without the prior approval of the support staff member's supervisor. In addition to protecting the privacy rights of all support staff members, such recordings may violate the privacy rights of students and support staff members and can be disruptive to the educational program. The support staff members' supervisor's prior approval for a person to make a video or audio recording of a support staff member or a school-sponsored activity is not required for a school-sponsored activity that is open to parents, family members, or other members of the public to attend. Such activities include, but are not limited to: curricular activities; co-curricular activities; athletic events; student programs; or any other school-sponsored activity.

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A person requesting prior approval to an audio or video record a support staff member or student that is not permitted in accordance with the provisions of this Policy, must submit a written request to the support staff member's supervisor. The supervisor will review the written request and provide the requester with a written decision. If a written approval is not provided by the supervisor to the person submitting the request prior to the requested recording date or event, the request shall be deemed denied and audio or video recording shall not be permitted.

Any person making an audio or video recording in violation of the provisions of this Policy shall be required to immediately cease making the recording to avoid violating the privacy rights of others. Any support staff member found to have violated the provisions of this Policy may be subject to discipline.

Adopted: December 12, 2023

POLICY

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Grievance**

4340 GRIEVANCE

The Board of Education shall develop and practice reasonable and effective means for the resolution of disputes that may arise in the employment of support staff members not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement.

The Board directs that any grievance not provided for by negotiated agreement be resolved by submission to the following grievance procedure, which is designed to promote proper and equitable settlement of grievances at the lowest appropriate level and to facilitate an orderly process for the resolution of grievances.

For the purposes of this policy, "grievance" means an unresolved problem concerning the application or interpretation by an officer or employee of this district of law, regulations of the State Board of Education, the bylaws or policies of the Board, or the administrative regulations of the Superintendent; "grievant" is a district employee who alleges a grievance or the employee's representative; "party" means the grievant or any person named in the grievance as allegedly having violated a law, bylaw, policy, or regulation; and "day" means a school day.

A grievant may use personal leave time when it becomes necessary to process a grievance during the working day. There will be no reprisal of any kind taken against any employee or employee's representative for participation in a grievance.

Any alleged grievance should, at the first instance, be discussed in one or more private, informal conferences between the parties involved or between the grievant and his/her immediate supervisor. A grievance not resolved in one or more such private meetings may be processed in accordance with the following procedure.

Level One

Within three working days of the occurrence of the act or omission giving rise to the grievance, the grievant must present his/her grievance in writing to the grievant's immediate supervisor. The written document will be a clear, concise statement of the grievance and will include the law, rule, policy, or regulation that the grievant alleges to have been violated; the factual circumstances on which the grievance is based; the person or persons involved; the decision, if any, rendered at the private conference; and the remedy sought.

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Within seven working days the supervisor shall present a decision to the grievant in writing. If the supervisor does not respond during the time permitted, the grievant may appeal to the next level.

Level Two

A grievant not satisfied with a decision at Level One may appeal that decision in writing to the Superintendent within three working days after receipt of the decision or the expiration of the time during which the decision must be rendered. The written appeal will include a copy of the original grievance; the decision rendered, if any; the name of the grievant's representative, if any; and a clear, concise statement of the reasons for the appeal of the decision.

The Superintendent shall present a decision to the grievant within seven working days. If no decision is rendered within that time limit, the grievant may appeal to the next level.

Level Three

A grievant not satisfied with a decision at Level Two may appeal that decision in writing to the Superintendent within three working days after receipt of the decision or the expiration of the time during which the decision must be rendered. The written appeal to the Superintendent will include copies of the original grievance, the appeal of that grievance at Level Two, and the decision, if any, rendered at Level Two. Within ten working days after the delivery of the appeal, the Superintendent shall investigate the grievance, giving all persons who participate in Levels One and Two a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

Within seven working days of the presentation of the appeal, the Superintendent shall submit a decision in writing together with the reasons that support that decision to the grievant and any other party to the grievance. If the Superintendent does not render a decision within that time limit, the grievant may appeal to the next level.

Level Four

A grievant not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision may appeal that decision in writing to the Board within three working days after the receipt of the decision or the expiration of the time during which the decision must be rendered. The written appeal to the Board will include copies of the original grievance, the appeal of that grievance at Level Two, and the decisions, if any, rendered at Levels Three and Four.

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Grievance

The Board shall schedule the grievance for hearing and may require the presence of a party to the grievance.

Within ten calendar days of the hearing, the Board shall submit its decision in writing together with reasons that support the decision to the grievant. A copy of the decision shall be given to the Superintendent and to any other party to the grievance.

The decision of the Board shall be final.

N.J.S.A. 34:13A-5.3

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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P 4351 HEALTHY WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENT

The Board of Education recognizes a healthy workplace environment enables school support staff members to fully contribute their expertise and skills to their school district responsibilities. A healthy workplace environment can improve productivity, reduce absenteeism, and reduce staff turnover while having a positive impact on the school district's programs provided to students in the school district.

A significant characteristic of a healthy workplace environment is that employees interact with each other with dignity and respect regardless of an employee's work assignment or position in the school district. Repeated malicious conduct of an employee or group of employees directed toward another employee or group of employees in the workplace that a reasonable person would find hostile or offensive is unacceptable and is not conducive to establishing or maintaining a healthy workplace environment. This unacceptable conduct may include, but is not limited to, repeated infliction of verbal abuse such as the use of derogatory remarks; insults; verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating; or the gratuitous sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance. A single act of such conduct shall not constitute the unacceptable conduct prohibited by this policy unless it is especially severe and egregious.

Unacceptable conduct, for the purposes of this policy, is not conduct toward an employee of a protected class or because of the employee's protected activity. These employees and activities are afforded the legal protections under various Federal and State anti-discrimination laws. In addition, unacceptable conduct for the purposes of this policy shall not be confused with conduct of management employees exercising management rights including, but not limited to, assigning tasks, reprimanding, assigning discipline, or directing.

Employees who believe the conduct prohibited by this policy has been directed toward them or to another employee of the school district shall submit a written report to the Superintendent of Schools. The written report shall provide specific details supporting the claim including, but not limited to, the specific conduct; the names of witnesses (if any) who may have observed such conduct; dates or times when such conduct occurred; and any other information the person(s) making the report believes will be informative and helpful to an investigation of the allegations. Upon receipt of a report, the Superintendent or designee will conduct an investigation and upon completion of the investigation will inform the person(s) who made the report such an investigation was completed. The amount of investigation information shared with the person(s) making the report will be at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee and may vary depending on whether the conduct reported was directed to the person(s) making the report, confidential personnel matters, and/or other issues as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

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If the investigation determines conduct prohibited by this policy has taken place, the Superintendent or designee will meet with the offender(s) and the victim(s) to review the investigation results and to implement remedial measures to ensure such conduct does not continue or reoccur. Appropriate disciplinary action may be taken depending on the severity of conduct.

There shall be no reprisals or retaliation against any person(s) who reports conduct prohibited by this policy.

Adopted: 15 August 2017

POLICY

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Sexual Harassment
M**

4352 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Board of Education recognizes that an employee's right to freedom from employment discrimination includes the opportunity to work in an environment untainted by sexual harassment. Sexually offensive speech and conduct are wholly inappropriate to the harmonious employment relationships necessary to the operation of the school district and intolerable in a workplace to which the children of this district are exposed.

Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and verbal or physical contacts of a sexual nature that would not have happened but for the employee's gender. Whenever submission to such conduct is made a condition of employment or a basis for an employment decision, or when such conduct is severe and pervasive and has the purpose or effect of unreasonably altering or interfering with work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment, the employee shall have cause for complaint.

