

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS
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Attendance Areas

8110 ATTENDANCE AREAS

The Board of Education directs the assignment of pupils to the schools, programs, and classes in a manner that is consistent with the best interests of the pupils and the best uses of the resources of this district.

The Board shall determine the school attendance areas of the district to determine the assignment of pupils to school in accordance with Policy No. 5120.

The Superintendent shall annually review existing attendance areas and recommend to the Board such changes as may be justified by considerations of safe pupil transportation and travel; convenience of access to the schools; financial and administrative efficiency, the effectiveness of the instructional program, and a wholesome and educationally sound balance of pupil populations.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

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School Organization

8130 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

The Board of Education directs the organization of the instructional program of this district in the following schools and grades:

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Lincoln Elementary School	Pre-Kindergarten – 3
Thomas Jefferson Middle School	4 – 8

The Superintendent shall continually monitor the effectiveness of the district organizational plan and recommend to the Board such modifications in the plan as may be in the best interest of pupils, make most effective use of district resources, and serve the educational goals of the Board.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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8140

Student Enrollments (M)

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8140 STUDENT ENROLLMENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that efficient district operations require an accurate and up to date accounting of the number of students resident in this district and enrolled in district classes and programs.

Student attendance shall be recorded in the school register during school hours on each day in session pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3. A staff member designated by the Superintendent shall keep in the school register, attendance of all students, and shall maintain the attendance records in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.1(c).

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.1(e), a student who has been placed on home instruction shall have their attendance status recorded on the regular register for the program in which the student is enrolled. The student shall be marked absent for the period beginning the first day the student is unable to attend school and ending the day before the first instructional day at the student's place of confinement. Absences shall not be recorded for the student while on home instruction, provided the hours of instruction are no less than required by N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.8 and 4.9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1 and 10.2. The number of possible days of membership for a student on home instruction shall be the same as for other students in the program in which the student is enrolled.

Such records shall be made and maintained as will enable the Board to plan program and facilities development, to make appropriate allocation of district resources, and receive the district's maximum amount of State and Federal aid.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually and in accordance with the timelines established by the Commissioner, file a report with the Commissioner stating the school district's enrollment.

N.J.S.A. 18A:25-4

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.8; 6A:14-4.9; 6A:16-10.1; 6A:16-10.2; 6A:32-8.1;
6A:32-8.2; 6A:32-8.3

Adopted: April 25, 2023

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS
8210 SCHOOL YEAR

8210 SCHOOL YEAR

The Board of Education recognizes that the preparation of a school calendar is essential to orderly educational planning and to the efficient operation of the school district.

The Board shall annually approve the days when the schools will be in session for instructional purposes. The school calendar will provide no fewer than one hundred eighty days of instruction in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. Days on which school is closed for holidays, teachers' institutes, and inclement weather shall not be considered as days in session.

A half-day class or shortened school day shall be considered the equivalent of a full day only if school is in session for four or more hours, exclusive of recess periods or lunch periods.

An approved Kindergarten shall meet the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(c).

The Commissioner of Education shall annually prescribe a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse students for religious observance upon the written request signed by the parent or person standing in loco parentis. Staff members shall avoid, whenever possible, scheduling a test on a religious holiday commonly observed by residents of the district.

The Superintendent shall in consultation with the Administrative Team will annually prepare and submit to the Board a school calendar for the next school year no later than May 1. The Board reserves the right to alter the school calendar when: such alteration is feasible and serves the best interests of the students of this district; the number of school closings during the school year extend the school year past a reasonable closing date in June; there is an extended school closing during the school year due to an unforeseen circumstance; and/or due to any reason deemed in the best interest of students.

N.J.S.A. 18A:25-3; 18A:36-2; 18A:36-16

N.J.S.A. 18A:54-25 [**vocational districts**]

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3

Adopted: May 6, 2020

POLICY

**ROCKAWAY BOROUGH
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPERATIONS
8220 SCHOOL DAY**

8220 SCHOOL DAY (M)

The Board of Education shall annually approve the time that school(s) will be in session, including the starting and ending time of a shortened day. A school day shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3.

The schools of the district will be in session for students on those days and times recommended by the Superintendent and annually approved by the Board.

The Superintendent may close school, delay the opening of school, or dismiss school early when such alteration in the regular session is required for the protection of the health and safety of students and staff members or other good cause. A shortened school day, whether it is planned or emergent (as in the case of inclement weather), must meet certain requirements in order to count toward the one hundred eighty day requirement of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

The Superintendent shall inform the Board President of any such alteration as soon as possible and shall prepare rules for the proper and timely notification of concerned persons in the event of any delayed opening or emergency school closing.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3

Adopted: May 6, 2020

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P 8310 PUBLIC RECORDS

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to maintain the public records of this district and to make such records available to residents of New Jersey for inspection and reproduction. The Board designates _____ as the custodian of government records for the district.

Government Record or Record (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1)

“Government records” or “records” pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 include any record that has been required by law to be made, maintained, or kept on file by the Board, its officials, or its employees. Except as such records that may be exempted by law or this policy, a “government record” or “record” means any paper, written or printed book, document, drawing, map, plan, photograph, microfilm, data processed or image processed document, information stored or maintained electronically or by sound-recording or in a similar device, or any copy thereof, that has been made, maintained or kept on file in the course of the official business of the Board of Education or that has been received in the course of the official business of the Board of Education.

Board meeting minutes may be inspected and copied as soon as they are prepared; unapproved minutes will be so labeled. Minutes of executive/closed session Board meetings conducted in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act will be preserved separately and will not be available for immediate public inspection. These minutes will be integrated with minutes of public meetings only after the matter discussed at the executive/closed session meeting has been made public.

A “government record” or “record” does not include inter-agency or intra-agency advisory, consultative, or deliberative material.

A “government record” or “record” does not include excluded information as outlined in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1. The excluded information includes, but is not limited to, information which is deemed to be confidential as per N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. Victims’ records; trade secrets and proprietary commercial or financial information; any record within the attorney-client privilege; administrative or technical information regarding computer hardware, software and networks which, if disclosed, would jeopardize computer security; emergency or security information or procedures for any buildings or facility which, if disclosed, would jeopardize security; security measures and surveillance techniques and information which, if disclosed, would give an advantage to competitors or bidders are examples of excluded government records.

Information generated by or on behalf of the Board or Board employees in connection with any sexual harassment complaint filed within the Board or with any grievance filed by or against an individual or in connection with collective negotiations, including documents and statements of strategy or negotiating position; information which is a communication between the district and its insurance carrier,

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administrative service organization or risk management office; information which is to be kept confidential pursuant to court order and that portion of any most documents which discloses the social security number, credit card number, unlisted telephone number or driver license number of any person; and personnel and pension records of an individual, except the individual's name, title of position, salary, payroll record, length of service, date of separation and the reason therefore, the amount and type of pension he/she receives, and data, other than detailed medical or psychological information, that shows conformity with qualifications for employment and pensions are examples of excluded government records.

Test questions, scoring keys, and other examination data pertaining to the administration of an examination for employment or academic examination; information concerning individual student records; grievance or disciplinary proceedings against a student to the extent disclosure would reveal the identity of the student; and all other information defined as not being a government record in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. are not government records.

Records of Investigation In Progress (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-3 et seq.)

Records which are sought to be inspected, copied, or examined pertain to an investigation in progress by the Board and/or administration will be inspected, copied and/or examined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-3.

Inspection, Examination and Copying (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5 et seq.)

The custodian will permit the government record to be inspected, examined, and copied pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5 et seq. by any person during regular business hours. In the case of a Board of Education having a total district enrollment of 500 or fewer, the custodian will permit the records to be inspected, examined and copied during not less than six regular business hours over not less than three business days per week or the entity's regularly-scheduled business hours, whichever is less, unless the government record is exempt from public access as per N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

Copy Purchase (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5 et seq.)

Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation, the fee assessed for the duplication of a government record embodied in the form of printed matter shall be \$.05 per letter size page or smaller, and \$.07 per legal size page or larger. If the school district can demonstrate that its actual costs for duplication of a government record exceed the per page rates, the district shall be permitted to charge the actual cost of duplicating the record. The actual cost of duplicating the record, upon which all copy fees are based, shall be the cost of materials and supplies used to make a copy of the record, but shall not include the cost of labor or overhead expenses associated with making the copy except as provided for in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5.c.

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Actual copy costs for special copies, such as color printing or blueprints copied within the school district, shall be calculated separately. Access to electronic records and non-printed materials shall be provided free of charge, but the district may charge for the actual costs of any needed supplies such as computer discs.

If the district's calculated per copy actual cost exceeds the enumerated rates set forth in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5.b. the school district, if challenged, must demonstrate its actual costs are indeed higher than those enumerated rates and are therefore justified.

Whenever the nature, format, manner of collation, or volume of a government record embodied in the form of printed matter to be inspected, examined, or copied pursuant to this policy is such that the record cannot be reproduced by ordinary document copying equipment in ordinary business size or involves an extraordinary expenditure of time and effort to accommodate the request, the district [**optional – will or may**] charge, in addition to the actual cost of duplicating the record, a special service charge that will be reasonable and will be based upon the actual direct cost of providing the copy or copies. The custodian will provide the requestor an opportunity to review and object to the charge prior to it being incurred.

A custodian will permit access to a government record and provide a copy thereof in the medium requested if the district maintains the record in that medium. If the district does not maintain the record in the medium requested, the custodian will either convert the record to the medium requested or provide a copy in some other meaningful medium. If a request is for a record in a medium not routinely used by the district; not routinely developed or maintained by the district or requiring a substantial amount of manipulation or programming of information technology, the district [**optional - will or may**] charge, in addition to the actual cost of duplication, a special charge that will be reasonable and based on the cost for any extensive use of information technology, or for the labor cost of personnel providing the service, that is actually incurred by the district or attributable to the district for the programming, clerical, and supervisory assistance required, or both.

Immediate access ordinarily will be granted to budgets, bills, vouchers, contracts, including collective negotiations agreements and individual employment contracts, and public employee salary and overtime information.

The custodian will adopt a form for the use of any person who requests access to a government record held or controlled by the district. The request form will include information in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5.f. Requests for access to a government record shall be in writing and hand-delivered or mailed to the custodian. [**Optional -** The custodian will also accept a request for access to a government record that is transmitted electronically.] The custodian will promptly comply with a request in accordance with N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5.g.

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Any officer or employee of the district who receives a request for access to a government record will forward the request to the custodian of the record or direct the requestor to the custodian of the record.

The custodian will grant access to a government record or deny a request for access to a government record in accordance with N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5.i and as soon as possible, but not later than seven business days after receiving the request, provided that the record is currently available and not in storage or archived.

A custodian will post prominently in public view in the part of the office of the custodian that is open to or frequented by the public a statement that sets forth in clear, concise and specific terms the right to appeal a denial of, or failure to provide, access to a government record by any person for inspection, examination, or copying or for purchase of copies thereof and the procedure by which an appeal may be filed.

Challenge to Access Upon Denial (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6)

A person who is denied access to a government record by the custodian, at the option of the requestor, may institute a proceeding to challenge the custodian's decision by filing an action in Superior Court or in lieu of filing an action in Superior Court, file a complaint with the Government Records Council established pursuant to Section 8 of P.L.2001, c. 404 (C.47:1A-7). If it is determined that access was improperly denied, the court or agency head shall order that access be allowed. A requestor who prevails in any proceeding shall be entitled to a reasonable attorney's fee. A public official, officer, employee, or custodian who knowingly and willfully violates N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. and is found to have unreasonably denied access under the totality of the circumstances, shall be subject to the penalties and disciplinary proceedings in accordance with N.J.S.A. 47:1A-11.

Government Records Council (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-7 et seq.)

The Board and the custodian of records will comply with the requirements and guidelines from the Government Records Council in accordance with N.J.S.A. 47:1A-7.

Common Right Law Right of Access (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-8)

Nothing contained in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. will be construed as limiting the common law right of access to a government record, including criminal investigative records of a law enforcement agency.

Construction with Other Laws (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-9 et seq.)

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The provisions of this policy and N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. shall not abrogate any exemption of a public or government record from public access heretofore made pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.; any other statute; resolution of either or both Houses of the Legislature; regulation promulgated under the authority of any statute or Executive Order of the Governor; Executive Order of the Governor; Rules of Court; any Federal law; Federal regulation; or Federal order.

The provisions of this policy and N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. shall not abrogate or erode any executive or legislative privilege or grant of confidentiality heretofore established or recognized by the Constitution of this State, statute, court rule or judicial case law, which privilege or grant of confidentiality may duly be claimed to restrict public access to a public or government record.

N.J.S.A. 10:4-14

N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 et seq.

Cross reference: Policy Guide No. 0168

Adopted: 15 August 2017

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Managing Electronic Mail

8311 MANAGING ELECTRONIC MAIL

School district e-mail messages, like paper records, must be retained and destroyed according to established records management procedures as required by New Jersey's Division of Archives & Records Management (NJDARM). E-mail messages are electronic documents created and sent or received by a computer system. This definition applies equally to the contents of the communication, the transactional information, and any attachments associated with such communication. Thus, e-mail messages are similar to other forms of communicated messages, such as correspondence and memoranda.

N.J.S.A. 47:3-16, as amended, defines public records as follows:

“Public records” mean any paper, written or printed book, document or drawing, map or plan, photograph, microfilm, data processed or image processed document, sound recording or in a similar device, or any copy thereof, that has been made or required by law to be received for filing, indexing, or reproducing by any officer, commission agency, or authority of the State or any political subdivision thereof, including any subordinate boards thereof, or that has been received in the course of his/her or its official business by such officer, commission, agency, or authority of the State or of any political subdivision thereof, including subordinate boards thereof, in connection with the transaction of public business and has been retained by such recipient or its successor as evidence of its activities or because of the information contained therein.

An e-mail message that meets the criteria of the definition of public records per N.J.S.A. 47:3-16, as amended, whether it is subject to access by the general public or not, must be retained according to records retention and disposition schedules approved by the State Records Committee. No public record e-mail may be destroyed without prior consent of the NJDARM and the State Records Committee, even if the retention period for a record has expired.

Retention or disposition of e-mail messages must be related to the information they contain or the purpose they serve. The content of e-mail messages may vary considerably and therefore, the content must be evaluated to determine the length of time the message must be retained.

For the purposes of this Policy, there are non-record e-mail messages and public record e-mail messages.

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Managing Electronic Mail

Non-record e-mail messages are personal correspondence that do not meet the criteria of public records as per N.J.S.A. 47:3-16, as amended, and may be deleted at any time unless they become part of some official record as a result of a special circumstance. These types of messages may include personal correspondence not received or created in the course of school district business and may be deleted at any time since it is not an official public record. Non-record e-mail messages are also non-governmental publications that are publications, promotional material from vendors, and similar materials that are publicly available to anyone. These e-mail messages are not public records as defined by N.J.S.A. 47:3-16, as amended, unless specifically incorporated into other official public records, and may also be deleted at any time. However, if an e-mail message is used to justify an expenditure or is included in a proposal, the e-mail message becomes an official public record and must be retained according to records retention and disposition schedules in accordance with the appropriate retention schedules.

All public record e-mail messages shall be maintained by the individual who sends the e-mail message and the primary recipient. The sender and primary recipient are encouraged to print a hard copy of a public record e-mail and file the e-mail in school district files for continued access. The district may establish a district-wide system to facilitate public record e-mail management for continued access and retention. All public record e-mails shall be retained according to records retention and disposition schedules approved by the State Records Committee and no public record e-mail may be destroyed without prior consent of the NJDARM and the State Records Committee, even if the retention period for a record has expired.

An e-mail message that meets the criteria of the definition of a “government record” per N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 must be made available to the public upon request under New Jersey’s Open Public Records Act during the required retention period, unless the content of the message falls under one of the exceptions contained in the Act or any other statute, regulation, Executive Order by the Governor, rule of Court, or Federal law, regulation or order.

State of New Jersey – Circular Letter 03-10-ST – Managing Electronic Mail:
Guidelines and Best Practices – 7/11/02

Adopted: 10 March 2009

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ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Personnel Records

8320 PERSONNEL RECORDS

The Board of Education believes that the orderly operation of the school district requires the retention of all records bearing upon an employee's qualifications for employment and employment history.

The Board requires that sufficient records be compiled and maintained to demonstrate an employee's qualifications for the position assigned; compliance with federal, state, and local benefit programs; conformity to district rules; the proper conduct of evaluations; and the employee's entitlement, as appropriate, to tenure and seniority.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the custody and maintenance of personnel records. A single, central file of documents shall be maintained; temporary, subsidiary records will be permitted for ease in data gathering only. An employee's personnel file shall be maintained for six years following his/her termination of district service, provided the employment history record card is maintained a minimum of eighty years.

Records maintained in the personnel files of this district are not public records and are not open to inspection except as provided for in this policy. Board minutes and other public records of this district and any computerized files maintained by this district may include only an employee's name, title, position, assignments, salary, payroll record, length of service in the district and in military service, the date and reason for separation from service in this district, and the amount and type of pension a former employee receives.

Personnel records may be inspected by school administrators to the extent that such inspection is required in the performance of the inspector's duties.

Board members may have access to confidential information in the personnel files of only those employees recommended for or subjected to an employment action requiring a vote of the Board or where access to the information is essential for the performance of the Board member's duties. Board member access to personnel files is limited to the relevant portion of the file and is available only through the Superintendent. Board members may freely inspect employment applications filed by candidates for district positions.

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Personnel Records

An employee may inspect his/her personnel file provided that the employee requests such access in writing, reviews the record in the presence of the administrator designated to maintain the file, makes no alteration or addition to the file nor removes any material from it, and signs a log attached to the file indicating the date on which it was inspected.

An employee may appeal to the Superintendent the inclusion or exclusion of records or for appropriate administrative review of the accuracy of any record in his/her personnel file.