The sexual harassment of any employee of this district is strictly forbidden. Any employee or agent of this Board who is found to have sexually harassed an employee of this district will be subject to discipline, which may include termination of employment. Any employee who has been exposed to sexual harassment by any employee or agent of this Board is encouraged to report the harassment to an appropriate supervisor. An employee may complain of any failure of the Board to take corrective action by recourse to the procedure by which a discrimination complaint is processed. The employee may appeal the Board's action or inaction to the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights or to the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Complaints regarding sexual harassment shall be submitted following the procedures outlined in Regulation 1530, Equal Employment Opportunity.

The Affirmative Action Officer shall instruct all employees of this Board to recognize and correct speech and behavior patterns that may be sexually offensive with or without the intent to offend.

29 C.F.R. 1604.11

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Support Staff Member Tenure

4360 SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER TENURE

The Board of Education directs that the tenure status of support staff members be determined only in accordance with law and this policy and such contractual terms as may have been negotiated with the employee's majority representative.

Persons employed as janitors, custodians, and maintenance personnel including supervisory personnel will be employed on fixed term contracts and will not acquire tenure in their positions.

The Board will not grant tenure to any employee for whom such tenure has not been provided in law.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-2; 18A:17-3

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Protection Against Retaliation

4381 PROTECTION AGAINST RETALIATION

The Board of Education will take no retaliatory action, by discharge, demotion, suspension, or any other adverse action, against an employee because that employee has conscientiously:

1. Disclosed or threatened to disclose to a supervisor or public body an activity, policy, or practice of this Board or any district officer that the employee reasonably believes to be in violation of law or rule;
2. Provided information to a public body conducting an investigation, hearing, or inquiry into any alleged violation of law by the Board or an officer of this district; or
3. Objected to or refused to participate in an activity, policy, or practice of this district that the employee reasonably believes to be in violation of law or rule, fraudulent, criminal, or incompatible with a clear mandate of public policy concerning the public health, safety, or welfare or protection of the environment.

An employee who has reason to believe that the Board has engaged in an illegal activity or an activity contrary to public policy must report that belief in writing to the Superintendent before notice is given to a supervisor or a public body. The Superintendent shall promptly report the same to the Board and institute an investigation of the reported activity. The findings of the investigation will be reported in writing to the Board and to the employee.

The protection of law and this policy apply only to employees who have given notice in accordance with this policy and have afforded the Board a reasonable period of time to take any corrective action that may be required or have acted in circumstances that the employee believes in good faith constitute an emergency.

The Superintendent shall post notice of this policy and inform employees of their rights under the New Jersey Conscientious Employee Protection Act.

N.J.S.A. 34:19-1

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Compensation

4410 COMPENSATION

The Board of Education will establish the compensation for support staff members not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement or in an individual contract with the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-6; 18A:16-11

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Overtime Compensation

4413 OVERTIME COMPENSATION

The Board of Education will compensate overtime work in accordance with law.
"Overtime work" means work in excess of forty hours in a single workweek,

No overtime shall be worked without the express advance approval of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and/or Superintendent.

29 U.S.C.A. 207(o)
29 U.S.C.A. 207(p)
N.J.S.A. 34:11-56(a)4

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Substitute Wages

4415 SUBSTITUTE WAGES

In order to ensure reliable assistance in the absence of regular support staff employees, the Board of Education will offer competitive compensation to qualified substitute secretaries, clerks, custodians, maintenance workers, bus drivers, teacher aides, and cafeteria workers. In no instance shall the wages paid a substitute exceed the wages paid the regular employee.

Substitute support staff members will be paid at a per diem rate set by the Board.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Benefits

4420 BENEFITS

The Board of Education reserves the right to establish benefits for support staff members not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement or in an individual contract with the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-6; 18A:16-12 et seq.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

POLICY

**ROCKAWAY BOROUGH
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS
4421.13 POSTNATAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

4421.13 POSTNATAL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Board of Education recognizes support staff members may be returning to work shortly after their child's birth and may need to express breast milk during the workday. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) amended Section 7 of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) for nursing mothers to be permitted reasonable break times and a private location to express breast milk for their nursing child for one year after the child's birth.

Every employee position in the school district is designated as either "non-exempt" or "exempt" by the provisions of the FLSA. Generally, a support staff member entitled to overtime pay is designated as "non-exempt." A support staff member that performs duties that are executive, administrative, or professional in nature and not entitled to overtime pay is designated "exempt." The school district administration shall refer to the comprehensive definitions of "exempt" and "non-exempt" as outlined in 29 C.F.R. 541 et seq. in determining an employee's designation.

A Board of Education is required to provide reasonable break times to non-exempt support staff members to express breast milk for their nursing child. The non-exempt support staff member shall coordinate such breaks with their immediate supervisor. The non-exempt support staff member will not receive compensation during this break time unless the break time is during a non-exempt support staff member's compensated break time.

A Board of Education is not required under the FLSA to provide such breaks to exempt support staff members. However, exempt support staff members may take such breaks provided the breaks are coordinated with their immediate supervisor. If this break is taken during the exempt support staff member's duty free lunch period or duty free break period during the workday, the exempt support staff member will not be reduced in compensation.

The Principal or the nursing mother's immediate supervisor, in consultation with the school nurse, will designate a lactation room that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public. The location must be functional as a space for expressing breast milk and shall include an electrical outlet, a chair, and nearby access to running water. If the space is not dedicated to the nursing mother's use, it must be available when needed. A space temporarily converted into a lactation room or made available when needed by a nursing mother is sufficient; however, a bathroom, even if private, is not a permissible location under the FLSA.

All exempt and non-exempt support staff members are required to sign-out of work to begin the break to express breast milk and shall sign-in when they return to work after the break. The break shall be for a reasonable amount of time. For compensation purposes, the immediate supervisor shall forward all sign-in and sign-out information relative to break times for nursing mothers under the FLSA to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

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Fair Labor Standards Act – 29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – P.L. 111-148
N.J.S.A. 26:4C-1 through 26:4C-3

Adopted: May 6, 2020

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Work Related Disability Pay

4425 WORK RELATED DISABILITY PAY

The Board of Education will permit, in accordance with law, the absence without loss of pay or of annual or accumulated sick leave benefits of a support staff member disabled by accident or injury arising out of and in the course of employment. Any such employee shall seek the workers' compensation benefits to which he/she is entitled by law.

An employee whose disability has qualified for the receipt of workers' compensation benefits shall be presumed eligible for work related disability pay under this policy. When an employee's disability is as brief as to preclude the employee's application for worker's compensation benefits, the employee may request and the Board may grant work related disability pay.

Any employee who qualified for work related disability pay under this policy shall receive full pay during the period he/she is on disability leave of absence, up to twelve consecutive months.

As a condition of receiving full salary, an employee who receives workers' compensation benefits for his/her work-related disability must endorse and deliver to the Board all workers' compensation temporary disability checks received for the period covered by this policy.

N.J.S.A. 18A:30-2.1; 18A:66-32.1
N.J.S.A. 34:15-38

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

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Modified Duty Early Return to Work
Program – Support Staff Members

4425.1 MODIFIED DUTY EARLY RETURN TO WORK PROGRAM – SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

New Jersey's workers' compensation laws provide lost wages and pay medical expenses for an employee who sustains an injury as a result of an on-the-job accident, injury, or occupational disease. Workers' compensation is designed to protect school district employees and their families against the hardships from injury arising in the workplace. In an effort to assist school staff in recovering from an eligible workers' compensation injury, the Board provides a Modified Duty Early Return To Work Program. The Program is provided to staff members who have been injured on the job, but who are not permanently disabled. The Program is intended to minimize the negative psychological impact to an injured staff member due to being out of work and to provide a transition and adjustment period for the injured staff member to return to work while recovering from an on-the-job injury.

The school district may assign temporary modified duties and responsibilities to staff members that have sustained an eligible workers' compensation injury. These employees may temporarily perform duties and responsibilities that may or may not be within their job description, or may or may not be within their department. The modified duties and/or responsibilities will be within the injured staff member's capabilities and a staff member will not be assigned any modified duties and/or responsibilities that require any certifications/licenses that are not possessed by the injured staff member.

The modified duties and responsibilities will be determined by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, the district's designated Workers' Compensation Coordinator, after a medical examination and evaluation of the injured staff member by the Board's designated workers' compensation physician. The Workers' Compensation Coordinator will determine if the injured staff member is eligible for modified duties or responsibilities. This determination will be based on:

1. The workers' compensation physician's examination and evaluation report;
2. The injured staff member's capabilities to assume modified duties or responsibilities;

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Modified Duty Early Return to Work
Program – Support Staff Members**

3. The availability of modified duties and responsibilities within the district at the time; and/or
4. Other issues that may impact the district's ability to assign modified duties and responsibilities.

This Modified Duty Early Return to Work Program will be administered consistent with applicable federal and State laws and in accordance with provisions of collective bargaining agreements within the district.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

POLICY

ABOLISHED

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Family Leave

4431.1 FAMILY LEAVE

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Family Leave

A. Introduction

The Board will provide family leave in accordance with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA).

FMLA leave for eligible staff members shall be up to twelve weeks leave of absence in a any twelve month period upon advance notice to the district for the birth of a son or daughter of the staff member and in order to care for such son or daughter; for the placement of a son or daughter with the staff member for adoption or foster care; in order to care for the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the staff member if such spouse, son, daughter, or parent has a serious health condition; or for a serious health condition that makes the staff member unable to perform the functions of the position of such staff member, or because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a military member on active duty or call to covered active duty status (or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty). In addition, eligible employees may take up to a combined total of twenty-six workweeks in a single twelve month period to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

NJFLA leave for eligible staff members shall be up to twelve weeks leave of absence in any twenty-four month period upon advance notice to the district so that a staff member may provide care made necessary by the birth of a child of the staff member, the placement of a child with the staff member in connection with adoption of such child by the staff member, and the serious health condition of a spouse, parent, or child.

B. Applicability

The Board will comply with requirements of the New Jersey and Federal Family Leave laws. The laws have similar and different provisions that may provide different rights and obligations for the staff member and/or the Board. The staff member shall be afforded the most favorable rights if there is a conflict in the rights afforded to the staff member under the two laws.

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1. If the staff member is eligible for leave for reasons provided under the FMLA and NJFLA, then the time taken shall be concurrent and be applied to both laws.
2. The NJFLA provides twelve weeks leave in a twenty-four month period while the FMLA provides twelve weeks leave in a twelve-month period. A staff member is eligible for up to twelve weeks leave in the first twelve months of the twenty-four month period under the NJFLA. A staff member is eligible for up to twelve weeks leave in the second twelve-month period under the FMLA.
3. In the event the reason for the family leave is recognized under one law and not the other law, the staff member is eligible for each law's leave entitlements within one twelve-month period. (Example: A staff member may use their FMLA leave for a twelve week family leave for their own pregnancy, which is considered a "serious health condition" under FMLA, and upon conclusion of the twelve week FMLA leave, the staff member would be eligible for a twelve week NJFLA leave to care for their newborn or any other reasons pursuant to the NJFLA.)

C. Definitions

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

"Contingency operation" means a military operation that results in the call or order to, or retention on, active duty of members of the uniformed services during a war or during a national emergency declared by the President or Congress.

"Covered active duty" or "call to covered active duty" means duty during deployment of a member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country and, in the case of a member of the Reserve components of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country under a Federal call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation.

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“Covered service member” means a current member of the Armed Forces (including National Guard or Reserves), who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness; or a covered veteran undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness.

“Covered veteran” means an individual who was a member of the Armed Forces (including National Guard or Reserves), discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible staff member takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran. For a veteran discharged prior to March 8, 2013, the effective date of the FMLA Final Rule, the period between October 28, 2009 and March 8, 2013 will not count towards the determination of the five-year period. 29 CFR 825.127(b) (2)

“Military caregiver leave” means leave taken to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness under FMLA. 29 CFR 825.127.

“Next of kin of a covered service member” means the nearest blood relative other than the covered service member’s spouse, parent, son, or daughter, in the following order of priority: blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the covered service member by court decree or statutory provisions, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and first cousins, unless the covered service member has specifically designated in writing another blood relative as his or her nearest blood relative for purposes of military caregiver leave under the FMLA. When no such designation is made, and there are multiple family members with the same level of relationship to the covered service member, all such family members shall be considered the covered service member’s next of kin and may take FMLA leave to provide care to the covered service member, either consecutively or simultaneously. When such designation has been made, the designated individual shall be deemed to be the covered service member’s only next of kin. For example, if a covered

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service member has three siblings and has not designated a blood relative to provide care, all three siblings would be considered the covered service member's next of kin. Alternatively, where a covered service member has a sibling(s) and designates a cousin as his or her next of kin for FMLA purposes, then only the designated cousin is eligible as the covered service member's next of kin. An employer is permitted to require an employee to provide confirmation of covered family relationship to the covered service member pursuant to 29 CFR 825.122(k). 29 CFR 825.127(d) (3)

“Outpatient status” means, with respect to a covered service member who is a current member of the Armed Forces, the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to either a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients. 29 CFR 825.127(b) (1)

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

“Parent of a covered service member” means a covered service member's biological, adoptive, step or foster father or mother, or any other individual who stood in loco parentis to the covered service member. This term does not include parents “in law.”

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

“Serious injury or illness,” only in the case of a veteran or current member of the Armed Forces, means:

- a.** In the case of a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, an injury or illness that was incurred by the covered service member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces or that existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces and that may render the service member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating; and
- b.** In the case of a covered veteran, an injury or illness that was incurred by the member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces (or existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces) and manifested itself before or after the member became a veteran, and is:
 - (1)** A continuation of a serious injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated when the covered veteran was a member of the Armed Forces and rendered the service member unable to perform the duties of the service member's office, grade, rank, or rating; or

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- (2) A physical or mental condition for which the covered veteran has received a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Service-Related Disability Rating (VASRD) of fifty percent or greater, and such VASRD rating is based, in whole or in part, on the condition precipitating the need for military caregiver leave; or
- (3) A physical or mental condition that substantially impairs the covered veteran's ability to secure or follow a substantially gainful occupation by reason of a disability or disabilities related to military service, or would do so absent treatment; or
- (4) An injury, including a psychological injury, on the basis of which the covered veteran has been enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. 29 CFR 825.127(c)

“Single twelve-month period” means that a military caregiver’s leave begins on the first day the staff member takes FMLA leave and ends twelve months after that date, regardless of the twelve-month period established by the district for other FMLA leave reasons. 29 CFR 825.127(e) (1)

“Son” or “daughter” means a biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is either under age eighteen or age eighteen or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability at the time that FMLA leave is to commence.

“Son or daughter of the covered service member” means a covered service member’s biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child for whom the covered service member stood in loco parentis, and who is of any age. 29 CFR 825.127(d) (1)

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“Son or daughter on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status” means the staff member's biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child for whom the staff member stood in loco parentis, who is on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status, and who is of any age. 29 CFR 825.126(a) (5)

“Spouse” means a husband or wife. For purposes of this definition, husband or wife refers to the other person with whom an individual entered into marriage as defined or recognized under State law in the State in which the marriage was entered into or, in the case of a marriage entered into outside of any State, if the marriage is valid in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least one State. This definition includes an individual in a same-sex marriage or common law marriage. 29 CFR 825.122

“Staff member” means an employee eligible for family and medical leave in accordance with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

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

2. New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA)

“Child” means a biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, child of a parent who is under eighteen years of age or a child eighteen years of age or older but incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical impairment.