The Superintendent shall prepare rules enumerating the records to be maintained for each employee of this district, including, as a minimum and as appropriate to the position, the completed application form, employment contract(s), a copy of the employee's qualifying certification, transcripts, report of an employment physical examination, oath of allegiance, criminal background check, income tax forms, retirement registration, hospitalization forms, annuity forms, rate of compensation, attendance record, assignments to positions, completed evaluations, reports of disciplinary incidents, records of special awards or distinctions, and reports of annual or special physical and mental examinations.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-14.2; 18A:40-19; 18A:66-32

N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

8330 STUDENT RECORDS

The Board of Education believes that information about individual students must be compiled and maintained in the interest of the student's educational welfare and advancement. The Board will strive to balance the student's right to privacy against the district's need to collect, retain, and use information about individual students and groups of students. The Board authorizes the establishment and maintenance of student files that include only those records mandated by law, rules of the State Board of Education, authorized administrative directive, and those records permitted by this Board.

The Superintendent shall prepare, present to the Board for approval, and distribute regulations that implement this Policy and conform to applicable State and Federal law and rules of the State Board of Education.

General Considerations

The Board shall compile and maintain student records and regulate access in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. §1232g, and 34 CFR Part 99, disclosure, or communication of information contained in student records in a manner that assures the security of the records in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7 et seq. Student records shall contain only information that is relevant to the education of the student and is objectively based on the personal observations or knowledge of the certified school personnel who originate(s) the record. The district shall provide annual, written notification to parents, adult students, and emancipated minors of their rights in regard to student records and student participation in educational, occupational, and military recruitment programs. Copies of the applicable State and Federal laws and Board policies shall be made available upon request. The district shall make every effort to notify parents and adult students in their dominant language.

Nonadult students may assert rights of access only through their parent(s). However, nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7 shall be construed to prohibit certified school personnel from disclosing at their discretion student records to non-adult students or to appropriate persons in connection with an emergency, if the information contained in the record is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons.

No liability shall be attached to any member, officer, or employee of the Board permitting access or furnishing student records in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7 et seq.

Student Information Directory

A student information directory is a publication of the Board that includes information relating to a student as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-2.1. This information includes: name; grade level; date and place of birth; dates of school attendance; major field of study; participation in officially recognized activities; weight and height relating to athletic team membership; degrees; awards; the most recent educational agency attended by the student; and other similar information. The student information directory shall be used only by authorized district personnel and for designated official use by judicial, law enforcement, and medical personnel and not for general public consumption.

In the event the district publishes a student information directory, the Superintendent or designee will provide a parent or adult student a ten-day period to submit to the Superintendent a written statement prohibiting the inclusion of any or all types of information about the student in any student information directory before allowing access to the directory and school facilities to educational, occupational, and military recruiters pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.1, P.L. 114-95 §8528, and 20 U.S.C. §8528 – Armed Forces Recruiter Access to Students and Student Recruiting Information of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.1, military recruiters will be provided the same access to a student information directory that is provided to educational and occupational recruiters.

School Contact Directory for Official Use

A school contact directory for official use is a compilation by the district that includes the following information for each student: name; address; telephone number; date of birth; and school enrollment. The district shall compile and maintain a school contact directory for official use in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.2, that is separate and distinct from the student information directory. The student contact directory may be provided for official use only to judicial and law enforcement personnel, and to medical personnel currently providing services to the student in question. To exclude any information from the school contact directory for official use the parent, adult student, or emancipated minor shall notify the Superintendent or designee in writing.

Mandated and Permitted Student Records

Mandated student records are those records districts have been directed to compile by State statute, regulations, or authorized administrative directive in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.3.

Permitted student records are those student records not mandated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.3, but authorized by the Board to promote the student's educational welfare. The Board shall authorize the permitted records to be collected by adopting this Policy and Regulation 8330, which will list such permitted records.

Maintenance and Security of Student Records

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for the security of student records maintained in the district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.4. This Policy and Regulation 8330 assure that access to student records is limited to authorized persons.

Records for each individual student may be stored electronically or in paper format. When student records are stored electronically, proper security and back-up procedures shall be administered.

Student health records, whether stored on paper or electronically, shall be maintained in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.1(1)

Records shall be accessible during the hours in which the school program is in operation.

Any district website shall not disclose any personally identifiable information about a student, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-2.1

Access to Student Records

Only authorized organizations, agencies, or persons as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5 shall have access to student records, including student health records. Access to student records shall be provided to persons authorized such access under N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.1 et seq. within ten days of a request, but prior to any review or hearing conducted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A.

The district may charge a reasonable fee for reproduction of student records, not to exceed the schedule of costs set forth at N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5, provided that the cost does not effectively prevent parents or adult students from exercising their rights under N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7 or other Federal and State rules and regulations regarding students with disabilities, including N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

The district shall control access to, disclosure of, and communication regarding information contained in student health records to assure access only to people permitted by Federal and State statute and regulations in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5(c).

Access to and disclosure of a student's health record shall meet the requirements of FERPA

Only authorized organizations, agencies, or persons as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5 shall have access to student records, including student health records.

Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7 et seq. or in this Policy and Regulation 8330 shall be construed to prohibit school personnel from disclosing information contained in the student health record to students or adults in connection with an emergency, if such knowledge is necessary to protect the immediate health or safety of the student or other persons.

In complying with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7 – Student Records, the district shall adhere to requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10, the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and FERPA.

Conditions for Access to Student Records

All authorized organizations, agencies, and persons defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7 et seq. shall have access to a student record, subject to conditions outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.6.

Rights of Appeal for Parents and Adult Students

Student records are subject to challenge by parents and adult students on the grounds of inaccuracy, irrelevancy, impermissible disclosure, inclusion of improper information, or denial of access to organizations, agencies, and persons in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.7(a).

To request a change in the student record or to request a stay of disclosure pending final determination of the challenged procedure, the parent or adult student shall follow the procedures pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.7(b).

Appeals relating to student records for students with disabilities shall be processed in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.7.

Regardless of the outcome of any appeal, a parent or adult student shall be permitted to place in the student record a statement commenting upon the information in the student record or setting forth any reasons for contesting a portion of the student record, including the decision made in the appeal. The parent's or adult student's statement shall be maintained as part of the student record, as long as the contested portion of the student record is maintained. If the

contested portion of the record is disclosed to any party, the statement commenting upon the information shall also be disclosed to that party.

Retention and Disposal of Student Records

A student record is considered to be incomplete and not subject to the provisions of the Destruction of Public Records Law, N.J.S.A. 47:3-15 et seq., while the student is enrolled in the district. The Board shall retain the student health record and the health history and immunization record according to the School District Records Retention Schedule, as determined by the New Jersey State Records Committee.

Student records of currently enrolled students, other than the records described in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(f), may be disposed of after the information is no longer necessary to provide educational services to a student and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(c).

Upon graduation or permanent departure of a student from the district, the parent or adult student shall be notified in writing that a copy of the entire student record will be provided to them upon request. Information in student records, other than that described in N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(f), may be disposed of, but only in accordance with the Destruction of Public Records Law, N.J.S.A. 47:3-15 et seq. Such disposition shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(c)2.

No additions shall be made to the record after graduation or permanent departure without the prior written consent of the parent or adult student.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.8(f), the district of last enrollment, graduation, or permanent departure of the student from the district shall keep for 100 years, a mandated record of a student's name, date of birth, name of parents, gender, health history and immunization, standardized assessment results, grades, attendance, classes attended, grade level completed, year completed, and years of attendance.

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Student Records (M)

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Adopted: April 25, 2023

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Family Educational Rights
and Privacy Act

8335 FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The Board of Education policies and regulations will be in compliance with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA affords parents and adult pupils certain rights with respect to the pupil's education records. FERPA requires the district to provide parents and adult pupils the right to inspect and review the pupil's education records within forty-five days of the day the school district receives a request for access, to request an amendment(s) of the pupil's education records the parent or adult pupil believes are inaccurate, and to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the pupil's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

FERPA permits disclosure of pupil records without consent if the disclosure is to school officials with legitimate educational interests. FERPA permits the school district to disclose education records without a parent's or adult pupil's consent to officials of another school district in which a pupil seeks or intends to enroll. FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or adult pupil of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.

The parent or adult pupil has the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901

The New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:32-7 – Pupil Records adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education incorporates the requirements of FERPA and Board of Education Policy 8330 ensures parents and adult pupils are afforded certain rights with respect to the pupil's education records as required by FERPA.

20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g. – The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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P 8350 RECORDS RETENTION

The New Jersey Department of the Treasury - Records Management Services places all public records on Records Retention Schedules that list the minimum legal and fiscal time periods public records must be retained by State and local governmental and educational agencies. Records Management Services determines these retention periods in conformance with State and Federal codes, regulations, and statutes of limitation. Final approval of the schedules comes from the State Records Committee, which is comprised of representatives of the Attorney General, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Director of Local Government Services, and the director of the division.

Part and parcel to a good records management program is the timely destruction of records once their retention period has expired. This pertains to the destruction of paper records as well as those that are microfilmed, have been imaged, or are electronic. Unique records disposal request (such as the disposal of fire damaged records which have not yet outlived their retention period) require specific authorization from the State Records Committee.

As per the Destruction of Public Records Act of 1953 (P.L. 1953, c. 410), the Board of Education must receive prior written authorization from Records Management Services to dispose of their public records regardless of the medium in which the information is maintained. Authorization to dispose public records shall be submitted electronically by the school district custodian of such records to Records Management Services. Records must be retained in accordance with the Records Retention Schedules and shall not be disposed until approval for such disposal is obtained from Records Management Services.

Adopted: 15 August 2017

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide for the safety and security in each school building in the district. The district will develop and implement comprehensive written plans, procedures, and mechanisms to provide for the protection of health, safety, security, and welfare of the school population; the prevention of, intervention in, response to and recovery from emergency and crisis situations; the establishment and maintenance of a climate of civility; and support services for staff, students, and their families.

“School security drill” means an exercise, other than a fire drill, to practice procedures that respond to an emergency situation including, but not limited to, a bomb threat, non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation and that is similar in duration to a fire drill.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall consult with law enforcement agencies, health and social services provider agencies, emergency management planners, and school and community resources, as appropriate, in the development of the school district’s plans, procedures, and mechanisms for school safety and security. The plans, procedures, and mechanisms shall be consistent with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 and the format and content established by the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force, pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-64 et seq., and the Commissioner of Education and shall be reviewed annually, and updated as appropriate.

A copy of the school district’s school safety and security plan shall be disseminated to all school district employees. New employees shall receive a copy of the school district’s safety and security plan, as appropriate, within sixty days of the effective date of their employment. All employees shall be notified in writing, as appropriate, regarding updates and changes to the school safety and security plan.

The school district shall develop and provide an in-service training program for all school district employees to enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to safety and security concerns, including emergencies and crises, consistent with the school district’s plans, procedures, and mechanisms for school safety and security and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1. New employees shall receive this in-service training, as appropriate, within sixty days of the effective date of their employment. This in-service training program shall be reviewed annually and updated, as appropriate.

The Board shall ensure individuals employed in the district in a substitute capacity are provided with information and training on the district’s practices and procedures on school safety and security including instruction on school security drills, evacuation procedures, and emergency response protocols in the district and the school building where the individuals are employed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-7.

Every Principal of a school of two or more rooms, or of a school of one room, when located above the first story of a building, shall have at least one fire drill and one school security drill each month within the school hours, including any summer months during which the school is open for instructional programs, and shall require all teachers of all schools, whether occupying buildings of one or more stories, to keep all doors and exits of their respective rooms and buildings unlocked during the school hours, except during an emergency lockdown or an emergency lockdown drill. Where school buildings have been provided with fire escapes, they shall be used by a part or all of the students performing every fire drill. An actual fire or school security emergency that occurs at a school during the month and that includes activities which are the equivalent of a drill shall be considered a drill for the purposes of meeting the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1.

Every school in the district shall conduct a school security drill within the first fifteen days of the beginning of the school year. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the school district shall ensure that a school security drill that occurs when students are present:

1. Includes clear, developmentally and age-appropriate messaging to students and staff at the conclusion of the drill that the event is a drill and that no current danger exists;
2. Does not expose students to content or imaging that is not developmentally or age-appropriate;
3. Is paired with trauma-informed approaches to address any student inquiries or concerns which may arise as a result of a school security drill;
4. Does not include the use of fake blood, real or prop firearms, or the simulations of gun shots, explosions, or other sounds or visuals that may induce panic or traumatic response from a student or school district employee;
5. Does not require a student to role play as a victim, but may include first aid training in which students participate; and
6. Is accessible to students with disabilities and mental health conditions, and provides all necessary accommodations for these students.

The Principal or designee shall provide written notification to the parent of a student enrolled in the school following completion of a school security drill, which notice shall be provided to the parent by no later than the end of the school day on which the school security drill is conducted.

The Principal or designee will provide local law enforcement or other emergency responders, as appropriate, with a friendly notification at least forty-eight hours prior to holding a school security drill. A law enforcement officer shall be present at a minimum of one school security drill in each school year in order to make recommendations on any improvements or changes to school security

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drill procedures that the officer may deem advisable in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1. The school district may permit emergency personnel access to the buildings and grounds of its schools for school security drills that are scheduled outside of school hours and during such times as students are not present.

The school district shall review and update its school security drill procedures using a process that coincides with the review of the school safety and security plan developed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 and collects input from emergency personnel; parents of students enrolled in the school district; teachers and staff employed in the district; mental health professionals; and student government representatives from multiple grade levels.

The school district shall annually track data on such measures and information as required by the Commissioner of Education, and shall report the data to the Commissioner.

Such drills and in-service training programs shall be conducted in accordance with a building security drill guide and training materials that educate school employees on proper evacuation and lockdown procedures in a variety of emergency situations on school grounds in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1.

The school district will be required to annually submit a security drill statement of assurance to the New Jersey Department of Education by June 30 of each school year. Each school in the district will be required to complete a security drill record form as required by the New Jersey Department of Education.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-3
N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1; 18A:41-2; 18A:41-6; 18A:41-7;
18A:41-7a.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1

Adopted: June 14, 2022

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Care of Injured and Ill Persons

8441 CARE OF INJURED AND ILL PERSONS

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent to provide for prompt and appropriate medical attention for pupils, staff members, or visitors who are injured or become ill on school premises or at school sponsored events.

Any injury or illness shall be reported immediately to the school nurse or, in the absence of the school nurse, the Building Principal, who will determine whether an emergency exists. Immediate steps may be taken as necessary to remove the injured or ill person from imminent danger and/or prevent exacerbation of the disability. Routine first aid will be administered by district personnel as necessary to ensure the safety and comfort of the injured or ill person.

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of an injured or ill pupil and, if necessary, the family of an injured or ill staff member or adult visitor will be notified promptly and tactfully of the injury or illness. If the school nurse or school medical inspector or, in the absence of both, the Principal, determines that the injured or ill person should be removed from school for rest and/or treatment at home or for consultation with a private physician, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or family member shall be requested to provide transportation.

In a serious emergency requiring immediate medical attention, an ambulance may be summoned for transportation to a hospital or the school nurse may drive the injured or ill person to the hospital.

The Superintendent shall, in consultation with the school medical inspector and school nurse, prepare standing orders for the emergency treatment of injuries and disabilities by the school nurse and regulations for the handling of injured and ill persons by all other school employees. All district personnel will be briefed annually on the regulations governing the handling of injured and ill persons.

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Care of Injured and Ill Persons

Injuries and disabilities that occur in the course of the athletic program are subject to the provisions of Policy No. 2431 and implementing regulations. Pupil disabilities attributable to substance abuse will be handled in accordance with Policy No. 5530. Injuries that occur in the course of school bus transportation will be handled in accordance with regulations implementing Policy No. 8630.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4(a)1; 6A:16-1.4(a)2; 6A:16-1.4(a)3

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Reporting Accidents

8442 REPORTING ACCIDENTS

The Board of Education directs that all reasonable efforts be made to ensure a safe learning and working environment for the pupils and employees of this district. To that end and to the end that legitimate employee claims for worker's compensation is expedited, the Board requires that accidents be reported and evaluated. Any accident that results in an injury, however slight, to a pupil, an employee of the Board, or a visitor to the schools must be reported promptly and in writing to the district business office. Injured persons shall be referred immediately to the school nurse for such medical attention as may be appropriate.

The injured employee or visitor or the staff member responsible for an injured pupil shall complete a form, available in the office of the Building Principal or designee, that includes the date, time and place of the incident; the names of persons involved; the nature of the injury, to the extent that it is known; and a description of all relevant circumstances. A copy shall be retained by the Building Principal and School Nurse and a copy shall be sent to the Business office.

Any employee of the Board who suffers a job-related injury must report the injury and its circumstances to the Building Principal or job supervisor, as appropriate, no later than twenty-four hours following the occurrence of the injury. The Building Principal or other appropriate person will notify the School nurse of the job related injury. The failure of an employee to comply with this mandate may result in disciplinary action.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Control of Communicable Disease

8451 CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Board of Education recognizes that control of the spread of communicable disease is essential to the well-being of the school community and to the efficient operation of the schools.

The Board shall be bound by the statutes and by rules of the State Board of Education for the exclusion and readmission of pupils who have contracted a communicable disease and of teachers and pupils who have been exposed to a communicable disease and for the instruction of teachers in health and the prevention of disease. The Board shall comply with regulations of the New Jersey Department of Health and the Morris County Board of Health governing the prevention, control, and reporting of communicable disease.

The teacher may exclude from the classroom and the Principal may exclude from the school building any pupil who appears to be ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease. A pupil may be isolated in school to await the arrival of or instructions from an adult member of his/her family. If the school medical inspector or the school nurse is present in the building, his/her recommendation shall be sought before any such exclusion or isolation is ordered.

Any pupil retained at home or excluded from school by reason of having or being suspected of having a communicable disease shall not be readmitted to his/her classroom until he/she presents written evidence of being free of communicable disease. That evidence may be supplied by the school medical inspector or another qualified physician who has examined the pupil.