“Continuing medical treatment” or “continuing supervision by a health care provider” means a period of incapacity or a period of absence in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:14.

“Parent” **means** a biological, adoptive, or foster parent; step- parent; parent-in-law; a legal guardian having a “parent-child relationship” with a child as defined by law; or a person who has sole or joint legal or physical custody, care, guardianship, or visitation with a child.

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“Serious health condition” **means** an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that requires inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical facility or continuing medical treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider.

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

“Staff member” **means** an employee eligible for family leave in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave

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

D. Eligibility

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

A staff member shall become eligible for FMLA leave after he/she has been employed at least twelve months in this district and employed for at least 1250 hours of service during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave. The twelve months the staff member must have been employed need not be consecutive months pursuant to 29 CFR 825.110(b). The minimum 1250 hours of service shall be determined according to the principles established under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FSLA) for determining compensable hours of work pursuant to 29 CFR 785. Entitlement to FMLA leave taken for the birth of a son or daughter or placement of a son or daughter with the staff member for adoption or foster care shall expire at the end of the twelve-month period beginning on the date of such birth or placement.

Pursuant to 29 CFR 825.201, a husband and wife both employed by the district are limited to a combined total of twelve weeks of leave during the twelve-month period if the leave is taken for the birth of a son or daughter of the staff member or to care for such son or daughter after birth; for placement of a son or daughter with the staff member for adoption or foster care or in order to care for the son **or daughter after placement**; or **to care for** the staff member’s **parent** with a serious health condition.

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The method to determine the twelve-month period in which the twelve weeks of FMLA leave entitlement occurs will be

___ - the calendar year.

X - a school year.

___ - the staff member's employment anniversary date.

___ - the twelve-month period measured forward from when the staff member's first leave begins.

___ - a "rolling" twelve-month period measured backward from the date a staff member uses any family leave.]

A staff member during any period of FMLA leave is prohibited from performing any services on a full-time basis for any person for whom the staff member did not provide services immediately prior to commencement of the leave. A staff member using FMLA leave may commence part-time employment that shall not exceed half the regularly scheduled hours worked for the district. The staff member may continue the part-time employment that commenced prior to the FMLA leave at the same number of hours that the staff member was regularly scheduled prior to such leave.

2. New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA)

A staff member shall become eligible for NJFLA leave after he/she has been employed at least twelve months in this district for not less than 1,000 base hours, excluding overtime, during the immediate preceding twelve month period. The calculation of the twelve-month period to determine eligibility shall commence with the commencement of the NJFLA leave. NJFLA leave taken for the birth or adoption of a healthy child may commence at any time within a year after the date of the birth or placement for adoption.

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The district shall grant a family leave under NJFLA to more than one staff member from the same family (for example, a husband and a wife, or a brother and a sister) at the same time, provided such staff members are otherwise eligible for the leave. N.J.A.C. 13:14-1.12

A staff member during any period of the NJFLA leave is prohibited from performing any services on a full-time basis for any person for whom the staff member did not provide services immediately prior to commencement of the leave. A staff member on NJFLA leave may commence part-time employment that shall not exceed half the regularly scheduled hours worked for the district. The staff member may continue the part-time employment that commenced prior to the NJFLA leave at the same number of hours that the staff member was regularly scheduled prior to such leave.

The method to determine the twenty-four month period in which the twelve weeks of NJFLA leave entitlement occurs will be

___ - the calendar year.

X - a school year.

___ - the staff member's employment anniversary date.

___ - the twenty-four month period measured forward from when the staff member's first leave begins.

___ - a "rolling" twenty-four month period measured backward from the date a staff member uses any leave.]

E. Types of Leave

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

A staff member may take FMLA leave **to include service member qualifying exigency leave or military caregiver leave** in consecutive weeks, as intermittent leave, or as reduced leave. A staff member who requests intermittent or reduced leave shall make a reasonable effort to schedule such leave so as not to unduly disrupt the instructional/educational program.

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- a. Leave for the birth of a son or daughter or placement of a son or daughter with the staff member for adoption or foster care **may** be taken by a staff member intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule.
- b. Leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary for planned and/or unanticipated medical treatment of a related serious health condition by or under the supervision of a health care provider, or for recovery from treatment or recovery from a serious health condition.
- c. Intermittent leave means leave scheduled for periods of time from one hour or more to several weeks; however, the total time within which the leave is taken cannot exceed a twelve month period for each serious health condition episode. Intermittent leave may be taken for a serious health condition that requires periodic treatment by a health care provider, rather than one continuous period of time. Intermittent leave may also be taken for absences where the staff member is incapacitated or unable to perform the essential functions of the position because of a serious health condition even if the staff member does not receive treatment by a health care provider. The staff member shall make a reasonable effort to schedule intermittent leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the instructional/educational program.
- d. Reduced leave means leave scheduled for fewer than the staff member's usual number of hours worked per workweek, but not fewer than a staff member's usual number of hours worked per workday, unless otherwise agreed to by the staff member and the district. A staff member is entitled, at the option of the staff member, to take leave on a reduced leave schedule not exceeding twenty-four consecutive weeks. The staff member shall make a reasonable effort to schedule reduced leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the instructional/educational program. The staff member shall

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provide the district prior notice of the care, medical treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider necessary due to a serious health condition of a family member in a manner that is reasonable and practicable. Leave taken on a reduced leave schedule shall not result in a reduction of the total amount of leave to which a staff member is entitled.

- e. The fact that a holiday may occur within the week taken by a staff member as Family Leave has no effect and the week is counted as a week of Family Leave. However, if the staff member is out on Family Leave and the school district is closed and the staff member would not be expected to report for work for one or more weeks, the weeks the school district is closed for this staff member do not count against the staff member's family leave entitlement.

Any leave time remaining after a staff member has exhausted his/her entitlement to intermittent leave in any twelve month period may be taken as consecutive leave or reduced leave, and any leave time remaining after a staff member has exhausted his/her entitlement to reduced leave in any twelve month period may be taken as consecutive leave or intermittent leave.

- f. Service member qualifying exigency leave may arise out of the foreign deployment of the staff member's spouse, child, or parent 29 CFR 825.122 and 126:
 - (1) The district must grant an eligible staff member up to twelve work weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave during a twelve-month period for qualifying exigencies that arise when the staff member's spouse, child, or parent is on covered active duty, or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty.
 - (2) The military member must be the spouse, son, daughter, or parent, of the staff member taking FMLA exigency leave.

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- (3)** FMLA leave can be granted for one or more of the following exigencies:
 - (a)** Short-notice deployment:
 - i.** Notification of duty seven or less calendar days prior to date of deployment;
 - ii.** Leave can be used for a period of seven calendar days beginning on the date the military member is notified.
 - (b)** Military events and related activities, including official ceremonies, programs, or events sponsored by the military and related to the covered active duty or call to covered active duty status of the military member; and to attend family support or assistance programs and informational briefings sponsored or promoted by the military, military service organizations, or the American Red Cross.
 - (c)** Childcare and school activities including arranging for alternative childcare; providing childcare on an urgent, immediate need basis (not routine, regular, or everyday basis); to enroll in or transfer to a new school or day care facility; or to attend meetings with staff at a school or day care facility:
 - i.** The son or daughter must be the son or daughter of the covered service member.

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- (d) Financial and legal arrangements made to address the military member's absence while on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status.
 - (e) Counseling, provided by someone other than a health care provider for oneself, for the military member, or qualified child, if the need arises from the covered active duty or call to covered active duty status of the military member.
 - (f) Rest and Recuperation (R&R) to spend time with the military member on short-term, temporary R&R leave during a term of deployment:
 - i. Can be used for a period of fifteen calendar days beginning on the date the military member commences each instance of R&R leave.
 - (g) Post-deployment activities such as ceremonies or briefings including any that arise from the death of the military member while on covered active duty.
 - (h) Parental care for one meeting the definition of a "parent" and incapable of self-care including: arranging alternative care; providing care on an immediate need basis; and to attend meetings or arrange services at a care facility.
 - (i) Additional activities in accordance with 29 CFR 825.126(b) (9).
- g. Military caregiver leave provides care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness 29 CFR 825.122 and 127:

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- (1) The district must grant up to a total of twenty-six workweeks of unpaid, job-protected leave during a “single twelve-month period” to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.
 - (a) The eligible staff member must be the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of the covered service member.
 - (b) The staff member is limited to a combined total of twenty-six workweeks for any FMLA- qualifying reasons during the single twelve- month period. Up to twelve of the twenty-six weeks may be for an FMLA-qualifying reason other than military caregiver leave.
 - (c) Spouses who are eligible for FMLA leave and are employed by the same covered employer may be limited to a combined total of twenty-six workweeks of leave during a single twelve-month period if the leave is taken for birth of the employee's son or daughter or to care for the child after birth, for placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care, or to care for the child after placement, to care for the employee's parent with a serious health condition, or to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness. If one spouse is ineligible for FMLA leave, the other spouse would be entitled to a full twenty-six workweeks of FMLA leave.
- (2) Leave entitlement is applied on a per-covered- service member, per-injury basis.

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- (a) The staff member may take an additional twenty-six weeks of leave if the leave is to care for different covered service members or to care for the same service member with a subsequent serious injury or illness, except that no more than twenty-six weeks of leave may be taken within any single twelve-month period.
- (b) An eligible staff member may take military caregiver leave to care for more than one current service member or covered veteran at the same time or for the same family member with the same serious injury or illness both when the family member is a current service member and when the family member is a veteran.
- (c) Military caregiver leave may be taken by eligible staff members whose family members are recent veterans with serious injuries or illnesses incurred or aggravated in the line of duty on active duty, and that manifested before or after the veteran left active duty.

2. New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA)

A staff member may take NJFLA leave in consecutive weeks, as intermittent leave, or as reduced leave. A staff member who requests intermittent or reduced leave shall make a reasonable effort to schedule such leave so as not to unduly disrupt the instructional/educational program. The district shall not require a staff member to take a leave of absence beyond the period of time the staff member requests family leave. N.J.A.C. 13:14-1.5(f)

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- a. In the case of a family member who has a serious health condition, leave may be taken intermittently when medically necessary. The total time within which the leave is taken, cannot exceed a twelve-month period for each serious health condition episode. The staff member will provide the district with prior notice of the leave in a manner which is reasonable and practicable; and the staff member shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the instructional/educational program. In the case of the birth or adoption of a healthy child, the leave may be taken intermittently only if agreed to by the staff member and the district.

- b. Reduced leave means leave scheduled for fewer than the staff member's usual number of hours worked per workweek, but not fewer than a staff member's usual number of hours worked per workday, unless otherwise agreed to by the staff member and the district. A staff member is entitled, at the option of the staff member, to take leave on a reduced leave schedule for a period not exceeding twenty-four consecutive weeks. The staff member is not entitled to take the leave on a reduced leave schedule without an agreement between the staff member and the district if the leave is taken for the birth or adoption of a healthy child. The staff member shall make a reasonable effort to schedule reduced leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the instructional/educational program. The staff member shall provide the district prior notice of the care, medical treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider necessary due to a serious health condition of a family member in a manner that is reasonable and practicable. Leave taken on a reduced leave schedule shall not result in a reduction of the total amount of leave to which a staff member is entitled.

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- c. The fact that a holiday may occur within the week taken by a staff member as family leave has no effect and the week is counted as a week of family leave. However, if the staff member is out on family leave and the school district is closed and the staff member would not be expected to report for work for one or more weeks, the weeks the school district is closed for this staff member do not count against the staff member's family leave entitlement.

Any leave time remaining after a staff member has exhausted his/her entitlement to intermittent leave in any twelve month period may be taken as consecutive leave or reduced leave, and any leave time remaining after a staff member has exhausted his/her entitlement to reduced leave in any twelve month period may be taken as consecutive leave or intermittent leave.

F. Notice

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

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

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When planning medical treatment, the staff member must consult with the Building Principal and make a reasonable effort to schedule the leave so as not to unduly disrupt the educational program, subject to the approval of the health care provider. Staff members are ordinarily expected to consult with the Building Principal prior to scheduling of treatment that would require leave for a schedule that best suits the needs of the district and the staff member.

The district may delay the staff member taking leave for at least thirty days if the staff member fails to give thirty days' notice for foreseeable leave with no reasonable excuse for the delay.

- b. Unforeseeable Leave - When the approximate timing of the need for leave is not foreseeable, a staff member should give notice to the Building Principal and/or Superintendent for leave as soon as practicable under the facts and circumstances of the particular case. It is expected the staff member will give notice to the Building Principal and/or Superintendent within no more than one or two working days of learning of the need for leave, except in extraordinary circumstances where such notice is not foreseeable. The staff member should provide notice to the employer either in person or by telephone, telegraph, facsimile machine or other electronic means.

2. New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA)

- a. Foreseeable Leave - A staff member eligible for NJFLA leave must give at least a thirty day advance written notice to the Building Principal and/or Superintendent of the need to take family leave except where the need to take family leave is not foreseeable.
 - (1) Notice for leave to be taken for the birth or placement of the child for adoption shall be given at least thirty days prior to the commencement of the leave, except that if the date of the birth or adoption requires leave to begin in less than thirty days, the **staff member** shall provide such notice that is reasonable and practicable.

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- (2) Notice for leave to be taken for the serious health condition of a family member shall be given at least fifteen days prior to the commencement of leave, except that if the date of the treatment or supervision requires leave to begin in less than fifteen days, the staff member shall provide such notice that is reasonable and practicable.
- (3) When the is not made aware that a staff member was absent for family leave reasons and the staff member wants to request the leave be counted as family leave, the staff member must provide timely notice within two business days of returning to work to have the time considered for family leave in accordance with the Family Leave Act.

- b. Unforeseeable Leave - When the need for leave is not foreseeable, the staff member must provide notice “as soon as practicable” which shall be at least verbal notice to the Building Principal and/or Superintendent within one or two business days of the staff member learning of the need to take family leave. Whenever emergent circumstances make written notice impracticable, the staff member may give verbal notice to the Building Principal and/or Superintendent, but any verbal notice must be followed by written notice delivered within _____ working days.

G. Leave Designation

An eligible staff member shall designate FMLA or NJFLA leave upon providing notice of the need for the leave or when the need for leave commences. The Superintendent and/or Business Administrator shall provide the staff member with this Policy to assist the staff member in determining the type of leave.

H. Benefits

Whether a staff member is required to use sick time or any other accrued leave time concurrent with FMLA or NJFLA leave time will depend upon either the district’s practice or a provision in the district’s collective bargaining agreement, if applicable. 29 CFR 825.100

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The Board will maintain coverage under any group health insurance policy, group subscriber contract, or health care plan at the level and under the conditions coverage would have been provided if the staff member had continued to work instead of taking the leave. If the staff member was paying all or part of the premium payments prior to the leave, the staff member would continue to pay his/her share during the leave time. Any ten month staff member who is on leave under NJFLA or FMLA at the end of the school year will be provided with any benefits over the summer that the **staff member** would normally receive if they had been working at the end of the school year.