Any pupil or adult who has weeping skin lesions that cannot be covered shall be excluded from school.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for the control of communicable disease that include the instruction of teaching staff members in the detection of disease and measures for its prevention and control; the removal from school premises to the care of a responsible adult for pupils identified and excluded in accordance with this policy; the preparation of standards for the readmission of pupils who have recovered from communicable

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Control of Communicable Disease

disease; the provision of appropriate home instruction to excluded pupils in accordance with law; and the filing of reports as required by law.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3; 18A:40-7 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 26:4-4; 26:4-6
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4
N.J.A.C. 8:57-1.3; 8:57-1.6; 8:57-2.1 et seq.;

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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HIV/AIDS

8453 HIV/AIDS

The Board of Education will comply with rules of the State Board of Education and the State Department of Health and Senior Services with regard to the admission and employment of persons who may be diagnosed with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). "AIDS" means a condition affecting a person who has a reliably diagnosed disease that meets the criteria for AIDS specified by the Center for Disease Control of the United States Public Health Services. "HIV infection" means infection with the human immunodeficiency virus or any other related virus identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS. Laboratory results indicative of infection with HIV shall mean laboratory results showing the presence of HIV or components of HIV, or laboratory results showing the presence of antibodies to HIV, or results from laboratory tests conducted to measure the presence of HIV RNA (viral load tests), such as quantitative PCR tests.

AIDS or HIV infection shall not be considered a communicable disease for purposes of admission to or attendance in a school or for eligibility for educational transportation.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4(a)8, no person, pupil or employee, will be excluded from school solely because he/she is infected with HIV or lives with or is related to a person infected with HIV. Pupils infected with HIV, including those who may be symptomatic or diagnosed with AIDS, may be excluded from school only as a pupil not infected with HIV or diagnosed with AIDS may be excluded from school. A school employee infected with HIV may be restricted in his/her employment only if the employee has another illness that would affect his/her employment.

Any pupil excluded from the regular school program will be provided with home instruction in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and Policy No. 2412.

No pupil, staff member, or visitor may attend or visit school if he/she has an uncoverable and/or uncovered weeping skin lesion, whether or not the person has been screened for HIV.

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HIV/AIDS

It is not required that anyone in the school be especially notified that an HIV-infected pupil or employee is present. School employee physicals, pupil physicals and athletic physicals do not require disclosure of HIV status. Records of health and medical examinations should not include information about an individual's infection with HIV. Therefore, HIV/AIDS status is an exception to records required pursuant to pupil physical examinations, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2, and school employee physical examinations, N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.1 et seq. In the event the school nurse or a school official is apprised that a pupil or employee is HIV-infected, the fact of the infection will be held in strict confidence and will not be classified as a communicable disease for admission, local health reporting or educational transportation.

Information that identifies a pupil as having an HIV infection or AIDS shall be shared only with prior written informed consent of the pupil age twelve or greater, or of the pupil's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) as required by N.J.S.A. 26:5C-1 et seq. and only for the purpose of determining an appropriate educational program for the pupil. The person who receives such information shall not reveal it to any other person without the express written consent of the minor pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or the adult pupil.

The Board shall annually provide pupils, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), staff members, school volunteers, and members of the community with information intended to increase awareness of HIV and AIDS, including information regarding the nature of the disease and its prevention. The Board will cooperate with other agencies to provide HIV/AIDS awareness information to the community.

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|----------|---|
| N.J.S.A. | 26:5C-5; 26:5C-6; 26:5C-7; 26:5C-8;
26:5C-9; 26:5C-10; 26:5C-11;
26:5C-12; 26:5C-13; 26:5C-14 |
| N.J.A.C. | 6A:16-1.3; 6A:16-1.4; 6A:16-1.5;
6A:16-3.2; 6A:32-9.1 |
| N.J.A.C. | 8:57-2.1 et seq. |

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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8454 MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS

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P 8454 MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS

The Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain a healthy learning environment for all children in the school district. One way to maintain this healthy learning environment is to manage pediculosis, a condition of a person having head lice. Head lice are very small insects that have claws that cling to hair and spend their entire life cycle on the heads of people. Head lice do not spread any diseases and having head lice is not prevented by personal or household cleanliness, use of shampoos, or length of hair. All social and economic groups can be affected by head lice. Because it is very difficult to totally prevent head lice infestations in schools where children come into close head-to-head contact with each other frequently, the Board of Education authorizes appropriate steps to manage pediculosis.

A student who is found to have active head lice will not be permitted to attend school until there are no active lice in the student's hair, proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse, and until all live and/or dead head lice are removed from the student's hair as confirmed by an examination by the school nurse.

[Option – Select Only One Option Below

- ___ The presence of nits (the eggs of lice) without active head lice will not prohibit a child from attending school provided proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse and there is no evidence of active head lice in the student's hair.

- ___ The presence of nits (the eggs of lice) will prohibit a child from attending school until the parent has provided proof of treatment to the school nurse and there is no evidence of nits in the student's hair.]

The Board recognizes parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice and school staff members will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families in managing pediculosis. The school nurse will compile a Management of Pediculosis Information Packet. The Board of Education's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet and this Policy will be provided to parents of children identified with active head lice or nits and be made available to all parents upon request. The Information Packet will include information about identifying, treating, and managing pediculosis.

If the school nurse determines a student has active head lice or nits, the parent shall be notified by the school nurse as soon as reasonably possible. The parent will be provided a copy of the district's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet and this Policy. The school nurse will advise the parent that prompt treatment of active head lice and/or nits is in the best interest of their child and treatment shall be required before the student can return to school. The school nurse will determine to send the child home or have the child remain at school for the remainder of the school day based on the comfort of the

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child, the degree of the infestation, and the likelihood of the spread of head lice to other students. If the school nurse cannot contact the parent a letter from the school nurse informing the parent of the presence of active head lice or nits will be sent home with the student. In the event the parent cannot be reached on the day it is determined their child has active head lice or nits, the parent will be required to contact the school nurse the next school day to review the Board Policy, the Management of Pediculosis Information Packet, and treatment options.

The following action will be taken to prevent the spread of head lice in district schools:

1. Grades Kindergarten through Four – When a single case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, parents of all children in a class will be notified by the school nurse. The Principal will send home a copy of a Head Lice Alert Notice, the school district’s Management of Pediculosis Information Packet, and this Policy to all parents of children in the class.
 - a. The information provided to parents will clearly notify parents that treatment should only be performed on their child if active head lice or nits are found in their child’s scalp and treatment should not be applied as a preventative measure. This notification will inform parents they are expected to notify the school nurse if they find active head lice or nits in their child’s scalp. The school nurse will perform a head check of any student if requested by the parent.
 - b. The school nurse will perform head checks of all students in a classroom where there are three or more active head lice cases or nits in the same classroom within a two week period.
2. Grades Five through Eight – When a single case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, parents of children in a class or on a team may be sent a Head Lice Alert Notice, the school district’s Management of Pediculosis Information Packet, and this Policy at the discretion of the Principal or designee and the school nurse. Parents may request information regarding head lice from the school nurse. The school nurse will perform a head check of any student if requested by the parent.

[Option

— When a case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, the school nurse shall perform a head check of any of the infested student’s siblings in the school. If a sibling(s) attends a different school in the district, the school nurse in the sibling’s school will be notified and the school nurse may conduct a head check of the sibling(s). In addition, anytime the school nurse has identified active head lice, the school nurse may conduct a head check of other students in the

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school who are most likely to have had head-to-head contact with the infested child. All other students to be checked shall be identified by the school nurse in consultation with the school administration. Parental approval shall be obtained by the Principal or designee or school nurse.]

Each school in the district will make available to parents the district's Management of Pediculosis Policy.

All school staff members will maintain a sympathetic attitude and will not stigmatize and/or blame families who experience difficulty with control measures. All school staff members will act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community regarding issues of head lice.

Each school in the district will educate and encourage children and parents to learn about head lice in an attempt to remove any stigma or to prevent any harassment, intimidation, and bullying associated with this issue. Any instances of harassment, intimidation, and bullying shall be reported and investigated in accordance with the provisions of the district's Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy.

A student excluded from school for reasons outlined in this Policy shall be re-admitted only upon the examination and approval of the Principal or designee and the school nurse. The examination for re-admittance to school by the school nurse may be, but is not required to be, in the presence of the student's parent.

Cases of active head lice will be recorded by the school nurse in each school for the purpose of tracking incident rates and mandatory reporting of outbreaks will be done according to the New Jersey Department of Health criteria for reporting outbreaks.

Adopted: 15 August 2017

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Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Harassment,
Intimidation, Bullying, Alcohol,
and Other Drug Abuse

8461 REPORTING VIOLENCE, VANDALISM, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, BULLYING, ALCOHOL, AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE

The Board of Education shall observe “School Violence Awareness Week” during the week beginning with the third Monday in October of each year by organizing activities to prevent school violence. Activities shall include, but are not limited to, age-appropriate opportunities for pupil discussion on conflict resolution, issues of pupil diversity, and tolerance. The Board shall invite law enforcement personnel to join members of the teaching staff in the discussions and provide programs for school employees that are designed to help them recognize warning signs of school violence and to instruct them on recommended conduct during an incident of school violence.

Any school employee who observes or has direct knowledge from a participant or victim of an act of violence or the possession and/or distribution of alcohol or other drugs on school grounds, and any school employee who reports a pupil for being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, according to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3, shall file a report describing the incident to the school Principal, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. The report shall be on a form adopted by the Board to include all of the incident detail and offender and victim information that are reported on the Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System (EVVRS).

A report alleging an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be made in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13.1 and Policy 5512.

The Building Principal, for each incident report of violence, vandalism, harassment, intimidation, bullying, alcohol, or other drug abuse, shall review the incident report for accuracy; forward a copy of the incident report to the Superintendent; and notify the Superintendent of the action taken regarding the incident. The Board shall not discharge or subject to any manner of discrimination any school employee who files a report pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3.

The majority representative of the school employees’ bargaining units shall have access monthly to the number and disposition of all reported acts of school violence, vandalism, harassment, intimidation, or bullying pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. Personally identifying information may be provided to the majority representative of the school employees’ bargaining units only in instances when school administrators have reason to believe that the safety of a school staff member is at risk.

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Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Harassment,
Intimidation, Bullying, Alcohol,
and Other Drug Abuse

Two times each school year, between September 1 and January 1 and between January 1 and June 30, at a public hearing held pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, the Superintendent shall report to the Board all acts of violence, vandalism, harassment, intimidation, bullying, and incidents of alcohol and other drug abuse that occurred during the previous reporting period in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3. The report shall include the number of reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the status of all investigations, the nature of the bullying based on one of the protected categories identified in section 2 of P.L.2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-14), the names of the investigators, the type and nature of any discipline imposed on any pupil engaged in harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and any other measures imposed, training conducted, or programs implemented, to reduce harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The information shall also be reported once during each reporting period to the Department of Education. The report must include data broken down by the enumerated categories as listed in section 2 of P.L.2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-14), and data broken down by each school in the district, in addition to district-wide data. It shall be a violation to improperly release any confidential information not authorized by Federal or State law for public release.

The report shall be used to grade each school for the purpose of assessing its effort to implement policies and programs consistent with the provisions of P.L. 2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-13 et seq.). The district shall receive a grade determined by averaging the grades of all the schools in the district. The Commissioner shall promulgate guidelines for a program to grade schools for the purposes of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. The grade received by a school and the district shall be posted on the homepage of the school's website. The grade for the district and each school of the district shall be posted on the homepage of the district's website. A link to the report shall be available on the district's website. The information shall be posted on the websites within ten days of the receipt of a grade by the school and district.

Whenever it is alleged a school employee has knowingly falsified the report on violence, vandalism, harassment, intimidation, or bullying required under N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, the Board shall make a determination regarding whether the employee committed the act. The Board shall provide written notice of the allegations to the employee and the employee shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3(g)2. Upon a determination by the Board that an employee has knowingly falsified the report, the Board may take appropriate action as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3(g)3. Any action taken by the Board shall be based on its consideration of the nature of the conduct, the circumstances under which it occurred, and the employee's prior employment record. Any employee having been found responsible for the falsification of the report by the Board shall have the right to file a grievance under their respective bargaining agreements, appeal the Board's determination to the Commissioner of Education and subsequently to the State Board of Education, or appeal the

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Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Harassment,
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and Other Drug Abuse

decision to the Superior Court of New Jersey. The availability of appeal options shall be based upon the action taken by the Board.

A Board of Education shall submit and implement corrective action plans for high incidences of violence, vandalism, or alcohol or other drug abuse upon notification by the Commissioner of Education.

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

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46; 18A:36-5.1

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.2; 6A:16-5.3

Adopted: 11 August 2011

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATIONS

8462 REPORTING POTENTIALLY MISSING OR ABUSED CHILDREN

8462 REPORTING POTENTIALLY MISSING OR ABUSED CHILDREN (M)

The Board of Education recognizes early detection of missing, abused, or neglected children is important in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of all children. In recognition of the importance of early detection of missing, abused, or neglected children, the Board of Education adopts this Policy pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-24 and 18A:36-25. The Board provides this Policy for its employees, volunteers, or interns for the early detection of missing, abused, or neglected children through notification of, reporting to, and cooperation with the appropriate law enforcement and child welfare authorities pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-24 and 18A:36-25 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1, N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10, and N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.1(d).

Employees, volunteers, or interns working in the school district shall immediately notify designated child welfare authorities of incidents of alleged missing, abused, and/or neglected children. Reports of incidents of alleged missing, abused, or neglected children shall be reported to the New Jersey State Central Registry (SCR) at 1-877 NJ ABUSE or to any other telephone number designated by the appropriate child welfare authorities. If the child is in immediate danger a call shall be placed to 911 as well as to the SCR.

The school district shall prominently display information about the Department of Children and Families' State Central Registry, a toll-free hotline for reporting child abuse, in each school of the district. The information shall give instructions to call 911 for emergencies and shall include directions for accessing the Department of Children and Families' website or social media platforms for more information on reporting abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The information shall be in a format and language that is clear, simple, and understandable. The information shall be on a poster and displayed at each school in at least one high-traffic, highly and clearly visible public area that is readily accessible to and widely used by students, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33.28.

The person having reason to believe that a child may be missing or may have been abused or neglected may inform the Principal or other designated school official(s) prior to notifying designated child welfare authorities if the action will not delay immediate notification. The person notifying designated child welfare authorities shall inform the Principal or other designated school official(s) of the notification, if such had not occurred prior to the notification. Notice to the Principal or other designated school official(s) need not be given when the person believes that such notice would likely endanger the reporter or student involved or when the person believes that such disclosure would likely result in retaliation against the student or in discrimination against the reporter with respect to his or her employment.

The Principal or other designated school official(s) upon being notified by a person having reason to believe that a child may be missing or may have been abused or neglected, must notify appropriate law enforcement authorities. Notification to appropriate law enforcement authorities shall be made for all reports by employees, volunteers, or interns working in the school district. Confirmation by another person is not

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8462 REPORTING POTENTIALLY MISSING OR ABUSED CHILDREN

required for a school district employee, volunteer, or intern to report the suspected missing, abused, or neglected child situation.

School district officials will cooperate with designated child welfare and law enforcement authorities in all investigations of potentially missing, abused, or neglected children in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1(a)5.

The district designates the district guidance counselors as the school district's liaison to designated child welfare authorities to act as the primary contact person between the school district and child welfare authorities with regard to general information sharing and the development of mutual training and other cooperative efforts. The district designates the Superintendent or designee as the school district's liaison to law enforcement authorities to act as the primary contact person between the school district and law enforcement authorities, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)1, consistent with the Memorandum of Agreement, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)13.

An employee, volunteer, or intern working in the school district who has been named as a suspect in a notification to child welfare and law enforcement authorities regarding a missing, abused, or neglected child situation shall be entitled to due process rights, including those rights defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1(a)9.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to school district employees, volunteers, or interns on the district's policy and procedures for reporting allegations of missing, abused, or neglected child situations. All new school district employees, volunteers, or interns working in the district shall receive the required information and training as part of their orientation.

There shall be no reprisal or retaliation against any person who, in good faith, reports or causes a report to be made of a potentially missing, abused, or neglected child situation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.13.

N.J.S.A. 18A:33-28; 18A:36-24; 18A:36-25 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1

Adopted: May 6, 2020

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Bias Crimes and Bias-Related Acts

M

R 8465 BIAS CRIMES AND BIAS-RELATED ACTS

A. Definitions

1. A bias crime means any criminal offense where the person or persons committing the offense acted with a purpose to intimidate an individual or group of individuals because of race; color; religion; gender; disability; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; national origin; or ethnicity.
2. A bias-related act means an act directed at a person, group of persons, private property, or public property that is motivated in whole or in part by racial; gender; disability; religion; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; national origin; or ethnic prejudice. A bias-related act need not involve conduct that constitutes a criminal offense.
3. All bias crimes are also bias-related acts, but not all bias-related acts will constitute a bias crime.

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

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

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Bias Crimes and Bias-Related Acts

3. The Superintendent or designee shall immediately notify the local police department and the bias investigation officer for the county prosecutor's office where there is reason to believe a bias crime or bias-related act that involves an act of violence has been or is about to be physically committed against a student, or there is otherwise reason to believe a life has been or will be threatened.

C. Nature of Referral

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

D. Concurrent Jurisdiction

1. Unless the local police department or the county prosecutor's office request otherwise, school officials may continue to investigate a suspected bias crime or bias-related act occurring on school grounds and may take such actions as necessary and appropriate to redress and remediate any such acts.
2. School officials will immediately discontinue any ongoing school investigation if the local police department or the county prosecutor's office believe the school investigation could jeopardize an on-going law enforcement investigation or otherwise endanger the public safety.
 - a. Upon notice provided in D.2. above, school officials will take no further action without providing notice to and receiving the assent of the local police department or the county prosecutor's office.

E. Preservation of Evidence

1. School officials will secure and preserve any such graffiti or other evidence of a suspected bias crime or bias-related act pending the arrival of the local police department or the county prosecutor's office.
2. The school officials, when feasible, will cover or conceal such evidence until the arrival of the local police department or county prosecutor's office in a manner designed to minimize the harm and continued exposure to students by such evidence.

Adopted: 12 April 2022

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Weapons

8467 WEAPONS

The Board of Education prohibits the possession, use, or exchange of any weapon in any school building, on school grounds, at any school sponsored event, and on school sanctioned transportation except as the possession and use of a weapon is authorized by law and required in the performance of the possessor's duty.

For the purpose of this policy, "weapon" means anything readily capable of lethal use or of inflicting serious bodily injury. "Weapon" includes, but is not limited to, all firearms, knives, dangerous instruments intended to inflict harm, components that can be readily assembled into a weapon, explosive devices, and imitation firearms. For the purposes of this policy "firearm" means those items enumerated in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1f and 18 U.S.C. 921.

Any pupil or school employee who has reasonable grounds to suspect the presence of a weapon prohibited by this policy shall immediately report his/her suspicion to the Building Principal and/or designee. The Building Principal and/or designee shall conduct an appropriate search in accordance with Policy No. 5770 and confiscate any weapon discovered in the course of the search. He/she shall, if appropriate and feasible, summon the aid of law enforcement officers in the conduct of the search. Any school employee who confirms the presence of a weapon under circumstances that place persons at serious risk may confiscate the weapon immediately and may use such force as is reasonable and necessary to obtain possession.

Unless the weapon has been taken into custody by a law enforcement officer, the Building Principal and/or designee shall immediately store any confiscated weapon in a securely locked box or container and report the presence of the weapon to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall promptly notify, by telephone call and by letter, the Chief of Police of Rockaway Borough that a weapon is present on school premises; the notice shall request removal of the weapon by an authorized law enforcement officer. The Superintendent shall obtain and file a receipt for any weapon removed by a law enforcement officer.

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Any pupil who possesses, uses, or exchanges a weapon in violation of this policy shall be subject to stringent discipline, which may include expulsion. Any pupil or school employee who suspects or knows of the presence of a weapon in violation of this policy and fails to report the same shall be subject to discipline. Any person who possesses a weapon on school premises or school transportation or at a school-sponsored function shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Any pupil who is convicted or is an adjudicated delinquent for possession of a firearm or who is found to be in possession of a firearm on school property must be immediately removed from the regular education program and provided with an alternative program, pending a hearing before the Board of Education. Pupils convicted or found to be delinquent for possessing a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function or committing a crime while possessing a firearm shall be immediately removed from the regular education program for a period of not less than one calendar year and placed in an alternative education school or program pending a hearing before the Board of Education to remove the pupil. (Chapters 127 and 128 of 1995, The Zero Tolerance for Guns Act)

Any pupil who commits an assault upon members of the school community with a weapon other than a firearm on school property must be immediately removed from the regular education program and provided with an alternative program, pending a hearing before the Board of Education. (Chapters 127 and 128 of 1995, The Zero Tolerance for Guns Act)

Pupils with disabilities violating the provisions of this policy shall be dealt with in accordance with Policy No. 2460 and Regulation No. 2460.7.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit the reporting of a crime committed by a child with a disability to the appropriate law enforcement or judicial authorities, or to prevent such authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of federal or state law to crimes committed by a child with disabilities.

Any pupil requiring removal from the regular education program for the reasons enumerated above shall be removed in accordance with Policy and Regulation No. 5611.

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Weapons

The Superintendent, or designee, shall prepare regulations to implement this policy for the guidance of school staff in dealing with incidents involving weapons in the school district.

N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1 et seq.; 2C:58-6.1; 2C:58-15

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

N.J.S.A. 23:4-16

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.8 et seq.

Chapters 127 and 128 of 1995, The Zero Tolerance for Guns Act

18 U.S.C. 921

20 U.S.C. 1415

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Crisis Response

8468 CRISIS RESPONSE

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to be prepared to confront circumstances in which the physical and/or mental well-being of pupils, staff and other individuals on school grounds is threatened or overtly impacted upon by an individual or group of individuals. Situations at issue include, but are not limited to, acts of terrorism, hostage situations and other threats or acts of a violent nature. The Board further recognizes there is a need to deal with the aftermath of such events and circumstances, and to contend with the psychological trauma, pain and confusion which may ensue as the result of these events.

The Board establishes through the person of the Superintendent or his/her designee, a Crisis Team whose responsibility it shall be to act:

1. As a source of information;
2. As a vehicle through which direct services may be delivered;
3. In an advisory capacity to the Superintendent, or his/her designee, and/or other agents or agencies dealing with the crisis situation.

The Crisis Team shall consist of the following membership:

1. The Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee;
2. An administrator from each of the schools within the district;
3. School Psychologist(s);
4. Guidance Counselor(s);
5. School Social Worker(s);
6. Director of Special Services and/or Guidance;
7. Director of Buildings and Grounds;
8. Teacher representative(s);

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Crisis Response

9. A representative of local/State Police;
10. A representative of local medical facility/hospital;
11. School Nurse; and
12. Others as deemed appropriate to the function of the Crisis Team; e.g., a fire department representative, EMT specialist, other school or community representatives.

The Crisis Team shall be convened at least on an annual basis:

1. To review established policy and procedures;
2. To orient new members as to their responsibilities;
3. To maintain and reinforce lines of communication between the various disciplines and specialists who make up the Crisis Team.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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8500 FOOD SERVICES (M)

The Board of Education shall make school lunch available to all students enrolled in a school in the district unless less than five percent of enrolled students in the school are Federally eligible for a free or reduced price lunch in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:33-4. School lunches made available pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-4 and this Policy shall meet minimum nutritional standards, established by the Department of Education.

Free or reduced price breakfast and lunch, as required, shall be offered, under a school lunch program, school breakfast program, or a breakfast after the bell program, to all enrolled students who are determined to be Federally eligible for free or reduced price meals. As provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:33-4.a.(3) and N.J.S.A. 18A:33-14a.a.(2), any student who is eligible for a reduced price lunch and breakfast, pursuant to Federal income eligibility standards and criteria, shall not be required to pay for such lunch or breakfast. Free lunch or breakfast shall also be offered to each enrolled student who is Federally ineligible for free or reduced price meals, but who has an annual household income that is not less than one hundred and eighty-six percent, and not more than one hundred ninety-nine percent, of the Federal poverty level, as determined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21b1.

- A. Breakfast Program – N.J.S.A. 18A:33-10; 18A:33-10.1; 18A:33-11; 18A:33-11.1; 18A:33-11.3; 18A:33-14a.

If twenty percent or more of the students enrolled in a school in the district on October 1 of the preceding school year were Federally eligible for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program or the Federal School Breakfast Program, the district shall establish a school breakfast program in the school in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-10.

Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-10 to the contrary, if ten percent or more of the students enrolled in a school in the district on October 1 of the preceding school year were Federally eligible for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program or the Federal School Breakfast Program the district shall establish a breakfast program in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-10.1.

If seventy percent or more of the students enrolled in a school in the district on or before the last school day before October 16 of the preceding school year were Federally eligible for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program or the Federal School Breakfast Program, the district shall establish a breakfast after the bell program pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-11.3.

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In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:33-11, in implementing a school lunch program, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-4 et seq., a school breakfast program, pursuant N.J.S.A. 18A:33-9 et seq., or N.J.S.A. 18A:33-10.1, or a breakfast after the bell program, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-11.1 or N.J.S.A. 18A:33-11.3, the district shall:

1. Publicize, to parents and students, the availability of the respective school meals program, as well as the various ways in which a student may qualify to receive free or reduced-price meals under the program, as provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:33-4 and N.J.S.A. 18A:33-14a.;
2. Make every effort to ensure that subsidized students are not recognized as program participants, by the student body, faculty, or staff, in a manner that is different from the manner in which unsubsidized students are recognized as program participants. Such efforts shall include, but need not be limited to, the establishment of a neutral meal plan or voucher system that does not make a distinction between subsidized and unsubsidized students; and
3. Make every effort to:
 - a. Facilitate the prompt and accurate identification of categorically eligible students who may be certified to participate in the program, on a subsidized basis, without first submitting an application therefore, and, whenever an application is required to establish eligibility for subsidized meals, encourage students and their families to submit a subsidized school meals application for that purpose;
 - b. Facilitate and expedite, to the greatest extent practicable, the subsidized school meals application and income-eligibility determination processes that are used, by the district, to certify a student for free or reduced-price school meals on the basis of income, and assist parents in completing the school meals application; and
 - c. Encourage students who are neither categorically eligible nor income-eligible for free or reduced-price school meals to nonetheless participate, on a paid and unsubsidized basis, in the program.

If the district participates in the Federal School Breakfast Program, the district is encouraged to increase the number of students participating in the program by establishing a breakfast after the bell program that incorporates school breakfast into the first-period classroom or the first few minutes of the school day pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-11.1.

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Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-14a., school breakfasts made available to students under a school breakfast program or a breakfast after the bell program shall meet minimum nutritional standards, established by the New Jersey Department of Education.

The State of New Jersey shall provide funding to each school in the district if the school operates a School Breakfast Program or a breakfast after the bell program, as may be necessary to reimburse the costs associated with the school's provision of free breakfasts, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-14a.b., to students who are Federally ineligible for free or reduced price meals.

B. Summer Food Service Program – N.J.S.A. 18A:33-23; 18A:33-24; 18A:33-25; 18A:33-26

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:33-24, if fifty percent or more of the students enrolled in the school district on or before the last school day before October 16 of the preceding school year were Federally eligible for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program or the Federal School Breakfast Program, the district shall become a sponsor or site under the Federal Summer Food Service Program or apply for a waiver pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-26.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:33-23, the district shall notify each student enrolled and the student's parent of the availability of, and criteria of eligibility for, the summer meals program and the locations in the district where the summer meals are available. The district shall provide this notification by distributing flyers provided by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture pursuant to subsection N.J.S.A. 18A:33-23.c. The district may also provide electronic notice of the information through the usual means by which the district communicates with parents and students electronically.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-26.a., the New Jersey Department of Agriculture may grant a waiver of the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-24 et seq. To be granted a waiver, the district must show that it lacks the staff, facilities, or equipment to sponsor the Federal Summer Food Service Program, or the means to finance the hiring or acquisition of such staff, facilities, or equipment. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture also may grant a waiver for one year to the district if a different sponsor currently runs the Federal Summer Food Service Program within the district's community.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-26.b., the district shall report to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, in the manner prescribed by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, its reasons for requesting a waiver of the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-24 et seq. The report shall include, but need not be limited to, a description of the specific impediments to implementing the program and actions that could be taken to remove those impediments or, where applicable, the identification of the sponsor that currently runs the program within the same community.

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- C. Information Provided to Parents Regarding the National School Lunch Program and the Federal School Breakfast Program – N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21b1
1. At the beginning of each school year, or upon initial enrollment, in the case of a student who enrolls during the school year, the school shall provide each student's parent with:
 - a. Information on the National School Lunch Program and the Federal School Breakfast Program, including, but not limited to, information on the availability of free or reduced price meals for eligible students, information on the application and determination processes that are used to certify eligible students for subsidized school meals, and information on the rights that are available to students and their families under N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21b1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21; and
 - b. A school meals application form, as well as instructions for completing the application, and, as necessary, assistance in completing the application.
 2. The school meals information and application provided to parents, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21b1.a. shall:
 - a. Be communicated in a language that the parent understands;
 - b. Specify the limited purposes for which collected personal data may be used, as provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21b1.c.; and
 - c. Be submitted to the parent either in writing or electronically. In the latter case, the school district shall use the usual means by which it communicates with parents electronically.
 3. A school meals application that is completed by a parent shall be confidential, and shall not be used or shared by the student's school or school district, except as may be necessary to:
 - a. Determine whether a student identified in the application is eligible for free or reduced price school meals;
 - b. Determine whether the school or school district is required, by N.J.S.A. 18A:33-11.3 or by N.J.S.A. 18A:33-24, to establish a breakfast after the bell program, or to participate as a sponsor or site in the Federal Summer Meals Service Program;

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- c. Ensure that the school receives appropriate reimbursement, from the State and Federal governments, for meals provided to eligible students, free of charge, through a school lunch program, a school breakfast program, a breakfast after the bell program, a summer meals program, or an emergency meals distribution program; and
- d. Facilitate school aid determinations under the “School Funding Reform Act of 2008,” N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-43 et seq.

D. Free or Reduced Price Meals’ Application Process – 7 CFR 245

School meals applications shall be reviewed in a timely manner. An eligibility determination will be made, the family will be notified of its status, and the status will be implemented as soon as possible within ten operating days of receipt of the completed application pursuant to 7 CFR 245.6(c)(6). Any student found eligible shall be offered free or reduced price meals or free milk immediately upon the establishment of their eligibility and shall continue to receive such meals during the pendency of any inquiry regarding their eligibility in accordance with the requirements of the Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Carry-over of previous year’s eligibility for students shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

In accordance with 7 CFR 245.6(c)(1) and (2), eligibility for free or reduced price meals, as determined through an approved application or by direct certification, must remain in effect for the entire school year and for up to thirty operating days in the subsequent school year. Prior to the processing of an application or the completion of direct certification procedures for the current school year, children from households with approved applications or documentation of direct certification on file from the preceding year, shall be offered reimbursable free and reduced price meals, as appropriate.

In accordance with 7 CFR 245.6(c)(6)(iii), children from households that notify the local educational agency that they do not want free or reduced price benefits must have their benefits discontinued as soon as possible.

Pursuant to 7 CFR 245.6(c)(7), if the district receives an incomplete school meals application or a school meals application that does not meet the eligibility criteria for free or reduced priced benefits, the school meals application must be denied. The district shall document and retain the denied school meals application and reasons for ineligibility for three years in accordance with 7 CFR 245.6(e).

In accordance with 7 CFR 245.6(c)(7), parents of students who are denied benefits must receive prompt, written notification of their denial. The notification may be provided by

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mail or e-mail to the individual who signed the school meals application. Posting the denial on the “notification” page of an online system does not meet this requirement. Likewise, informing the parent of denial via telephone does not meet this requirement. If the district uses an automated telephone information system to notify parents of denied benefits, the district must also provide the parents with written notification of the denial. The notification must provide the: reason for denial of benefits; right to appeal; instructions on how to appeal; and ability to reapply for free and reduced price benefits at any time during the school year.

In accordance with 7 CFR 245.6(e), the district shall record the eligibility determination and notification in an easily referenced format. The record shall include the: denial date; reason for denial; date the denial notice was sent; and signature or initials of the determining official (may be electronic, where applicable).

Any parents of students who have benefits that are to be reduced or terminated must be given ten calendar days’ written notice of the change prior to the date the change will go into effect pursuant to 7 CFR 245.6a(j). The first day of the advance notice period shall be the day the notice is sent. The notice of adverse action may be sent via mail or to the email address of the parent. The district shall notify the household of adverse action by phone only.

Pursuant to 7 CFR 245.6a(j), the notice of adverse action must advise the parents of: change in benefits; reasons for the change; an appeal must be filed within the ten calendar days advance notice period to ensure continued benefits while awaiting a hearing and decision; instructions on how to appeal; and the parents may reapply for benefits at any time during the school year.

If the district participates in any National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, or provides free milk under the Special Milk Program, the district shall submit to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture a free and reduced price policy statement pursuant to 7 CFR 245.10.

In accordance with 7 CFR 245.1(b), the district shall avoid any policy or practice leading to the overt identification of students receiving free or reduced price meal benefits. Overt identification is any action that may result in a child being recognized as potentially eligible for or certified for free or reduced price school meals. Unauthorized disclosure or overt identification of students receiving free and reduced price meal benefits is prohibited. The district shall ensure that a child’s eligibility status is not disclosed at any point in the process of providing free and reduced price meals, including: notification of the availability of free and reduced price benefits; certification and notification of eligibility; provision of meals in the cafeteria; and the point of service. In addition, the district shall ensure students who receive free and reduced price benefits are not overtly identified when they are provided additional services under programs or activities

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available to low-income students based on their eligibility for free and reduced price meals.

Pursuant to 7 CFR 245.2, disclosure means revealing or using individual student's program eligibility information obtained through the free and reduced price meal or free milk eligibility process for a purpose other than the purpose for which the information was obtained. Disclosure includes, but is not limited to, access, release, or transfer of personal data about students by means of print, tape, microfilm, microfiche, electronic communication, or any other means. It includes eligibility information obtained through the school meals application or through direct certification.

If the district accepts both cash and electronic payments, the district shall ensure students are not overtly identified through the method of payment pursuant to 7 CFR 245.8(b). To the maximum extent practicable, the district must ensure the sale of non-program foods and the method of payment for non-program foods do not inadvertently result in students being identified by their peers as receiving free and reduced price benefits.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will verify applications of those eligible for free or reduced price meals in accordance with the requirements of the Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

E. Meal Charge Program – N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21

The Board of Education provides a meal charge program to permit unsubsidized students in the district to charge for breakfast or lunch. Collection of any payment for a meal charge program account that is in arrears shall be addressed in accordance with provisions of this Policy.

“Unsubsidized student” means a student who is neither categorically eligible nor income-eligible for free or reduced price school meals, and who is, consequently, required to pay for any such meals that are served to the student under the National School Lunch Program or the Federal School Breakfast Program.

The Board of Education recognizes a student may not have breakfast or lunch (meal), as applicable, or money to purchase a meal at school on a school day causing the student's meal charge account to fall into arrears. The district shall contact the student's parent to provide notice of the arrearage and shall provide the parent with a period of ten school days to pay the amount due. If the student's parent has not made full payment by the end of the designated ten school day period, then the district shall again contact the student's

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parent to provide notice of any action to be taken by the school district in response to the arrearage.

A parent who has received a second notice their child's meal bill is in arrears and who has not made payment in full within one week from the date of the second notice may be requested to meet with the Principal or designee to discuss and resolve the matter.

A parent's refusal to meet with the Principal or designee or take other steps to resolve the matter may be indicative of more serious issues in the family or household. However, when a parent's routine failure to provide breakfast or lunch is reasonably suspected to be indicative of child neglect, the Principal or designee shall immediately report such suspicion to the Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency as required in N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10. Such reporting shall not be delayed to accommodate a parent's meeting with the Principal or designee.

A school district shall report at least biannually to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture the number of students who are denied school breakfast or school lunch in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21.a.(2) and this Policy.

Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21 or this Policy shall be construed to require the district to deny or restrict the ability of an unsubsidized student to access school breakfast or school lunch when the student's school breakfast or school lunch bill is in arrears.

The school or school district shall not:

1. Publicly identify or stigmatize an unsubsidized student who cannot pay for a school breakfast or a school lunch or whose school breakfast or school lunch bill is in arrears. (For example, by requiring the student to sit at a separate table or by requiring that the student wear a wristband, hand stamp, or identifying mark, or by serving the student an alternative meal);
2. Require an unsubsidized student, who cannot pay for a school breakfast or a school lunch or whose school breakfast or school lunch bill is in arrears to do chores or other work to pay for the school breakfast or school lunch;
3. Require an unsubsidized student to discard a school breakfast or school lunch after it has been served because of the student's inability to pay for a school breakfast or school lunch or because money is owed for previously provided meals;
4. Prohibit an unsubsidized student, or sibling of such a student, from attending or participating in non-fee-based extracurricular activities, field trips, or school events, from receiving grades, official transcripts, or report cards, or from

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graduating or attending graduation events, solely because of the student's unresolved meal debt; or

5. Require the parent of an unsubsidized student to pay fees or costs in excess of the actual amounts owed for meals previously served to the student.

If an unsubsidized student owes money for the equivalent of five or more school meals, the Principal or designee shall:

1. Determine whether the student is categorically eligible or income-eligible for free or reduced price meals, by conducting a review of all available records related to the student, and by making at least two attempts, not including the initial attempt made pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21.c.(2), to contact the student's parent and have the parent fill out a school meals application; and
2. Contact the parent of the unsubsidized student to offer assistance with respect to the completion of the school meals application; and to determine if there are other issues in the household that have caused the student to have insufficient funds to purchase a school breakfast or school lunch; and to offer any other appropriate assistance.

The school district shall direct communications about a student's school breakfast or school lunch bill being in arrears to the parent and not to the student. Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21 shall prohibit the school district from sending a student home with a letter addressed to a parent.

Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21 and the provisions of any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, an unsubsidized student shall not be denied access to a school meal, regardless of the student's ability to pay or the status of the student's meal arrearages, during any period of time in which the school is making a determination, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21.c., as to whether the student is eligible for, and can be certified to receive, free or reduced price meals.

If the student's meal bill is in arrears, but the student has the money to purchase a meal on a subsequent school day, the student will be provided a meal with payment and the food service program will not use the student's payment to repay previously unpaid charges if the student intended to use the money to purchase that school day's meal.

Students receiving free meals will not be denied a meal even if they accrued a negative balance from other purchases in the cafeteria.

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The school district may post this Policy on the school district's website provided there is a method in place to ensure this Policy reaches all households without access to a computer or the Internet.]

F. Provision of Meals to Homeless Children – N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21c.

The district's liaison for the education of homeless children shall coordinate with district personnel to ensure that a homeless student receives free school meals and is monitored according to district policies pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21c.

G. Provision of School Meals During Period of School Closure – N.J.S.A. 18A:33-27.2

In the event the Board is provided a written directive, by either the New Jersey Department of Health or the health officer of the jurisdiction, to institute a public health-related closure due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the district shall implement a program, during the period of the school closure, to provide school meals, at meal distribution sites designated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-27.2.b., to all students enrolled in the district who are either categorically eligible or income-eligible for free or reduced price school meals.

In the event of an emergency closure, as described in N.J.S.A. 18A:33-27.2.a., the district shall identify one or more school meal distribution sites that are walkable and easily accessible to students in the district. The district shall collaborate with county and municipal government officials in identifying appropriate sites. A school meals distribution site may include, but need not be limited to: faith-based locations; community centers, such as YMCAs; and locations in the district where meals are made available through a summer meals program. In a district that includes high density housing, the district shall make every effort to identify a school meal distribution site in that housing area.

The district shall identify students enrolled in the district who are categorically eligible or income-eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for whom a school meal distribution site, identified pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-27.2.b., is not within walking distance. In the case of these students, the district shall distribute the school meals to the student's residence or to the student's bus stop along an established bus route, provided that the

student or the student's parent is present at the bus stop for the distribution. Food distributed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-27.2.c. may include up to a total of three school days' worth of food per delivery.

The district may use school buses owned and operated by the district to distribute school meals pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-27.2. If the district does not own and operate its own buses, the district may contract for the distribution of school meals, and these contracts

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shall not be subject to the public bidding requirements established pursuant to the “Public School Contracts Law,” N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.

The district shall collaborate, as feasible, with other districts and with local government units to implement the emergency meals distribution program, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:33-27.2, in order to promote administrative and operational efficiencies and cost savings.

School lunches and breakfasts that are made available, through an emergency meals distribution program operating pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-27.2, shall be provided to eligible students, free of charge, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-4.a. and N.J.S.A. 18A:33-14a.

H. Statement of Compliance

All food service programs shall be operated pursuant to 7 CFR 245, as appropriate, and this Policy.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42.1; 18A:33-4; 18A:33-5; 18A:33-10;
18A:33-10.1; 18A:33-11; 18A:33-11.1; 18A:33-11.2;
18A:33-11.3; 18A:33-14a.; 18A:33-21; 18A:33-21a.;
18A:33-21b1; 18A:33-21c.; 18A:33-23; 18A:33-24;
18A:33-25; 18A:33-26; 18A:33-27.2; 18A:58-7.1;
18A:58-7.2

N.J.A.C. 2:36

N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.6 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 8:24-2.1 through 7.5

7 C.F.R. 210.1 et seq.

Adopted: December 12, 2023

8505 LOCAL WELLNESS POLICY/NUTRIENT STANDARDS FOR MEALS AND OTHER FOODS (M)
8505 LOCAL WELLNESS POLICY/NUTRIENT STANDARDS FOR MEALS AND OTHER FOODS (M)

M

The Board of Education recognizes child and adolescent obesity has become a major health concern in the United States. The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA), funds child nutrition programs and establishes required nutrition standards for school lunch and breakfast programs. In accordance with the requirements of the HHFKA each school in the district shall implement this Wellness Policy that includes goals for nutrition promotion, nutrition education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness.

The Principal or a School Wellness Policy Coordinator designated by the Principal will be responsible to ensure the school complies with the requirements in this Policy. The Superintendent of Schools will designate a District Wellness Policy Coordinator who will have the authority and responsibility to ensure each school in the district complies with the requirements outlined in this Policy.

A. Wellness Policy Goals

The goals as outlined below shall apply to each school in the district.

1. Goals for Nutrition Promotion – The following activities will be coordinated in each school in the district:
 - a. Age-appropriate posters will be posted on the walls where food and beverages are served to students highlighting and encouraging the value of good nutrition.
 - b. The school lunch program will have promotional days during the school year where at least one new nutritional alternative menu item will be featured as part of the menu pattern meal component. The food service staff members will promote this nutritional alternative during meal service with posters, flyers, and/or hand-outs regarding the nutritional menu item alternative.
 - c. The Principal or School Wellness Policy Coordinator will encourage food products that meet the nutrition standards of the HHFKA when used as an incentive or reward for student accomplishments, club or activity achievements, and/or success in competitions within the school.
 - d. Food service staff, in consultation with the Principal or School Wellness Policy Coordinator, will coordinate obtaining student input on menu planning that will

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include taste testing of new nutritional food, satisfaction surveys, and other activities that will promote nutrition awareness.

- e. Food service staff will place the healthier food items in the service line where students are more likely to choose them.
 - f. Parents will be provided the nutritional standards of the HHFKA and encourage parents to pack lunches and snacks that meet the HHFKA nutritional standards.
2. Goals for Nutrition Education – The following activities will be coordinated in each school in the district:
- a. The Principal or School Wellness Policy Coordinator will ensure each student receives at least one presentation per school year that promotes good nutrition and nutrition education. These presentations may be provided through classroom visits from school staff members trained in nutrition, school-wide or group assembly programs, during health/physical education classes during the school year, or any other presentation manner. This requirement may be provided as part of nutrition education provided to students as part of the district’s curriculum.
 - b. The Principal or School Wellness Policy Coordinator will post the nutritional guidelines of the HHFKA in the area of the school building where food and beverages are served.
 - c. The school lunch menu will include nutritional information, activities, recipes, and/or any other information that encourages the selection of healthy food items and for students to make informed choices about nutrition, health, and physical activity.

3. Goals for Physical Activity

[This section (3.a.) shall be included for districts with elementary schools.]

- a. The following activities will be coordinated in each elementary school in the district:
 - (1) All students shall receive health/physical education under the supervision of a properly certified teaching staff member as required by the New Jersey Department of Education.

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- (2) The Principal or designee will ensure there is age-appropriate equipment and supplies available during recess time for students to participate in physical activities.
- (3) Students will be encouraged by school staff members supervising student recess time to participate in some type of physical activity, which may include, but not be limited to: walking; playing games that require physical activity, such as kick ball, volleyball, baseball, basketball, etc.; rope jumping; and/or using playground equipment.
- (4) The Principal will encourage classroom teachers to incorporate brief, physical activity breaks into the school day to establish an environment that promotes regular physical activity throughout the school day.
- (5) The Principal or designee will coordinate special events that highlight physical activity, which may include field days, walk-a-thons, and activity tournaments or competitions. The Principal or designee may involve parents, community members, and students in the planning of these events.]

[This section (3.b.) shall be included for districts with middle schools.]

b. The following activities will be coordinated in each middle school in the district:

- (1) All students shall receive health/physical education under the supervision of a properly certified teaching staff member as required by the New Jersey Department of Education.
- (2) The Board of Education may offer middle school students opportunities to participate in after-school intramural and/or interscholastic team activities coordinated and under the supervision of school staff members.
- (3) The Board of Education will support after-school activities and clubs where physical activity for students is included as a key component to the activity's or club's purpose. These clubs may include, but not be limited to, gardening clubs, walking clubs, and exercise classes.]

[This section (3.c.) shall be included for districts with high schools.]

c. The following activities will be coordinated in each high school in the district:

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- (1) All students shall receive health/physical education under the supervision of a properly certified teaching staff member as required by the New Jersey Department of Education.
 - (2) The Board of Education will offer high school students opportunities to participate in after-school intramural and/or interscholastic team activities coordinated and under the supervision of school staff members.
 - (3) The Board of Education will support after-school activities and clubs where physical activity for students is included as a key component to the activity's or club's purpose. These clubs may include, but not be limited to, gardening clubs, walking clubs, and exercise classes.]
4. Goals for Other School-Based Activities - The following activities will be coordinated in the district:
 - a. The district will establish a District Wellness Committee (DWC). The DWC will:
 - (1) Be comprised of a Principal, at least one health/physical education teacher, a school nurse, at least two parents, at least two students, at least one food service staff member representing all school levels in the district, and the District Wellness Policy Coordinator; and
 - (2) Meet at least four times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the district-wide Wellness Policy.
 - b. The Principal or School Wellness Policy Coordinator will coordinate information being disseminated to students and parents promoting the school lunch program, nutrition, and nutrition education.
 - c. The school district will celebrate a School Wellness Week, as determined by the Superintendent of Schools, where schools will have special activities throughout the week to promote nutrition and physical activity. These special activities will be planned and coordinated by each school's Principal and/or School Wellness Policy Coordinator.

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- d. The Principal and/or School Wellness Policy Coordinator will encourage fund-raising activities that promote physical activity such as walk-a-thons, teacher-student activity competitions, family activity nights, and school dances.
5. Annual School Progress Report
 - a. The goals for nutrition promotion, nutrition education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness shall be evaluated annually by the Principal or designee of each school and the School Wellness Policy Coordinator in an Annual School Progress Report provided to the Superintendent of Schools before May 1.
 - b. The Annual School Progress Report shall present the extent to which each school is in compliance with this Policy, the progress made in attaining the goals of this Policy, any recommended changes to this Policy, and an action plan for the following school year to achieve the school's annual goals and objectives.
 6. Annual District Summary Progress Report
 - a. Upon receiving the Annual School Progress Report from each school, the District Wellness Policy Coordinator will compile an Annual District Summary Progress Report to be presented to the Superintendent and Board of Education at a public meeting before May 30 of the current school year. The public will be provided an opportunity to review and comment on the Annual District Summary Progress Report at the Board meeting.
 - b. Revisions to this Policy will be recommended by the Superintendent or designee to be approved by the Board of Education before September 30 of each school year.
 7. Additional Wellness Policy Goals
 - a. Nothing in this Policy shall prevent an individual school in the district from developing and implementing additional activities, approved by the Superintendent or designee, to those required in this Policy.
- B. Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages
1. The Board of Education requires each school in the district to comply with the Federal school meal nutrition standards and the Smart Snacks in accordance with the requirements HHFKA. The nutritional standards shall apply to all foods and beverages

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sold in each school in the district as part of the menu pattern meal, a la carte, in school stores, snack bars, or vending machines. The requirements for any food or beverages sold in schools must meet a range of calorie and nutrient requirements as outlined in the HHFKA and a smart snack calculator shall be on file in each school for each product sold.

2. The school district will comply with the HHFKA beverage requirements and beverage portion requirements for each appropriate grade level. Each school will make potable water available to children at no charge in the place where breakfast, lunch, and afterschool snacks are served during meal service.
3. On-campus fundraisers involving food or beverage items must meet the Smart Snack standards of the HHFKA. The nutrition standards of the HHFKA do not apply to non-school hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events. The United States Department of Agriculture defines school day as starting from midnight to thirty minutes after the end of the school day. Fundraisers involving the sale of food or beverages must be pre-approved by the Principal or designee and the District Wellness Policy Coordinator.

[Option

4. The Board of Education will permit food in the school that is not sold to students to be brought into school by parents, students, or staff members for classroom activities, parties, or snacks, or other food provided to students as an incentive. Any occasion where food is brought into the school for such purposes must be approved by the Principal or designee, who will ensure safeguards are in place to protect students who may have a food or related allergy.]

C. District Coordinator

1. The District Wellness Policy Coordinator shall be available to consult with school-based administrators, staff members, and the School Wellness Policy Coordinator(s) on the district's Wellness Policy.
2. The District Wellness Policy Coordinator shall also be responsible to ensure parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the Board of Education, school administrators, and the general public are permitted to participate in the development, implementation, review, and update of this Wellness Policy.

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3. The District Wellness Policy Coordinator shall be responsible to inform and update the public (including parents, students, and others in the community) about the content, implementation, updates and implementation status of the district's Wellness Policy through the district's website, school publications, and/or other school communications made available to the public.
 - a. The information and update shall provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment, including a summary of the events and activities related to the Wellness Policy implementation in the school district.

D. Wellness Policy Assessment

1. The District Wellness Policy Coordinator will prepare an assessment of the district's Wellness Policy in accordance with the requirements of the United States and New Jersey Departments of Agriculture on the extent to which the school(s) in the district are in compliance with the district's Wellness Policy, the extent to which the district's Wellness Policy compares to model school wellness policies, and a description of the progress made in attaining the goals outlined in the district's Wellness Policy.
2. The District Wellness Policy Coordinator will present this assessment to the Board of Education at a public Board meeting, make such assessment available to the public, and recommend any updates to the Policy accordingly.

E. Records

1. The District Wellness Policy Coordinator shall ensure records are maintained to document compliance with the requirements of the District Wellness Policy. Such records will include, but not be limited to:
 - a. The Board-approved Wellness Policy;
 - b. Documentation demonstrating the Policy has been made available to the public;
 - c. Documentation of the efforts made in the school district to review and update the Policy;
 - d. Documentation demonstrating compliance with the annual public notification requirements;
 - e. Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on Policy implementation; and

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- f. Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the School Wellness Policy has been made available to the public.

F. Publication/Dissemination

This Policy and Assessment will be made available to staff members, students, and parents by being posted on the school district and/or school websites.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

Adopted: 28 November 2017

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School Lunch Program Biosecurity Plan

8506 SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM BIOSECURITY PLAN

The Board of Education is committed to protecting the health of the children and adults in school buildings by strengthening the safety of foodservice operations. Therefore, the Board requires the creation and implementation of a School Lunch Program Biosecurity Plan that will keep school meals free from intentional contamination and enable the foodservice to respond to threats or incidents of bioterrorism.

The School Lunch Program Biosecurity Plan shall be a document that spells out school lunch program policies and procedures that minimize the risk of intentional contamination of food and reduce the risk of illness or death in the school community. The Plan shall describe strategies for preventing threats and incidents of product tampering and food contamination. The Plan shall also include appropriate response actions to be taken should an incident occur. There may be a general Plan for all the schools in the district; however, the Plan will address the specific roles and responsibilities for individual schools or locations where food is served.

The School Lunch Program Biosecurity Plan shall be prepared, revised, and updated in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 2:36-1.13 - Biosecurity for School Food Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "A Biosecurity Checklist for School Food Service Programs," March 2004 version, as amended and supplemented, as New Jersey's Biosecurity Policy for Child Nutrition Programs.

N.J.A.C. 2:36-1.13

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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8507 BREAKFAST OFFER VERSUS SERVE (OVS) (M)

8507 BREAKFAST OFFER VERSUS SERVE (OVS) (M)

M

The Board of Education, to be in compliance with the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010, adopts this Offer Versus Serve (OVS) Policy. Offer Versus Serve is a Policy for Federally reimbursable meals that allows students to decline a certain number of food components in the meal to reduce plate waste and food cost. Board of Education approval to implement a Breakfast OVS Policy is optional at all grade levels. The provisions of the Breakfast OVS Policy shall be in accordance with the requirements of the HHFKA of 2010.

A school breakfast eligible for Federal reimbursement shall offer four food items from the three food components in the appropriate amounts per grade grouping:

- Fruit (including optional vegetable)
- Grains (including optional meat/meat alternate)
- Milk

Students are allowed to decline one of the four food items offered, but must select at least a half cup of either fruit or half cup of vegetable or half cup of a fruit/vegetable combination.

After taking the half cup fruit or half cup of vegetable or half cup of a fruit/vegetable combination, students must select at least two additional food items in the full amounts (per grade group requirements) to count toward the reimbursable offer versus serve meal.