I. Returning from Leave

The Federal Family and Medical Leave Act and/or the New Jersey Family Leave Act

A staff member returning from leave shall be entitled to the position he/she held when leave commenced or to an equivalent position of like seniority, status, employment benefits, pay and other conditions of employment. If the district experiences a reduction in force or layoff and the staff member would have lost his/her position had the staff member not been on family leave as a result of the reduction in force or pursuant to the good faith operation of a bona fide layoff and recall system including a system under any collective bargaining agreement, the staff member shall be entitled to reinstatement to the former or an equivalent position in accordance with applicable statutes, codes, and laws. The staff member's tenure and seniority rights, if any, and other benefits shall be preserved, but the staff member shall accrue no additional time toward tenure or seniority for the period of the leave, except as may be provided by law.

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The return of a staff member prior to the expiration of the requested family leave may be permitted by the Board if the return does not unduly disrupt the instructional program or require the Board to incur the cost of continuing the employment of a substitute under contract.

The Board may, in accordance with the provisions of 29 CFR 825.312 delay restoration of employment of a staff member using FMLA leave for the staff member's serious health condition until the staff member submits a fitness-for-duty examination from his/her health care provider indicating that the staff member is able to resume work. In the event the Board requires such a fitness-for-duty examination before restoration of the staff member after leave, the Board will provide the staff member specific notice either at the time the staff member gives notice of the need for leave or immediately after the leave commences and the staff member advises the Board of the medical circumstances for the leave.

If leave is taken under FMLA, and the staff member does not return to work after the leave expires, the Board is entitled to recover health insurance costs paid while the staff member was on FMLA. The Board's right to recover premiums would not apply if the staff member fails to return to work due to:

1. The continuation, onset or recurrence of a serious health condition of the staff member; or
2. Circumstances beyond the staff member's control.

J. Ineligible Staff Members

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The district may deny job restoration after FMLA leave if the staff member is a "key employee" as defined in 29 CFR 825.217 if such denial is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the district or the district may delay restoration to a staff member who fails to provide a fitness for duty certificate to return to work for leave that was the staff member's own serious health condition. A "key employee" is a salaried, staff member who is among the highest paid ten percent of the school district staff employed by the district within 75 miles of the worksite. No more than ten percent of the school district staff within 75 miles of the worksite may be "key employees."

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In the event the Superintendent believes that reinstatement may be denied to a key employee, the Superintendent must give written notice to the staff member at the time the staff member gives notice of the need for leave, or when the need for leave commences, if earlier, that he/she qualifies as a key employee. The key employee must be fully informed of the potential consequences with respect to reinstatement and maintenance of health benefits if the district should determine that substantial and grievous economic injury to the district's operations will result if the staff member is reinstated from leave. The district's notice must explain the basis for the district's finding that substantial and grievous economic injury will result, and if leave has commenced, must provide the staff member a reasonable time in which to return to work. If the staff member on leave does not return to work in response to the notice of intent to deny restoration, the staff member continues to be entitled to maintenance of health insurance.

A key employee's rights under the FMLA continue unless and until the staff member either gives notice that he/she no longer wishes to return to work or the district actually denies reinstatement at the conclusion of the leave period. A staff member is still entitled to request reinstatement at the end of the leave period even if the staff member did not return to work in response to the district's notice. The district will then again determine whether there will be substantial and grievous economic injury from reinstatement based on the facts at that time. If it is determined that substantial and grievous economic injury will result, the district will notify the staff member in writing (in person or by certified mail) of the denial of the restoration.

2. New Jersey Family Leave Act

The district may deny family leave to the staff member if the staff member is a salaried employee who is among the highest paid five percent of the school district staff or one of the seven highest paid employees of the district, whichever is greater, if the denial is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the school district's operations. The Superintendent shall notify the staff member of the intent to deny the leave at the time

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the Superintendent determines the denial is necessary. If the leave has already commenced at the time of the district's notification of denial, the staff member shall be permitted to return to work within ten working days of the date of notification.

K. Verification of Leave

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The Board requires a staff member's FMLA leave to care for the staff member's seriously ill spouse, son, daughter, or parent,; or for a service member's qualifying exigency or serious injury; or for illness due to the staff member's own serious health condition, that makes the staff member unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of the staff member's position, be supported by a certification issued by the health care provider of the staff member or the staff member's ill family member. The medical certification required encompasses both physical and psychological care and includes situations where a family member is unable to care for his/her own basic medical, hygienic, or nutritional needs or safety, or is unable to transport himself/herself to the doctor. It can also include providing psychological comfort and reassurance beneficial to a child, spouse, or parent with a serious health condition who is receiving inpatient or home care and can include situations where the staff member may be needed to substitute for others who normally care for the family member or covered service member or to make arrangements for changes in care. The staff member need not be the only individual or family member available to care for the family member or covered service member. 29 CFR 825.124

The certification must meet the requirements of 29 CFR 825.306, 309, and 310 to include: which part of the definition of "serious health condition" applies; the approximate date the serious health condition commenced and its probable duration; whether it will be necessary for the staff member to take intermittent and/or reduced leave; whether the patient is presently incapacitated and the likely duration and frequency of episodes of incapacity; if additional treatments will be required for the condition; and/or if the patient's incapacity will

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be intermittent or will require reduced leave. The certification of a serious health condition of a family member of the staff member shall be sufficient if it states the date on which the condition commenced, the probable duration of the condition, and the medical facts within the provider's knowledge regarding the condition. Certification for the birth or placement of a child need only state the date of birth or date of placement.

In the event the Superintendent doubts the validity of the certification, in accordance with 29 CFR Section 825.307, the district may require, at the district's expense, the staff member obtain an opinion regarding the serious health condition from a second health care provider designated by the district, but not employed on a regular basis by the district. If the second opinion differs from the staff member's health care provider, the district may require, at the district's expense, the staff member obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated by the district or approved jointly, in good faith, by the district and the staff member. The opinion of the third health care provider shall be final and binding on the district and the staff member.

The district may require re-certification pursuant to the requirements of 30 CFR 825.308. In accordance with 29 CFR 825.309, the staff member on leave must provide a written report to the Superintendent every thirty workdays. The report shall include the staff member's status and intended date to return to work. In the event the staff member's circumstances change, the staff member must provide reasonable notice to the Superintendent if the staff member intends to return to work on a date sooner than previously noticed to the district. The staff member is not required to take more leave than necessary to resolve the circumstance that precipitated the need for leave. As a condition of returning to work after the leave for the staff member's own serious health condition, and in accordance with 29 CFR 825.310, the district requires a staff member to provide a certification from their health care provider that the staff member is able to resume work.

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In accordance with 29 CFR 825.311, the district may delay the taking of FMLA leave to a staff member who fails to provide certification within fifteen days after being requested to do so by the district. In accordance with 29 CFR 825.312, the district may delay the taking of leave until thirty days after the date the staff member provides notice to the district of foreseeable leave or the district may delay continuation of leave if a staff member fails to provide a requested medical certification in a timely manner.

2. New Jersey Family Leave Act

The Board shall require the certification of a duly licensed health care provider verifying the purpose of requested NJFLA leave. Certification of a serious health condition of a family member of the staff member shall be sufficient if it states the date on which the condition commenced, the probable duration of the condition, and the medical facts within the provider's knowledge regarding the condition. Certification for the birth or placement of a child need only state the date of birth or date of placement, whichever is appropriate.

In the event the Superintendent doubts the validity of the certification for the serious health condition of a family member of the staff member, the district may require, at the district's expense, the staff member to obtain an opinion regarding the serious health condition from a second health care provider designated or approved, but not employed on a regular basis, by the district. If the second opinion differs from the certification the district may require, at the district's expense, that the staff member obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the district and the staff member concerning the serious health condition. The opinion of the third health care provider shall be final and binding on the district and the staff member.

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L. Interference with Family Leave Rights

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

M. Non-Tenured Staff Member

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

N. Record Keeping

In order that staff member's entitlement to FMLA leave and NJFLA leave can be properly determined, the Superintendent shall ensure the keeping of accurate attendance records that distinguish family leave from other kinds of leave. The Superintendent will publish a notice explaining the Act's provisions and provide information concerning the procedures for filing complaints of violations of the FMLA and NJFLA.

O. Processing of Complaints

1. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) 29 CFR 825.400-401

- a.** If there is a dispute between the district and a staff member as to whether leave qualifies as FMLA leave, it should be resolved through discussion between the staff member and the district. Such discussions and the decision shall be documented by the school district.

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New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program

4431.3 NEW JERSEY'S FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE PROGRAM

Board of Education employees are eligible to apply for benefits under New Jersey's Family Leave Insurance Program administered by the State of New Jersey – Department of Labor and Workforce Development. New Jersey's Family Leave Insurance Program (NJFLI) may provide up to six weeks of family leave insurance benefits payable to covered employees from either the New Jersey State Plan or an approved employer-provided private plan.

A benefit provided through the NJFLI will be for the employee to bond with a child during the first twelve months after the child's birth, if the covered individual or the domestic partner or civil union partner of the covered individual is a biological parent of the child, or the first twelve months after the placement of the child for adoption with the covered individual. An employee who intends to apply to the State of New Jersey for benefits under this provision of the NJFLI must provide the Superintendent of Schools written notice thirty calendar days prior to beginning the leave. Failure to provide this thirty-day notice may result in a reduction in the employee's maximum family leave insurance benefits. Intermittent leave to bond with a newborn or newly adopted child must be agreed to by the Superintendent of Schools and the employee and, if agreed to, must be taken in periods of seven days or more.

A benefit provided through the NJFLI will also be to care for a family member with a serious health condition supported by a certification provided by a health care provider. An employee who intends to apply to the State of New Jersey for benefits under this provision of the NJFLI for consecutive leave must provide the school district reasonable and practical notice unless the time of the leave is unexpected or the time of the leave changes for unforeseen reasons. An employee who intends to apply for benefits under this provision of the NJFLI for intermittent leave must provide the school district with a written notice at least fifteen calendar days prior to beginning the leave.

For the purposes of this Policy, "family member" means a child, spouse, domestic partner, civil union partner, or parent of a covered individual. "Child" means a biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, or legal ward of a covered individual, child of a domestic partner of the covered individual, or child of a civil union partner of the covered individual, who is less than nineteen years of age or is nineteen years of age or older but incapable of self-care because of mental or physical impairment.

An employee will be required to use up to ten workdays of earned vacation, personal or other earned leave in connection with a period of paid leave from the NJFLI. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1, sick leave is only to be used for personal disability due to illness or injury and therefore may not be used for NJFLI purposes.

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New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program

All applications for benefits under the NJFLI must be filed directly with the State of New Jersey – Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The eligibility requirements, wage requirements, benefit duration and amounts, and benefit limitations shall be in accordance with the provisions of the NJFLI as administered by the State of New Jersey – Department of Labor and Workforce Development. A formal appeal may be submitted to the State of New Jersey – Department of Labor and Workforce Development if an employee or the Board disagrees with a determination on a claim.

The NJFLI provides eligible individuals a monetary benefit and not a leave benefit. In addition, the school district administrative and related staff will comply with the State of New Jersey - Department of Labor and Workforce Development requests for information in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 12:21-3.9.

The Board may elect to provide employees with Family Leave Insurance benefits coverage under a private plan which must be approved by the State of New Jersey – Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

A printed notification of covered individuals' rights relative to the receipt of benefits under the NJFLI will be posted in each of the school district worksites and in a place or places accessible to all employees at the worksite. Each employee shall receive a copy of this notification in writing at the time of the employee's hiring, whenever the employee provides written notice to the Superintendent of their intention to apply for benefits under the NJFLI, or at any time upon the first request of the employee. The written notification may be transmitted to the employee in electronic form.

N.J.S.A. 43:21-25 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 12:21-1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 16 February 2010

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Sick Leave

4432 SICK LEAVE

The Board of Education shall grant sick leave, in accordance with law, to support staff members absent from work because of personal disability or quarantine. Each steadily employed employee eligible for sick leave will be entitled annually to the number of paid sick leave days negotiated with the employee's majority representative or provided in this policy or in an individual contract with the Board.

29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1 et seq

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Vacations

4433 VACATIONS

The Board of Education believes that it is beneficial to the school district that persons employed to work twelve months a year be given periodic relief from the responsibilities of their position without loss of compensation.

The Board reserves the right to determine the conditions under which vacation time may be taken when not otherwise covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement or in an individual contract with the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:30-7

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Anticipated Disability**

4435 ANTICIPATED DISABILITY

The Board of Education shall provide for leaves of absence, in accordance with law and the policies of this Board, for any employee of this district not otherwise covered by the terms of the negotiated agreement whose absence from duties will be required for a foreseeable event of disability such as childbirth or surgery.

An employee who anticipates disability shall so notify the Superintendent as soon as the employee is under medical supervision for the condition and a date is projected for the anticipated disability. Because of the potentially disabling nature of pregnancy and the certainty of temporary disability at parturition, the Board will presume that a pregnant employee is disabled for work thirty days before the anticipated date of childbirth and continues to be disabled for thirty days after parturition, except that any such employee who presents medical certification of her fitness may continue to work until she is actually disabled and may return to work as soon as she is able.

The Board reserves the right to require an employee who requests an extended leave of absence that includes anticipated disability to commence and/or terminate the leave at times that ensure continuity in district operations. Whenever possible, partial year leaves of absence will begin and end at divisions in the academic calendar and will cause not more than one interruption in employment continuity during the school year in which the leave is taken. No person who is required to take leave at a time other than that requested will be denied the use of sick leave for the anticipated disability that occurs or is presumed to occur during the leave.

An employee who anticipates a disability may request a leave of absence to commence before disability and to extend beyond the period of disability. Any such request shall be subject to Board discretion and the Board's policy on leave of absence. An employee on voluntary leave of absence is not eligible for sick leave pay for disability occurring during the period of that absence.

42 U.S.C.A. 2000e-2(a)
29 C.F.R. 1604-1 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 10:5-12(a)
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-6; 18A:16-2; 18A:30-1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Personal Leave

4436 PERSONAL LEAVE

The Board of Education will provide for an employee's compensated absence for reason of personal necessity not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement or in an individual contract with the Board.

The Board reserves the right to determine the reasons for which personal leave will be granted, the number of days that may be used in any one school year for personal leave, and the manner of proof of personal necessity.

N.J.S.A. 18A:30-7

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Military Leave

4437 MILITARY LEAVE

The Board of Education recognizes that military service rendered by any district employee in the defense of the country or in maintaining preparedness for conflict, foreign or domestic, is a service benefiting all citizens. Any permanent or full-time officer and/or employee of the district will be provided military leave and related benefits pursuant to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 U.S.C. Section 4301 et seq., P.L. 2001 Chapter 351 amending N.J.S.A. 38:23-1, N.J.S.A. 38A:1-1 and N.J.S.A. 38A:4-4., and any other applicable Federal and State laws.

A permanent or full-time temporary officer or employee of the school district who is a member of the organized militia of New Jersey (New Jersey National Guard, New Jersey Naval Militia Joint Command) shall be entitled, in addition to pay received, if any, to a leave of absence without loss of pay or time on all days in which he/she is engaged in any period of State or Federal active duty. The leave of absence for Federal active duty or active duty for training shall not exceed ninety work days in the aggregate in any calendar year. A permanent or full-time temporary officer or employee who has served less than one year in the district shall receive this leave without pay, but without loss of time. This paid leave shall be in addition to the regular vacation or other accrued leave provided to the officer or employee. Any leave of absence for such duty in excess of ninety workdays shall be without pay, but without loss of time.