A student's decision to accept all four food items or to decline one food item shall not affect the price charged for the meal as the breakfast is priced as a unit. If students do not choose enough food items to comprise a reimbursable meal, a la carte prices will be charged.

School staff members cannot make exceptions to the Policy, such as requiring every student to take a particular food component. It is the student's choice to select any three or all four food items of the reimbursable meal.

At each school implementing this OVS Policy, school food service staff members will be trained annually on the provisions of the district's Breakfast OVS Policy.

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ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS

8507 BREAKFAST OFFER VERSUS SERVE (OVS) (M)

Select One Option

Breakfast OVS will be implemented at the following schools: (List all schools in the district that will implement a Breakfast OVS Policy)

Breakfast OVS will be implemented in all schools in the district.

Adopted: 15 OCTOBER 2019

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS
8508 LUNCH OFFER VERSUS SERVE (OVS)

8508 LUNCH OFFER VERSUS SERVE (OVS)

[For School Districts with High School Grades and Optional for all Other School Districts]

The Board of Education, to be in compliance with the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010, adopts this Offer Versus Serve (OVS) Policy. Offer Versus Serve is a Policy for Federally reimbursable meals that allows students to decline a certain number of food components in the meal to reduce plate waste and food cost. Board of Education approval to implement a Lunch OVS Policy is required at the high school level and is optional at all other grade levels. The provisions of the Lunch OVS Policy shall be in accordance with the requirements of the HHFKA of 2010.

A school lunch eligible for Federal reimbursement shall offer five food components in the appropriate amounts per grade grouping:

- Fruit;
- Vegetable;
- Milk;
- Grain; and
- Meat/Meat Alternate.

Students are allowed to decline two of the five required food components, but must select at least a half cup of either fruit (or fruit combination) or a half cup of vegetable (or vegetable combination) or half cup of a fruit/vegetable combination.

After selecting the half cup fruit or vegetable requirement, students must select at least two additional full components in the full amounts (per age/grade grouping required amounts) to count toward the reimbursable offer versus serve meal.

The student's decision to accept all five food components or to decline two food components shall not affect the price charged for the meal as the lunch is priced as a unit. If students do not choose enough food items to comprise a reimbursable meal, a la carte prices will be charged.

School staff members cannot make exceptions to the Policy, such as requiring every child to take a particular food component. It is the student's choice to select any three, four, or all five components of the reimbursable meal.

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS

8508 LUNCH OFFER VERSUS SERVE (OVS)

At each school implementing this Lunch OVS Policy, food service staff members will be trained annually on the provisions of the district's Lunch OVS Policy.

[Select One Option

Lunch OVS will be implemented at the following schools: (List all schools in the district that will implement the Lunch OVS Policy – all high school grade level schools must be listed below)

Lunch OVS will be implemented in all schools in the district.]

Adopted: October 15, 2019

8540 SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of a child receiving a nutritious, well-balanced meal to promote sound eating habits, to foster good health and academic achievement, and to reinforce the nutrition education taught in the classroom. Therefore, the Board of Education may participate in the school nutrition programs of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture in accordance with the eligibility criteria of the program. These programs may include the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the After-School Snack Program, and the Special Milk Program.

If seventy percent or more of the students enrolled in a school in the district on or before the last school day before October 16 of the preceding school year are eligible for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program or the Federal School Breakfast Program, the district shall establish a “Breakfast After the Bell” program for that school in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:33-11.1 et seq. The district may request a waiver of the requirements of the “Breakfast After the Bell” program pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-12.

The Board of Education shall sign an Agreement with the Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture for every school nutrition program operated within the school district. Any child nutrition program operated within the school district shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement and all the requirements of the program.

Students may be eligible for free or reduced pricing in accordance with the requirements of the program operating in the school district. Prices charged to paying children shall be established by the Board of Education, but must be within the maximum prices established by the Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Prices charged to adults shall be in accordance with the requirements of the program.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify parents of all children in the school district of the availability, eligibility requirements, and application procedures for free or reduced price meals or free milk in accordance with the notification requirements and procedures of the Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

The Superintendent will designate in the annual notification to parents, the person who will determine, in accordance with standards issued by the Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, a student’s eligibility for free or reduced price meals or free milk depending on the programs operated in the school district.

A parent may request a household application and instructions from the Principal of their child's school. A household application must be completed before eligibility is determined. Where necessary, the Principal or designee shall assist the applicant in the preparation of the household application.

Applications shall be reviewed in a timely manner. An eligibility determination will be made, the family will be notified of its status, and the status will be implemented as soon as possible within ten operating days of the receipt of the completed application. Any student found eligible shall be offered free or reduced price meals or free milk immediately upon the establishment of his/her eligibility and shall continue to receive such meals during the pendency of any inquiry regarding his/her eligibility in accordance with the requirements of the Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Carry-over of previous year's eligibility for students shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

A denial of eligibility for free or reduced price meals or free milk shall be in writing and shall include the reasons for which eligibility was denied, notice of the parent's right to appeal the denial, the procedures for an appeal, and a statement reminding parents that they may reapply at any time during the school year. Appeal procedures shall include: a hearing, if requested by the parent, held with reasonable promptness and convenience of the parent before a hearing officer other than the school official who denied the application; the parent's opportunity to be represented by counsel; a decision rendered promptly and in writing; and an opportunity to appeal the decision of the hearing officer to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. The appeal hearing will be conducted in accordance with the provisions as outlined by the Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

There shall be no overt identification of any child(ren) who may be eligible to receive free or reduced price school meals or free milk. The identity of students who receive free or reduced price meals will be protected. Eligible students shall not be required to work in consideration for receiving such meals or milk. Eligible children shall not be required to use a separate dining area, go through a separate serving line, enter the dining area through a separate entrance, or consume their meals or milk at a different time. A student's eligibility status will not be disclosed at any point in the process of providing free or reduced price meals or free milk in accordance with the requirements of the Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

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OPERATIONS

8540

School Nutrition Programs

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will verify applications of those eligible for free or reduced price meals in accordance with the requirements of the, Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

The Board of Education will comply with all the requirements of the Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Local Education Agency (LEA) Agreement and all requirements outlined in the School Nutrition Electronic Application Reimbursement System (SNEARS).

7 C.F.R. 210.1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:33-5; 18A:33-11.1 et seq.; 18A:58-7.2

N.J.A.C. 2:36

Adopted: 28 September 2021

ABOLISHED

OPERATIONS
8550/page 1 of 3
Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Service Bill
M

8550 MEAL CHARGES/OUTSTANDING FOOD SERVICE BILL

X The Board of Education does not permit a student in the school district to charge for breakfast or lunch.

___ The Board of Education shall establish a meal charge program to permit students in the district to charge for breakfast or lunch. Collection of any payment for a meal charge program account that is in arrears shall be addressed in accordance with provisions of this Policy.

The Board of Education recognizes a student may forget to bring breakfast or lunch (meal), as applicable, or money to purchase a meal to school on a school day. In this circumstance, the food service program will provide the student a meal and will inform the Principal or designee. The Principal or designee will contact the student's parent to provide notice of an outstanding meal bill and will provide the parent with a period of ten school days to pay the amount due. If the student's parent has not made full payment by the end of the ten school days, the Principal or designee shall again contact the parent with a second notice informing the parent of any action to be taken by the school district in response to a student's school breakfast or school lunch bill being in arrears. Such action may include denying the student school breakfast or lunch. A school district shall report at least biannually to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture the number of students who are denied school breakfast or school lunch in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21a. and this Policy.

The school district shall not:

1. Publicly identify or stigmatize a student who cannot pay for a meal or whose school meal bill is in arrears. (For example, by requiring the student to sit at a separate table or wear a wristband, hand stamp, or identifying mark or by serving the student an alternative meal);
2. Require a student who cannot pay for a school meal or whose school meal bill is in arrears to do chores or other work to pay for the school meal; or
3. Require a student to discard a school meal after it has been served because of the student's inability to pay for a school meal or because money is owed for previously provided meals.

ABOLISHED

OPERATIONS

8550/page 2 of 3

Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Service Bill

If a student owes money for the equivalent of five or more school meals at any time during the school year, the Principal or designee shall:

1. Determine if the student is eligible for a free or reduced-price school meal;
2. Make at least two attempts, not including the application or instructions provided to the parent each school year pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21b.; to contact the student's parent and have the parent fill out an application for the school lunch program and school breakfast program; and
3. Contact the student's parent to offer assistance with the application for the school lunch and school breakfast program; determine if there are other issues within the household that have caused the child to have insufficient funds to purchase a school breakfast or school lunch; and offer any other appropriate assistance.

The school district shall direct communications about a student's school meal bill being in arrears to the parent and not the student. The school district's contact with the parent may be via email or telephone call. Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21 shall prohibit the school district from sending a student home with a letter addressed to a parent.

If the student's meal bill is in arrears, but the student has the money to purchase a meal on a subsequent school day, the student will be provided a meal with payment and the food service program will not use the student's payment to repay previously unpaid charges if the student intended to use the money to purchase that school day's meal.

A parent who has received a second notice their child's meal bill is in arrears and who has not made payment in full within one week from the date of the second notice will be requested to meet with the Principal or designee to discuss and resolve the matter.

A parent's refusal to meet with the Principal or designee or take other steps to resolve the matter may be indicative of more serious issues in the family or household. However, when a parent's routine failure to provide breakfast or lunch is reasonably suspected to be indicative of child abuse or neglect, the Principal or designee shall immediately report such suspicion to the Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency as required in N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10. Such reporting shall not be delayed to accommodate a parent's meeting with the Principal or designee.

Students receiving free meals will not be denied a meal even if they accrued a negative balance from other purchases in the cafeteria.

ABOLISHED

OPERATIONS
8550/page 3 of 3
Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Service Bill

In accordance with N.J.S.A 18A:33-21b., at the beginning of each school year, and upon initial enrollment in the case of a student enrolling during the school year, the school district shall provide to the parent of each student:

1. Information on the National School Lunch Program and the Federal School Breakfast Program;
2. An application to apply for the school lunch and school breakfast programs and instructions for completing the application; and
3. Information on the rights of students and their families under N.J.S.A. 18A:22-21 et seq.

The school district may provide the application and information electronically through the means by which the school district communicates with parents electronically. The application and information shall be in a language the parent understands.

The school district's liaison for the education of homeless children shall coordinate with school district personnel to ensure that a homeless student receives free school meals and is monitored according to the school district policies pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21c.

The school district may post this Policy on the school district's website provided there is a method in place to ensure this Policy reaches all households without access to a computer or the Internet.

N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21; 18A:33-21a.; 18A:33-21b.; 18A:33-21c.

Adopted: 28 September 2021

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

OPERATIONS

8561 PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (M)

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P-8561 PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (M)

M

The Board of Education adopts this Policy to identify their procurement plan for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Nutrition Programs. School Nutrition Programs include, but are not limited to: the National School Lunch Program (NSLP); School Breakfast Program (SBP); Afterschool Snack Program (ASP); Special Milk Program (SMP); Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP); Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP; Summer Food Service Program (SFSP); the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); and the Schools/Child Nutrition USDA Foods Program.

The Board of Education is ultimately responsible for ensuring all procurement procedures for any purchases by the Board of Education and/or a food service management company (FSMC) comply with all Federal regulations, including but not limited to: 7 CFR Parts 210, 220, 225, 226, 245, 250; 2 CFR 200; State procurement statutes and administrative codes and regulations; local Board of Education procurement policies; and any other applicable State and local laws.

The procurement procedures contained in this Policy will be implemented beginning immediately, until amended. All procurements must maximize full and open competition. Source documentation will be maintained by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee and will be available to determine open competition, the reasonableness, the allowability, and the allocation of costs.

The Board of Education intentionally seeks to prohibit conflicts of interest in all procurement of goods and services.

A. General Procurement

The procurement procedures will maximize full and open competition, transparency in transactions, comparability, and documentation of all procurement activities. The school district's plan for procuring items for use in the School Nutrition Programs is as follows:

1. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will ensure all purchases will be in accordance with the Federal Funds Procurement Method Selection Chart – State Agency Form #358. Formal procurement procedures will be used as required by 2 CFR 200.318 through .326 and any State and local procurement code and regulations. Informal procurement procedures (small purchase) will be required for purchases under the most restrictive small purchase threshold.

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ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

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8561 PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (M)

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2. The following procedures will be used for all purchases:

Product/ Services	Estimated Dollar Amount	Procurement Method	Evaluation	Contract Award Type	Contract Duration/ Frequency
ALL	\$44,000	BID & Government Commodities	As needed	Annual	12 months

B. Micro-Purchase Procedures

1. Public/Charter Schools

Purchases of supplies or services, as defined by 2 CFR 200.67, will be awarded without soliciting competitive price quotations if the price is reasonable in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37(a) and below thresholds established by the State Treasurer for informal receipt of quotations. Purchases will be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers with reasonable prices. Records will be kept for micro-purchases.

2. Non-Public Schools

Purchases of supplies or services, within the Federal micro-purchase threshold (the aggregate amount does not exceed the Federal micro-purchase threshold as set by 2 CFR 200.67) will be awarded without soliciting competitive price quotations if the price is reasonable. Purchases will be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers with reasonable prices. Records will be kept for micro-purchases.

3. Formal bid procedures will be applied on the basis of:

centralized system;
 individual school;
 multi-school system; and/or
 State contract.]

4. Because of the potential for purchasing more than public or non-public informal/small purchase threshold amount, or the Board approved threshold if less, it will be the responsibility of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to document the amounts to be purchased so the correct method of procurement will be followed.

C. Formal Procurement

When a formal procurement method is required, the following competitive sealed bid or an Invitation for Bid (IFB) or competitive proposal in the form of a Request for Proposal (RFP) procedures will apply:

1. An announcement of an IFB or a RFP will be placed in the Board designated official newspaper to publicize the intent of the Board of Education to purchase needed items. The advertisement for bids/proposals or legal notice will be published in the official newspaper for at least one day in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-21.
2. An advertisement in the official newspaper for at least one day is required for all purchases over the school district's small purchase threshold as outlined in Federal Funds Procurement Method Section Chart – State Agency Form #358. The advertisement will contain the following:
 - a. A general description of items to be purchased;
 - b. The deadline for submission of questions and the date written responses will be provided, including addenda to bid specifications, terms, and conditions as needed;
 - c. The date of the pre-bid meeting, if provided, and if attendance is a requirement for bid award;
 - d. The deadline for submission of sealed bids or proposals; and
 - e. The address of the location where complete specifications and bid forms may be obtained.
3. In an IFB or RFP, each vendor will be given an opportunity to bid on the same specifications.
4. The developer of written specifications or descriptions for procurements will be prohibited from submitting bids or proposals for such products or services.
5. The IFB or RFP will clearly define the purchase conditions. The following list includes requirements, not exclusive, to be addressed in the procurement document:
 - a. Contract period for the base year and renewals as permitted;

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- b. The Board of Education is responsible for all contracts awarded (statement);
- c. Date, time, and location of IFB/RFP opening;
- d. How the vendor is to be informed of bid acceptance or rejection;
- e. Delivery schedule;
- f. Requirements (terms and conditions) the bidder must fulfill in order for bid to be evaluated;
- g. Benefits to which the Board of Education will be entitled if the contractor cannot or will not perform as required;
- h. Statement assuring positive efforts will be made to involve small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms;
- i. Statement regarding the return of purchase incentives, discounts, rebates, and credits under a cost reimbursement FSMC contract to the Board of Education's nonprofit school food service account;
- j. Contract provisions as required in Appendix II to 2 CFR 200:
 - (1) Termination for cause and convenience – contracts in excess of \$10,000;
 - (2) Equal Opportunity Employment – “federally assisted construction contracts”;
 - (3) Davis-Bacon Act – construction contracts in excess of \$2,000;
 - (4) Contract work Hours and Safety Standards – contracts in excess of \$100,000;
 - (5) Right to inventions made under a contract or agreement – if the contract meets the definition of a “funding agreement” under 37 CFR 401.2(a);
 - (6) Clean Air Act – contracts in excess of \$150,000;
 - (7) Debarment and Suspension – all Federal awarded contracts;

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- (8) Byrd Anti Lobbying Amendment – contracts in excess of \$100,000; and
- (9) Contracts must address administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as appropriate.
- k. Contract provisions as required in 7 CFR 210.21(f) for all cost reimbursable contracts;
- l. Contract provisions as required in 7 CFR 210.16(a)(1-10) and 7 CFR 250.53 for food service management company contracts;
- m. Procuring instrument to be used are purchase orders from firm fixed prices after formal bidding;
- n. Price adjustment clause for renewal of multi-year contracts as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42. The “index rate” means the annual percentage increase rounded to the nearest half percent in the implicit price deflator for State and local government purchases of goods and services computed and published quarterly by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis;
- o. Method of evaluation and type of contract to be awarded (solicitations using an IFB are awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; solicitations using a RFP are awarded to the most advantageous bidder/offeror with price as the primary factor among factors considered);
- p. Method of award announcement and effective date (if intent to award is required by State or local procurement requirements);
- q. Specific bid protest procedures including contact information of person and address and the date by which a written protest must be received;
- r. Provision requiring access by duly authorized representatives of the Board of Education, New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), or Comptroller General to any books, documents, papers, and records of the contractor which are directly pertinent to all negotiated contracts;
- s. Method of shipment or delivery upon contract award;

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- t. Provision requiring contractor to maintain all required records for three years after final payment and all other pending matters (audits) are closed for all negotiated contracts;
 - u. Description of process for enabling vendors to receive or pick up orders upon contract award;
 - v. Provision requiring the contractor to recognize mandatory standards/policies related to energy efficiency contained in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (PL 94-163);
 - w. Signed statement of non-collusion;
 - x. Signed Debarment/Suspension Certificate, clause in the contract or a copy of search results from the System for Award Management (SAM);
 - y. Provision requiring “Buy American” as outlined in 7 CFR Part 210.21(d) and USDA Guidance Memo SP 38-2017, including specific instructions for prior approval and documentation of utilization of non-domestic food products only;
 - z. Specifications and estimated quantities of products and services prepared by the school district and provided to potential contractors desiring to submit bids/proposals for the products or services requested; and
 - aa. The Board of Education’s Electronic Signature Policy.
6. If any potential vendor is in doubt as to the true meaning of specifications or purchase conditions, questions may be sent to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee’s response will be provided in writing to all potential bidders and will specify the deadline for all questions.
- a. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for providing responses to questions and securing all bids or proposals.
 - b. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible to ensure all Board of Education procurements are conducted in compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local procurement regulations.
 - c. The following criteria will be used in awarding contracts as a result of bids/proposals. Price must be the highest weighted criteria. Examples of other possible criteria include quality, service, delivery, and availability.

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7. In awarding a RFP, a set of award criteria in the form of a weighted evaluation sheet will be provided to each bidder in the initial bid document materials. Price alone is not the sole basis for award, but remains the primary consideration among all factors when awarding a contract. Following evaluation and negotiations, a firm fixed price or cost reimbursable contract is awarded.
 - a. The contracts will be awarded to the responsible bidder/proposer whose bid or proposal is responsive to the invitation and is most advantageous to the Board of Education, price as the primary, and other factors considered. Any and all bids or proposals may be rejected in accordance with the law.
 - b. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee is required to sign on the bid tabulation of competitive sealed bids or the evaluation criterion score sheet of competitive proposals signifying a review and approval of the selections.
 - c. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall review the procurement system to ensure compliance with applicable laws.
 - d. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for documentation that the actual product specified was received.
 - e. Any time an accepted item is not available, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will select the acceptable alternate. The contractor must inform the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary within one workday if a product is not available. In the event a nondomestic agricultural product is to be provided to the Board of Education, the contractor must obtain, in advance, written approval for the product. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary must comply with the Buy American Provision.
 - f. Full documentation regarding the reason an accepted item was unavailable, and the procedure used in determining acceptable alternates, will be available for audit and review. The person responsible for this documentation is the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.
 - g. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is responsible for maintaining all procurement documentation.

D. Small Purchase Procedures

POLICY

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATIONS

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If the amount of purchases for items is less than the school district's small purchase threshold as outlined in the Federal Funds Procurement Method Selection Chart – State Agency Form #358, the following small purchase procedures including quotes will be used. Quotes from a minimum number of three qualified sources will be required.

1. Written specifications will be prepared and provided to all vendors.
2. Each vendor will be contacted and given an opportunity to provide a price quote on the same specifications. A minimum of three vendors shall be contacted.
3. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for contacting potential vendors when price quotes are needed.
4. The price quotes will receive appropriate confidentiality before award.
5. Quotes/Bids will be awarded by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. Quotes/Bids will be awarded on the following criteria. Quote/Bid price must be the highest weighted criteria. Examples of other possible criteria include quality, service, delivery, and availability.
6. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for documentation of records to show selection of vendor, reasons for selection, names of all vendors contacted, price quotes from each vendor, and written specifications.
7. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for documentation that the actual product specified is received.
8. Any time an accepted item is not available, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will select the acceptable alternate. Full documentation will be made available as to the selection of the acceptable item.
9. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee is required to sign all quote tabulations, signifying a review and approval of the selections.

E. Noncompetitive Proposal Procedures

If items are available only from a single source when the award of a contract is not feasible under small purchase, sealed bid or competitive negotiation, noncompetitive proposal procedures will be used:

1. Written specifications will be prepared and provided to the vendor.

2. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for the documentation of records to fully explain the decision to use the noncompetitive proposal. The records will be available for audit and review.
3. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for documentation that the actual product or service specified was received.
4. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for reviewing the procedures to be certain all requirements for using single source or noncompetitive proposals are met.
5. The noncompetitive micro-purchase method shall be used for one-time purchases of a new food item if the amount is less than the applicable Federal or State micro-purchase threshold to determine food acceptance by students and provide samples for testing purposes. A record of noncompetitive negotiation purchase shall be maintained by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee. At a minimum, the record of noncompetitive purchases shall include: item name; dollar amount; vendor; and reason for noncompetitive procurement.
6. A member or representative of the Board of Education will approve, in advance, all procurements that result from noncompetitive negotiations.

F. Miscellaneous Provisions

1. New product evaluation procedures will include a review of product labels and ingredients; an evaluation of the nutritional value; taste tests and surveys; and any other evaluations to ensure the new product would enhance the program.
2. The Board of Education agrees the reviewing official of each transaction will be the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.
3. Payment will be made to the vendor when the contract has been met and verified and has met the Board of Education's procedures for payment. (If prompt payment is made, discounts, etc., are accepted.)
4. Specifications will be updated as needed.
5. If the product is not as specified, the following procedure, including, but not limited to, will take place: remove product from service; contact vendor for approved alternate product; or remove product from bid.

G. Emergency Purchases

1. If it is necessary to make a one-time emergency procurement to continue service or obtain goods, and the public exigency or emergency will not permit a delay resulting from a competitive solicitation, the purchase must be authorized using a purchase order signed by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. The emergency procedures to be followed for such purchases shall be those procedures used by the school district for other emergency purchases consistent with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-7. All emergency procurements shall be approved by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. At a minimum, the following emergency procurement procedures shall be documented to include, but not be limited to: item name; dollar amount; vendor; and reason for emergency.

H. Purchasing Goods and Services – Cooperative Agreements, Agents, and Third-Party Services (Piggybacking)

1. When participating in intergovernmental and inter-agency agreements the Board of Education will ensure that competitive procurements are conducted in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.318 through .326 and applicable program regulations and guidance.
2. When utilizing the services of a co-op, agent, or third party the Board of Education will ensure that the following conditions have been met and considered as one source of pricing in addition to other prices:
 - a. All procurements were subject to full and open competition and were made in accordance with Federal/State/local procurement requirements;
 - b. The existing contract allows for the inclusion of additional Board of Educations that were not contemplated in the original procurement to purchase the same supplies/equipment through the original award;
 - c. The specifications in the existing contract meets their needs and that the items being ordered are in the contract;
 - d. The awarded contract requires all the Federally required certifications; e.g. Buy American, debarment, restrictions on lobbying, etc.;
 - e. The agency will confirm the addition of their purchasing power (goods or services) to the procurement in scope or services does not create a material change, resulting in the needs to re-bid the contract;

- f. Administrative costs (fees) for participating in the agreement are adequately defined, necessary and reasonable, and the method of allocating the cost to the participating agencies must be specified;
- g. The Buy American provisions are included in the procurement of food and agricultural products; and
- h. The agreement includes the basis for and method of allocating each discount, rebate, or credit and how they will be returned to each participating agency when utilizing a cost-reimbursable contract.

I. Records Retention

- 1. The Board of Education shall agree to retain all books, records, and other documents relative to the award of the contract for three years after final payment. If there are audit findings that have not been resolved, the records shall be retained beyond the three-year period as long as required for the resolution of the issues raised by the audit. Specifically, the Board of Education shall maintain, at a minimum, the following documents:
 - a. Written rationale for the method of procurement;
 - b. A copy of the original solicitation;
 - c. The selection of contract type;
 - d. The bidding and negotiation history and working papers;
 - e. The basis for contractor selection;
 - f. Approval from the State agency to support a lack of competition when competitive bids or offers are not obtained;
 - g. The basis for award cost or price;
 - h. The terms and conditions of the contract;
 - i. Any changes to the contract and negotiation history;
 - j. Billing and payment records;

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- k. A history of any contractor claims;
- l. A history of any contractor breaches; and
- m. Any other documents as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:18A – Public School Contracts Law.

J. Code of Conduct for Procurement

1. All procurements must ensure there is open and free competition and adhere to the most restrictive Federal, State, and local requirements. The Board of Education seeks to conduct all procurement procedures in compliance with stated regulations and to prohibit conflicts of interest and actions of employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts. All procurements will be in accordance with this Policy and all applicable provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A – Public School Contracts Law.
2. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a Federal, State, or local award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent; any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner; or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.
3. The officers, employees, and agents of the non-Federal entity may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, non-Federal entities may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value.
4. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the non-Federal entity. Based on the severity of the infraction, the penalties could include a written reprimand to their personnel file, a suspension with or without pay, or termination.
5. All questions and concerns regarding procurement solicitations, contract evaluations, and contract award, shall be directed to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

K. Food Service Management Company (FSMC)

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1. In the operation of the school district's food service program, the school district shall ensure that a FSMC complies with the requirements of the Program Agreement, the school district's Free and Reduced School Lunch Policy Statement, all applicable USDA program policies and regulations, and applicable State and local laws. In order to operate an a la carte food service program, the FSMC shall agree to offer free, reduced price, and full price reimbursable meals to all eligible children.
2. The school district shall monitor the FSMC billing invoices to ensure compliance with Federal and State procurement regulations.
3. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5a.(22), RFPs are required in all solicitations for a FSMC.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A – Public School Contracts Law
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
“Procurement Procedures for School Food
Authorities” Model Policy – September 2018

Adopted: 20 July 2021

8600 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

The Board of Education shall transport eligible students to and from school and school related activities in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1 et seq., and Board policy. Transportation shall be provided only to eligible public and nonpublic school students, authorized school staff members, and adults serving as approved chaperones.

Nonpublic school transportation or aid in lieu of transportation shall be provided for resident students in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.1 et seq.

Charter or renaissance school transportation or aid in lieu of transportation shall be provided for resident students in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-3.1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.; 18A:39-1 et seq.; 18A:39-11.1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 27:15-16

N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 et seq.; 39:3B-2.1; 39:3B-10; 39:3B-27

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1 et seq.; 6A:27-2.1 et seq.; 6A:27-3.1 et seq.;

6A:27-4.1 et seq.; 6A:27-5.1; 6A:27-6.2 through 6.5;

6A:27-7.1 et seq.; 6A:27-9.1 et seq.; 6A:27-10.1 et seq.;

6A:27-11.1 et seq.; 6A:27-12.1 et seq.

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Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal

8601 PUPIL SUPERVISION AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL

The Board of Education adopts this Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal Policy as a result of the New Jersey Supreme Court's decision in *Joseph Jerkins, an infant by his Guardian Ad Litem, Charles Jerkins; Charles Jerkins and Toni Jerkins, individually, v. Soweto Anderson; Kemba N. Anderson; John Does 1-10 (fictitious individuals) and ABC Corporations 1-10 (fictitious entities), and Board of Education of Pleasantville Public Schools and Rosemary Clarke*.

The New Jersey Supreme Court, in *Jerkins*, indicated dangers exist for younger pupils at dismissal as children are susceptible to numerous risks, including negligent conduct, when leaving school property. Because of these risks, the Board of Education adopts and requires the implementation of Policy 8601 for the supervision of younger pupils after dismissal. The supervision provisions of Policy Guide 8601 are applicable to parents or legal guardians of pupils attending district-operated schools or programs in grades Pre-K to Eight who are not eligible for district-provided transportation after dismissal or are eligible and elect not to use district-provided transportation after dismissal.

Any parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pupil attending a district-operated school or program in grades **Pre-K** to Eight, where the pupil is not eligible for district-provided transportation or is eligible and elects not to use district-provided transportation after dismissal may request the school or program not release the pupil to walk home after dismissal unless the pupil is released to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or escort(s) designated by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) requesting their child(ren) only be released to a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or parent(s) or legal guardian(s)-designated escort after dismissal must submit a completed Request for Supervision at Dismissal from School Form to the Principal or designee, or program administrator.

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Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal

The Form shall be made available

in the Main office of the school building or the location of the program.

upon request to the Principal, or designee, or the program administrator.

on the school or school district website.

to parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Only those parents or legal guardians requesting the school or program not release their child (ren) to walk home after school dismissal unless the child(ren) is released to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort need to complete the Request Form.

In order for the school administration to effectively implement the requirements of this Policy and to ensure the safety and security of pupils that will be released to a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort, the parental request shall be applicable for every school day and shall apply for a duration period of the entire school year. The Request Form must be re-submitted at the end of the duration period. In addition, a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may rescind their Request by submitting a written request to the Principal or program administrator indicating the date in which the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) no longer requests the school provide supervision of their child(ren) after school dismissal. The child(ren) will be dismissed in accordance with typical dismissal protocol effective the date indicated in the rescinding request.

The Principal or designee, or program administrator upon receiving the Request for Supervision at Dismissal from School Form, shall notify the appropriate school staff member(s) who has supervision of the pupil at dismissal time at the end of the school day of the parent's or legal guardian's request. The supervising staff member that receives such notice shall retain supervision of the pupil when other pupils are dismissed from school at the end of the school day.

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Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal

Each Principal or program administrator will develop and implement a written Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal Plan for their school building or program location. This Plan shall include the school building's or program's supervision procedures for pupils at the end of the school day to the designated area in the school building or program and the location of the designated area in the school building or program. The Plan shall be based on the school's or program's ability to provide supervision, the accessibility for the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort to pick-up the child without disrupting dismissal of the remaining school population, and other considerations unique to the school building or program location. The school's or program's Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal Plan shall be provided to all parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that have submitted a Request Form.

In the event the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort does not arrive to pick up their child(ren) after the dismissal time of school, the Principal or designee will attempt to contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) using the district's emergency call procedures.

The pupil(s) shall be supervised by school staff in the designated area of the building and will only be released when the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort arrives to pick up the pupil.

In order to ensure the safety of other pupils being dismissed from school in accordance with typical school dismissal protocol, to limit interaction of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escorts with other pupils within the building, and to avoid traffic and vehicular safety problems outside the school building, the Principal or program administrator may prohibit the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort from entering the school building until a time period after school has dismissed or until school buses and other vehicular traffic have cleared the school site.

This determination shall be made by each Principal or program administrator after considering the unique circumstances at the school building and the building's typical dismissal protocol.

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Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal

In the event of an emergency such that, when an unforeseen event prevents a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort from arriving for the child(ren) at dismissal within the time period designated by the Principal or program administrator, the pupil will remain under the supervision of the after-school program until the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort arrives and signs the pupil out of school. In this circumstance, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may be subject to after-school program fees if it is determined by the Principal or program administrator the frequency of emergencies causing the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort to be delayed in picking-up the pupil is excessive.

The school will provide parent(s) or legal guardian(s) information regarding any supervised after-school services, if any, that may be available to pupils at the school's facilities after formal school dismissal.

This Policy shall be published in pupil/school handbooks. In addition, the school district shall provide to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) in the beginning of the school year, the school's calendar to include the starting and dismissal times for full session, half-session, and early dismissal days due to weather or other emergencies. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall be required to return to the school a signed acknowledgement of receipt of the pupil/school handbook, which shall include this Policy and the school calendar. In addition, any changes to the school's calendar made during the school year shall also be provided to parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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OPERATIONS 8630

BUS DRIVER/BUS AIDE RESPONSIBILITY

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8630 BUS DRIVER/BUS AIDE RESPONSIBILITY

The Board of Education requires all school bus drivers and bus aides employed by the district or employed by a contracted school bus company to be reliable persons of good moral character who possess the qualifications necessary to perform the duties of the position. Anyone driving a school bus used to transport students to and from school and school related activities must meet all requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A, N.J.A.C. 6A, and all New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) rules governing school bus drivers. All school bus drivers must possess the appropriate license and endorsement(s) to drive a school bus in the State of New Jersey and are subject to all the Federal and State requirements to maintain the appropriate license.

“Employer” for the purposes of this Policy and Regulation means a Board of Education or a contractor that provides student transportation services under contract with the Board of Education. In the event the school district employs school bus drivers and bus aides and/or uses a contractor for transportation services, the “employer” for school district employed school bus drivers and bus aides shall be the Board of Education and the “employer” for contracted school bus drivers and bus aides shall be the contractor that provides student transportation under contract with the Board of Education.

School bus drivers and bus aides shall meet criminal history background check requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1(c) and tuberculin testing requirements pursuant to applicable State statutes and administrative codes. School bus drivers and bus aides shall be considered under the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to be school officials who have a legitimate educational interest to parts of a student’s record relating to transportation, without parental consent, as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:27-12.1(j)1.

In addition to the medical examination required of every holder of a special license issued for the transporting of children to and from schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-10.1 et seq., any school bus driver who is seventy years of age or older shall annually furnish, to the employer for review by the NJMVC at the NJMVC’s biannual inspection, satisfactory evidence of continuing physical fitness in the form of a medical examination by a licensed medical doctor or licensed osteopathic physician. In addition, any school bus driver who is seventy-five years of age or older shall every six months furnish, to the employer for review by the NJMVC at the NJMVC’s biannual inspection, satisfactory evidence of continuing physical fitness in the form of a medical examination by a licensed medical doctor or licensed osteopathic physician. In addition, any person applying for a special license and any person who is the holder of a special license for the transporting of children to and from schools, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., shall comply with the provisions of Section 2 of N.J.S.A. 39:3-10.1a and Section 6 of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.1. The Chief Administrator of the NJMVC may suspend or revoke a license pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-10.1.

All drivers of buses or other vehicles used by the Board for the transportation of students to and from school shall, in addition to any exam required by law, submit to a medical exam for the presence of

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8630 BUS DRIVER/BUS AIDE RESPONSIBILITY

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alcohol, narcotics, or habit-producing drugs within the scope of the “New Jersey Controlled Dangerous Substances Act,” (N.J.S.A. 24:21-1 et seq.).

All drivers of buses or other vehicles used by the Board for the transportation of students to and from school shall, in addition to any exam required by law, submit to a medical exam that includes hearing and visual acuity tests that are in accordance with the provisions of the “Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999,” 49 U.S.C. § 113.

A Commissioner of Education-developed training program on proper procedures for interacting with students with special needs shall be administered by the employer to all school bus drivers and bus aides in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.2. This training program must be administered in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.3.a. and all school bus drivers and bus aides must file a certification with their employer that the individual has completed the training program within five business days of its completion. The employer shall retain a copy of the certificate for the duration of the individual’s employment and shall file a copy of the certification to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.3.b.