A permanent or full-time temporary officer or employee of the school district who is a member of the organized reserve of the Army of the United States, United States Naval Reserve, United States Air Force Reserve or United States Marine Corps Reserve, or other organization affiliated therewith, including the National Guard of other states, shall be entitled, in addition to pay received, if any, to a leave of absence without loss of pay or time on all work days he/she shall be engaged in any period of active duty, provided such leave of absence shall not exceed thirty work days in any calendar year. A permanent or full-time temporary officer or employee who has served less than one year in the district shall receive this leave without pay, but without loss of time. This paid leave shall be in addition to the regular vacation or other accrued leave provided to the officer or employee. Any leave of absence for such duty in excess of thirty workdays shall be without pay, but without loss of time.

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Military Leave

Military leave with pay is not authorized for Inactive Duty Training (IDT) as defined in N.J.A.C. 5A:2-2.1.

The district will provide benefits and rights for staff on military leave as required by Federal and State laws.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:13H-2.1, in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 5 of the New Jersey Constitution, upon application by the district to the State Treasury and approval of the application by the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting, reimbursement shall be made by the State of New Jersey for any costs incurred as a result of the provisions of P.L. 2001, Chapter 351.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-33; 18A:29-11

N.J.S.A. 38:23-1 et seq.; 38A:1-1; 38A:4—4; 52:13H-2.1;

N.J.A.C. 5A:2-2.1

Uniformed Services Employment and reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 U.S.C. Section 4301 et seq.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Jury Duty

4438 JURY DUTY

The Board of Education will indemnify all full-time employees against loss of pay incurred by a call to jury duty. No employee will be penalized in any way for an absence caused by service on a panel of grand or petit jurors. The time any such employee is absent will not be charged against personal leave and will count toward district service.

A full-time employee who is absent from their school district duties while on jury duty for any court of New Jersey, any court of any other State, any federal district court, or in the U.S. District Court for New Jersey will receive their usual compensation from the school district for each day the support staff member is present for jury duty.

An employee summoned to jury duty shall promptly report the summons to his/her immediate supervisor.

On return from jury duty, the employee must submit to his/her immediate supervisor a court record of the number of days served on jury duty.

While on jury duty, an employee must report daily to his/her supervisor the schedule for the following day and must report to work when he/she is excused from jury duty for half a day or more or suffer loss of pay.

N.J.S.A. 2B:20-1 et seq.; 2B:20-16

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Travel Expenses

4440 TRAVEL EXPENSES

The Board of Education will reimburse support staff members for travel expenses in accordance with applicable New Jersey Statutes.

For the purpose of this Policy:

1. Travel Expenditures - means those costs paid by the school district using local, State, or Federal funds, whether paid directly by the school district or by employee reimbursement, for travel by school district employees and/or Board of Education members to training and seminars, conventions and conferences, regular school district business, and retreats.
2. Training and Seminars - means all regularly scheduled, formal residential or non-residential training functions conducted at a hotel, motel, convention center, residential facility, or any educational institution or facility.
3. Conventions and Conferences - means general programs, sponsored by professional associations on a regular basis, which address subjects of particular interest to a school district or are convened to conduct association business. The primary purpose of employee attendance at conferences and conventions is the development of new skills and knowledge or the reinforcement of those skills and knowledge in a particular field related to school district operations. These are distinct from formal staff training and seminars although some training may take place at such events.
4. Regular School District Business - means all regular official business travel, including attendance at meetings, conferences, and any other gatherings which are not covered by the definitions for training and seminars and convention and conferences above.
5. Retreats - means meetings with school district employees and Board members held away from the normal work environment at which organizational goals and objectives are discussed. If available, school district facilities shall be utilized for this type of event.

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Travel Expenses

School district travel expenditures include, but are not limited to, all costs for transportation, meals, lodging, and registration or conference fees to and from the travel event. School district travel expenditures include costs for all required training and travel authorized in existing school district employee contracts and school Board policies. This includes, but is not limited to, required professional development and other staff training, required training for new school Board members, and attendance at specific conferences authorized in existing employee contracts.

The school district shall not bear costs for car rentals, limousine services, and/or chauffeuring costs to or during the event, as well as costs for employee attendance for coordinating other attendees' accommodations at the travel event.

All travel by district support staff members shall be educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and all travel expenditures shall be directly related to and within the scope of the support staff member's current responsibilities and the school district's professional development plan. All travel expenditures must be for travel that is critical to the instructional needs of the school district or furthers the efficient operation of the school district and is in compliance with State travel payment guidelines as established by the Department of the Treasury and with guidelines established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget; except that those guidelines that conflict with the provisions of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes shall not be applicable, including, but not limited to, the authority to issue travel charge cards.

A support staff member shall submit to the District Supervisor within thirty calendar days of incurring the travel expense(s) a brief report that includes the primary purpose for the travel and the key issues that were addressed at the event and their relevance to improving instruction or the operation of the school district.

The detailed documentation that demonstrates compliance with the school Board's travel policy including travel approvals, reports, and receipts for all school district funded expenditures, as appropriate, shall be maintained in the Business Administrator's office.

Travel for support staff members may occur only upon prior written approval of the Superintendent of Schools and prior approval by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board.

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Travel Expenses

One-day trips that do not involve overnight lodging are not eligible for a subsistence payment or reimbursement except in limited circumstances authorized in the Department of the Treasury guidelines. Overnight travel is eligible for a subsistence payment or reimbursement as authorized in Department of the Treasury guidelines, except as otherwise superseded by the following provisions:

1. Per diem payment or reimbursement for lodging and meals will be actual reasonable costs, not to exceed the Federal per diem rates as established in the Federal register for the current year;
2. Lodging expenses may exceed the Federal per diem rates if the hotel is the site of the convention, conference, seminar, or meeting and the going rate of the hotel is in excess of the Federal per diem rate. If the hotel at the site of the convention, conference, seminar, or meeting is no longer available, lodging may be paid for similar accommodations at a rate not to exceed the hotel rate for the event;
3. Receipts are required for hotel expenses;
4. In any case in which the total per diem reimbursement is greater than the Federal per diem rate, except as stated in 2. above, the costs will be considered to be excessive and shall not be paid by school district funds;
5. The school district shall patronize hotels and motels that offer special rates to government employees unless alternative lodging offers greater cost benefits; and
6. Payment or reimbursement is approved for the full cost of an official convention meal that the employee or school Board member attends, when the meal is scheduled as an integral part of the convention or conference proceedings. If a meal is included in the registration fee, the allowance for the meal is not eligible for reimbursement.

Annually in the prebudget year, the Board shall establish by Board resolution, a maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year, which the school district shall not exceed in that budget year. The Board resolution shall also include the maximum amount established for the prebudget year and the amount spent to date. The maximum school district travel expenditure amount shall include all travel in accordance with P.L. 2007 c. 53 supported by local and State funds.

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Travel Expenses**

The school district shall maintain separate accounting for school district travel expenditures as necessary to ensure compliance with the school district's maximum travel expenditure amount. This may include, but need not be limited to, a separate or offline accounting of such expenditures or expanding the school district's accounting system. The tracking system shall be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the Board's policy and P.L. 2007 c. 53, and shall provide auditable information.

Any Board of Education that violates its established maximum travel expenditure as set forth in P.L. 2007 c. 53, or that otherwise is not in compliance with the travel limitations set forth in P.L. 2007 c. 53 may be subject to sanctions by the Commissioner as authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-23 and N.J.S.A. 18A:4-24, including reduction of State aid in an amount equal to any excess expenditure.

A person who approves any travel in violation of the P.L. 2007 c. 53 or this Policy shall be required to reimburse the school district in an amount equal to three times the cost associated with attending the event. An employee or Board member who travels in violation of the Board's policy or P.L. 2007 c. 53 shall be required to reimburse the school district in an amount equal to three times the cost associated with attending the event.

P.L. 2007 c. 53

Adopted: 15 January 2008