School bus drivers and bus aides shall receive training in the use of a student’s educational records and in their responsibility to ensure the privacy of the student and his or her records N.J.A.C. 6A:27-12.1(j)2. In addition, permanent and substitute school bus drivers and bus aides shall be trained for the functions of their positions and in a safety education program as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1 et seq.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-28, school bus drivers must visually inspect the school bus they are assigned at the end of the transportation route to determine that no student has been left on the bus.

The school bus driver shall be in full charge of the school bus at all times and shall be responsible for maintaining order. The school bus driver will never exclude a student from the school bus, but if unable to manage a student, the school bus driver will report the unmanageable student to the Principal or designee of the school in which the student attends.

The Principal or designee, upon such report from the school bus driver, may assign appropriate discipline. The discipline may include excluding the student from the bus. The student’s parent shall provide for the student’s transportation to and from school during the time of exclusion.

Upon notification from the NJDOE that a school bus driver employed by the Board has had his or her bus driver’s license suspended or revoked, the Board, within one business day of the notification, shall provide a statement to the NJDOE verifying that the school bus driver no longer operates a school bus for the Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.6.

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BUS DRIVER/BUS AIDE RESPONSIBILITY

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In the event of an emergency, school bus drivers shall follow procedures established by this Board. School administrators shall organize and conduct emergency exit drills at least twice within the school year for all students who are transported to and from school. All other students shall receive school bus evacuation instruction at least once per year. School bus drivers and bus aides shall participate in the emergency exit drills, which shall be conducted on school property and shall be supervised by the Principal or person assigned to act in a supervisory capacity. Drills shall be documented in the minutes of the Board of Education at the first meeting following completion of the emergency exit drill in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.2(d).

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-19.4, a Commissioner-developed student information card shall be completed by a parent of a student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), who receives transportation services, when the IEP is developed or amended. Upon receiving consent from the parent, the student information card shall be provided to a school bus driver and bus aide for each student on the bus route to which the school bus driver or bus aide is assigned for whom a student information card has been completed by the parent.

The school bus driver will immediately inform the Principal of the receiving school and the School Business Administrator or designee of the district providing the transportation following an accident that involves injury, death, or property damage. The school bus driver must also complete and file within ten days of the accident the Preliminary School Bus Accident Report prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. In addition to the Preliminary School Bus Accident Report, the driver of a school bus involved in an accident resulting in injury or death of any person, or damage to property of any one person in excess of \$500, shall complete and file within ten days after such accident a motor vehicle accident report in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:4-130.

School bus drivers are prohibited from using a cellular telephone or other electronic communication device while operating a school bus unless the school bus is parked in a safe area off a highway or in an emergency situation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3B-25. A school bus driver who violates this Policy provision is subject to fines pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3B-25.

School bus drivers are responsible for the safety of their students and shall rigorously observe all motor vehicle laws and regulations and State Board of Education rules in the operation of their school bus pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3B-27.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.; 18A:25-2; 18A:39-17; 18A:39-18;
18A:39-19.1; 18A:39-19.2; 18A:39-19.3; 18A:39-19.4;
18A:39-19.6; 18A:39-28

N.J.S.A. 39:3-10.1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 39:3B-25; 39:3B-27

N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.1 et seq.; 6A:27-12.1 et seq.

Adopted: 15 October 2019

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Pupil Transportation Vehicles and School Buses

8635 PUPIL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES AND SCHOOL BUSES

All pupil transportation vehicles and school buses will be scheduled to maximize their use while ensuring all routes are scheduled in a safe manner for drivers and passengers.

Pupil transportation vehicles and school buses will have time periods during the day between scheduled bus routes when they are not in use. These time periods may vary from route to route and vehicle to vehicle depending on issues such as a school's opening and ending times and the location of pupils transported to and from the school. Based on scheduling issues and the amount of time between transportation routes, the school bus driver may be required to return the school vehicle/bus to the school district transportation facility during the school day. In the event the schedule does not provide adequate time or it is not practical for the vehicle/bus to be returned to the school district's transportation facility between routes during the school day, the school bus driver may be required to park the vehicle/bus at another school building or location in the school district designated by the Superintendent.

If the transportation route is for pupil transportation to and from a school building out-of-district, the driver may be required to return the transportation vehicle/bus to the district's transportation facility or to a school building or location designated by the Superintendent for the time period between routes. In the event there is not adequate time or it is not practical for a vehicle/bus to return to the school district between out-of-district transportation routes, the Superintendent will authorize the vehicle/bus remain at an approved location between such routes. The Superintendent, in consultation with the driver and the out- of-district school, will designate a location for the driver to maintain the vehicle/bus in between the scheduled routes.

The safety and security of the transportation staff and the school vehicle/bus will be the most important consideration in designating an out-of-district location for vehicles that may not return to the transportation facility during the school day.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Transportation by Private Vehicle

8660 TRANSPORTATION BY PRIVATE VEHICLE

In recommending arrangements for pupil transportation to and from school-related activities, the Superintendent shall consider the type of activity, the total number of pupils involved, and the availability of appropriate vehicles. Groups of pupils too small in number to make economical use of Type I or Type II vehicles may be transported in privately owned passenger vehicles driven by qualified school personnel, State employees and parents/guardians.

Transportation by Volunteer Drivers

The Superintendent shall supplement the transportation resources of the district by identifying qualified school personnel, State employees and parents/guardians who are willing to provide transportation for district pupils in the event of emergency situations.

Qualifications shall include:

1. A valid driver's license and less than six points;

Note: The district may wish to set a time limit on violations or stipulate the number of points acceptable.

2. A private passenger vehicle of eight or fewer capacity, with a current inspection sticker; and
3. Evidence of at least the statutorily required insurance coverage.

The Superintendent shall develop and the Board shall adopt detailed regulations to ensure:

1. District approval of activities involved;
2. District determination of drivers and assignment of pupils to them;
3. Pupil safety in pickup, transit and drop-off; and
4. Adequate supervision of pupils at the activity.

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Transportation by Private Vehicle

Transportation of Pupils by District Employees as Part of Assigned Duties

District employees who transport pupils in a private vehicle during working hours as part of their assigned duties shall:

1. Have a current driver's license and less than six points;

Note: The district may wish to set a time limit on violations or stipulate the number of points acceptable.

2. Use a privately owned passenger vehicle of eight or fewer capacity with evidence of at least the statutorily required insurance coverage. The vehicle must have a current inspection sticker; and
3. Conform to all safety practices set forth in the regulations to this policy.

Implementation of this section shall be in conformity with applicable negotiated agreement.

Note: Employees who use district-owned vehicles must conform to 1, 2 and 3. The district is responsible for maintenance of the vehicle and adequate insurance. A district is not obligated to negotiate over actual assignments. It must bargain upon demand over compensation related to such assignments.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-6; 18A:25-2; 18A:39-20.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:27-7.6; 6A:27-7.7

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Rockaway Borough Board of Education

OPERATION 8670 TRANSPORTATION OF SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

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8670 TRANSPORTATION OF SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

The Board of Education shall provide transportation services for students with special needs in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:27-5.1, and with their Individualized Education Program (IEP). The Board will provide transportation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-5.1 as a related service for a student with special needs pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.9(a)7. Such transportation services may include, but are not limited to, special transportation equipment, transportation aides, and special arrangements for other assistance to and from school.

When an out-of-district placement for educational reasons is made, transportation shall be provided consistent with the school calendar of the receiving school. A copy of the school calendar shall be submitted to the resident district by May 15 preceding the year in which transportation is required, or at the time of placement if it occurs after May 15.

When necessary, the student's case manager shall provide the transportation coordinator or responsible staff member and the bus driver with specific information about the student including safety concerns, mode of communication, and health and behavioral characteristics of a student for whom transportation services are to be provided.

Students with special needs below the age of five shall be transported in vehicles equipped with safety belts or other child restraint systems, in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations.

The transportation of students with special needs to special education programs approved by the Board and located outside the State will conform to guidelines established by the New Jersey State Department of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.2(c)1.

State aid will be sought for the services provided in accordance with law and this Policy. The Board directs that appropriate records be maintained and all relevant documentation be preserved in order that the district be properly reimbursed for the costs of transportation.

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq.; 18A:39-2.1; 18A:46-19.6; 18A:46-23
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.9(a)7; 6A:27-2.2; 6A:27-5.1

Adopted: 15 October 2019

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PARENTAL TRANSPORTATION/OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS

8670.01 PARENTAL TRANSPORTATION/OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS

The district will provide required transportation to all pupils in accordance with all State codes and regulations. At times, special education parents may option to transport their child for medical and/or other reasons. In such cases a parental transportation contract will be issued and approved by the Board of Education. The following will apply regarding the aforementioned:

1. Parents who travel a daily total of 20 miles a day or less will be paid \$30 perday.
2. Parents who travel a daily total of over 20 miles a day or more will be paid \$40 perday.
3. The Board will review extraordinary cases.
4. Parents must abide to the terms and conditions listed in the Parental Contract for Student Transportation.
5. Parents must provide proof of required insurance coverage to the board.
6. Parents may be subject to having appropriate taxes taken from transportation reimbursement.

Definition: Daily total driving means driving the child from home to school in the morning and picking the child up in the afternoon from school to home.

Adopted: January 19, 2012

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Property Insurance**

8710 PROPERTY INSURANCE

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility under law to insure the replacement value of the property of this school district, both real and personal, against loss or damage by fire and expressly extends such insurance coverage to loss or damage caused by theft, water, glass breakage, explosion, boiler failure, smoke, windstorm, vandalism, and other hazards.

In placing property insurance coverage, the Board shall be guided by the price of the coverage, the ability of the insurer to meet obligations promptly and fully, the reputation and past performance of the insurer's agent, and the goal of distributing the insurance coverage of the district through one insurance broker.

The Board shall annually appoint an insurance advisor who shall review the insurance program of the district, consider alternatives, and report recommendations to the Board; recommend specific insurance placement and prepare specifications; assist the Board in the establishment and maintenance of property valuation and insurance records; provide annual safety and fire inspections; process all claims; provide workshops and lectures on fire safety and prevention and safety precautions to the appropriate staff members; and recommend such measures as may reduce the cost of insurance premiums.

To be eligible to represent this Board an insurance agent must write all insurance through a company whose minimum financial status, so far as loss paying ability is concerned, is rated by A.M. Best and Company to be no less than A+; and must derive over fifty percent of his/her income from insurance premium commissions or receive no less than \$100,000 annually in premium income from sources other than this school district.

The Board may, in accordance with law, enter a joint contract for the purchase of property insurance.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42(e); 18A:20-25
N.J.S.A. 40A:10-52 et seq.

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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Bonding

8740 BONDING

The Board of Education recognizes that the prudent trusteeship of the resources of this district dictates that employees responsible for the safekeeping of district moneys and property be bonded.

The Board directs the indemnification of the district against loss of money and property by the bonding of the Treasurer of School Moneys in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.4 and by the bonding of the Board Secretary in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-6. If the district does not have a Treasurer of School Moneys, the Board will ensure surety bonds are obtained in accordance with the rules of the State Board of Education. All other employees may be covered under a blanket bond in an amount to be determined by the Board or as required by the rules of the State Board of Education.

The Board shall bear the cost of bonding each employee required to be bonded by law or by this policy.

N.J. Consti., Art. 7, §1, 4
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-58; 18A:17-6; 18A:17-26; 18A:17-32
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.4

Adopted: 24 March 2011

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8750 EMPLOYEE INDEMNIFICATION

The Board of Education recognizes that officers and employees of this district are exposed to certain risks in the course of the performance of their duties and will provide insurance coverage against losses that may be incurred by such risks.

The Board shall in accordance with law, insure employees of the school district against injury and death arising out of or in the course of their employment.

The Board shall provide indemnification to any person holding any office, position or employment under the jurisdiction of the Board, including any pupil teacher/intern, or person assigned to other professional pre-teaching field experience, for damages, losses, and costs incurred as a result of a civil or administrative action or other legal proceeding brought against any such persons for any acts or omissions arising out of and in the course of their employment, pupil teaching, or other assignment to professional field experience with this Board. This indemnification will include all costs of defending such action, including reasonable counsel fees and expenses, together with costs of appeal, if any, and will hold harmless and protect such person from any financial loss resulting from such action. No employee will be held harmless or have his/her defense costs defrayed in a disciplinary proceeding instituted against him/her by the Board or when the employee is appealing an action taken by the Board. Indemnification for exemplary or punitive damages is not required and will be governed by the standards and procedures set forth in N.J.S.A. 59:10-4. The Board may arrange for and maintain appropriate insurance to cover all such damages, losses and expenses.

The Board shall provide indemnification to any person holding any office, position or employment under the jurisdiction of the Board, including any pupil teacher/intern, or person assigned to other professional pre-teaching field experience, for the costs of defense against any criminal or quasi-criminal action for any such act or omission when such prosecution is dismissed or results in a final disposition favorable to the officer or employee. This indemnification will include the cost of defending such proceeding, including reasonable counsel fees and expenses of the original hearing or trial and all appeals. No employee will be held harmless or have his/her defense costs defrayed as a result of a criminal or quasi-criminal complaint

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Employee Indemnification

filed against the employee by or on behalf of the Board. The Board may arrange for and maintain appropriate insurance to cover all such damages, losses and expenses.

The Board shall insure against any liability arising out of the use of motor vehicles in the course of the conduct of automobile driver training courses and against any liability arising from the use of a motor vehicle by a person duly appointed by the Board to transport pupils and while in the course of such transportation.

The Board may insure against any major liability arising from the use of a motor vehicle by an employee or pupil of the district in the performance of district business.

The Board may, in accordance with law, enter a joint contract for the purchase of liability insurance.

N.J.S.A. 18A:16-6; 18A:16-6.1; 18A:18A-3.2;
18A:18A-42(e); 18A:18B-1; 18A:18B-2;
18A:39-6; 18A:39-6.1; 18A:39-20.1
N.J.S.A. 40A:10-52

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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School Board Insurance Group

8770 SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP

The Board of Education shall provide insurance for loss or damage to school district property, real or personal; loss or damage from liability resulting from the use of district property; loss or damage from liability for the acts and omissions of school district officers or employees; loss or damage from liability established by the workers' compensation statutes; and the expenses of defending any claim against the Board members, officers, or employees of this district arising out of and in the course of the performance of their duties.

The Board recognizes the benefits to the school district of joining with other Boards of Education in providing coverage for the insurance needs of this district and in participating in programs of risk management to prevent loss and to control liability.

The Board may, upon formal resolution duly adopted, become a member of a school board insurance group in order to participate in any joint self-insurance fund or funds, risk management programs, or related services offered or provided by the group. The Board's membership in the group will be governed by the bylaws of the insurance group, which must be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner of Insurance in accordance with State law.

Trustees of the school board insurance group shall be selected in accordance with the bylaws of the insurance group; if the bylaws do not provide for the manner of a trustee's election, the trustee or trustees representing this Board of Education shall be elected by a plurality vote of those Board members present and voting.

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

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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ABOLISHED

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Religious Holidays

8810 RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The Board of Education recognizes the acknowledgment of religious holidays in the public school may be a source of community concern. It is a goal of the district educational program to teach mutual understanding and brotherhood and respect for group differences. In pursuing this goal, the educational program may recognize that various religious groups celebrate different holidays with different practices.

In the acknowledgment or observance of any religious holiday, the Superintendent shall ensure the school and/or school officials do not mandate, organize, participate in an official capacity, endorse, persuade, compel, prevent or deny participation in constitutionally protected prayer or religion in violation of the governing principles of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Consistent with these principles, the Superintendent shall ensure:

1. No worship or religious service of any kind is sponsored by the school district and conducted during the school day, whether or not conducted by a clergyman;
2. Religious exhibits or displays include only materials that are a necessary or integral part of the curriculum;
3. Any religious music played is selected primarily for its artistic content; and
4. Any acknowledgment of a religious holiday neither advances nor inhibits any particular religious sect or religion consistent with the governing principles of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

U.S. Consti., First Amendment
N.J. Consti., Art. 1, paragraph 4
United States Department of Education - Guidance on
Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary
and Secondary Schools
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-16
N.J.A.C. 6:20-1.3(j)

Adopted: 15 January 2008

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P 8820 OPENING EXERCISES

The Board of Education requires the students in each school in the school district to salute the United States flag and repeat the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-3. The pledge of allegiance shall be rendered with the right hand over the heart, except that students who have a conscientious objection against such pledge or salute, or are children of accredited representatives of foreign governments to whom the United States government extends diplomatic immunity, shall not be required to render such salute and pledge or stand during such pledge or salute, but shall be required to show full respect to the flag while the pledge is being given.

The Board of Education authorizes observance of Commodore John Barry Day as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:36-10 through 12 and appropriate exercises for the development of a higher spirit of patriotism on the last day of school preceding Washington's Birthday (also celebrated as President's Day), Decoration of Memorial Day, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:36-13. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-13.1, the district may conduct a course of exercises or instruction in accordance with the Core Curriculum Content Standards to observe holidays, including, but not limited to, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, Lincoln's Birthday, Thanksgiving Day, Arbor Day, and other holidays as determined by the Board of Education.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-3; 18A:36-10; 18A:36-11;
18A:36-12; 18A:36-13; 18A:36-13.1

Adopted: 15 August 2017

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Memorials

8860 MEMORIALS

The Board of Education recognizes that each officer and employee of this district is important not only to the school district but to the community at large. The loss of any officer or employee of this Board by death is a loss that the Board and the district share with the community.

In order to memorialize that loss in a fitting manner, the Board directs that, whenever notice is received of the death of a current Board member or a person currently employed by the Board, the flag of the United States at each school district building shall be flown at half-mast for one school day. Written notice shall be posted in an appropriate manner in each district building on that day in order that pupils, staff members, and visitors are informed of the purpose of the memorialization.

The Superintendent may, in his/her discretion, grant an employee of this district a brief absence without loss of pay or personal leave for the purpose of attending the funeral of his/her direct supervisor or subordinate provided that no disruption in the educational program will be caused by any such absence.

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board and the Board may approve appropriate recognition measures beyond those provided for in this policy when the deceased Board officer or employee has, by length of service or extraordinary accomplishment, especially distinguished his/her service to this school district.

Adopted: 15 January 2008