

Northgate School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Trauma-Informed Approach
Code	146.1 Vol III 2024
Status	First Reading
Adopted	November 15, 2021

146.1

Purpose

The Board recognizes the impact that trauma may have on the educational environment of the schools, individual student achievement and the school community as a whole. The Board desires to address the effects of trauma in order to meet the academic, behavioral and professional needs of students and staff. The purpose of this policy is to direct district staff to develop and implement a plan for trauma-informed approaches to education throughout the district.

Definitions

Trauma - for purposes of this policy, includes effects of an event, series of events or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's cognitive functioning and physical, social, emotional, mental or spiritual well-being. [\[1\]](#)

Trauma-informed approach - for purposes of this policy, includes a school-wide approach to education and a classroom-based approach to student learning that recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma and responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, professional learning, procedures and practices for the purposes of recognizing the presence and onset of trauma, resisting the reoccurrence of trauma and promoting resilience tailored to the district's culture, climate and demographics and the community as a whole. [\[1\]](#)

Secondary trauma - the impact of working with students experiencing trauma on a regular basis, which may cause traumatic responses and/or burnout in the individual providing support and care.

Authority

The Board directs district staff to develop and implement a trauma-informed approach plan that uses evidence-based practices and reflects the needs and resources of the district and school community.[2]

The Board shall review current district resources, programs, school climate measures, partnerships with outside agencies, procedures and Board policies through a trauma-informed lens, and shall make revisions or determinations as necessary to facilitate implementation of the district's trauma-informed approach plan.

This shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Student attendance policy and practices that focus on reasons for absence and school attendance improvement.[3]
2. Curriculum and planned instruction that embed social and emotional learning.[8][9]
3. School wellness policy, instruction and practices that promote healthy behaviors.[20]
4. Policies and practices that promote student safety and security, and build positive relationships with law enforcement agencies.[21][22][23][24][25]
5. Threat assessment policy and practices that focus on understanding a student's background in order to appropriately assess behavior and address the student's needs.[26]
6. Review of the annual budget to ensure fiscal resources for training and programs related to the trauma-informed approach plan.[27]
7. Review of the facilities and future facilities planning to provide environments that are attentive to the needs of students and staff with transition and sensory sensitivities.[28]
8. Culturally responsive practices that focus on identifying, valuing and integrating the cultures, languages, heritage and experiences of all students and staff to ensure a supportive school climate and community.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board designates the Superintendent, Director of Student Services, School Psychologist, and **School** Counselor to oversee the implementation of the district's trauma-informed approach plan and integrate the coordination of services and professional development into the district's comprehensive plan. The School Counselor shall serve as a member of the district's Student Assistance Program team.[2][13][15][16][21][29]

The Board directs the School Safety and Security Coordinator to include information regarding the district's implementation of the trauma-informed approach plan into the annual report to the Board on school safety and security practices.[23]

Guidelines

Training

The district's trauma-informed approach plan shall include provisions for evidence-based training and professional development, based on assigned roles and responsibilities, including but not limited to: [2][21][30]

1. Required training for newly elected/appointed or re-elected/appointed school directors on best practices related to trauma-informed approach, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy. [31][32]
2. Required training on trauma-informed approach for certificated administrative and professional employees as part of the professional education plan, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy. [16][21][33]
3. Opportunities for volunteers, parents/guardians and other community members to obtain resources or attend training or information sessions on trauma-related approach and trauma-related topics impacting the school community. [18][19][35]

Screening

The Board directs district staff to identify and implement evidence-based screening tools for students and the school community based on the trauma-informed approach plan, and in accordance with applicable law and regulations, including obtaining parental consent where appropriate or required. Screening tools may include, but are not limited to, those identifying the prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), social-emotional needs and school climate indicators. Screening shall be conducted by qualified district staff or community agencies with which the district has a contract or other agreement. [13][15][26][36]

The trauma-informed approach plan shall require that screening results are reviewed by appropriate district staff or other contracted providers, and referrals for individual educational and behavioral services or evaluation for such services are made when indicated by individual or universal screening. Identification and referrals for special education and related services evaluations shall comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, and Board policy. [11][12][37][38]

Services

The district's trauma-informed approach plan shall include provisions for identification of student needs; a referral system for individual assessments and coordination of services among the student and student's family, the school and county-based services; community care organizations; public health entities; nonprofit youth service providers; community-based organizations; before-school or after-school care providers; or other similar community groups. [2]

Coordinated student services shall be based on the district's approved trauma-informed approach plan, which shall address recognition and response to the effects of trauma on education and instruction, absenteeism and school completion, and the secondary impact of trauma on school employees.[2]

The district's trauma-informed approach plan shall be implemented within the current framework for

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS).

The trauma-informed approach plan shall address coordination with designated district staff and teams responsible for implementing the district's approved plan for K-12 student services and other district programs including, but not limited to, special education and related services, gifted education, guidance counseling, Student Assistance Program, threat assessment team, health services and home and school visitor services.[10][11][12][13][14][15][26][30][37]

Parental notification and consent may be required prior to referral for or implementation of student services, in accordance with applicable law and regulations.[13][14][15]

The district shall develop partnerships with community-based services and organizations, public health entities, nonprofit youth service providers and other community groups to implement the trauma-informed approach plan and provide referrals and/or services to address and mitigate the impact of trauma for students and staff in accordance with the district's approved plan and framework for support.

The Board shall, where appropriate, review and approve a memorandum of understanding or other agreement with each partnering organization or entity for the provision of services, in accordance with the resources of the district and the approved trauma-informed approach plan.

Education

The district's trauma-informed approach plan shall integrate age-appropriate instruction for students related to trauma-informed topics and social-emotional learning as part of the district's approved curriculum. Instructional topics may include, but not be limited to [8][25]

resilience;

self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills and social awareness;

safe and healthy choices and behaviors, and

coping strategies.

Staff Wellness and Support

The district shall monitor and address the impact of trauma, including secondary trauma, on school employees as part of the trauma-informed approach plan. The plan shall include training and resources to identify the warning signs of trauma and provide confidential support and services to promote staff wellness, including but not limited to the Employee Assistance Program.

Data Collection and Plan Review

The district shall review and revise the trauma-informed approach plan as needed, based on a review of relevant data, district resources and programs, and the needs of students and staff. Such data may include, but not be limited to:

1. Aggregate data from evidence-based screening tools administered as part of the trauma-informed approach plan.
2. Anecdotal information from staff and students related to trauma and secondary trauma impact in the school environment.
3. Aggregate data on student absences, Student Assistance Program referrals, health and school nurse services, student removal discipline and graduation rates.[15]
4. **School safety and security incident** reports.[22]

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Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 102](#)

[2. 24 P.S. 1311-B](#)

3. Pol. 204

4. Pol. 113.1

5. Pol. 113.2

6. Pol. 218

7. Pol. 233

8. Pol. 105

9. Pol. 107

10. Pol. 112

11. Pol. 113

12. Pol. 114

13. Pol. 146

14. Pol. 209

15. Pol. 236

Northgate School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Student Discipline
Code	218 Vol III 2024
Status	First Reading
Adopted	September 15, 2008
Last Revised	September 19, 2022
Prior Revised Dates	8/19/13

218

Purpose

The Board recognizes that student conduct is closely related to learning. An effective educational program requires a safe and orderly school environment.

Authority

The Board shall establish fair, reasonable and nondiscriminatory rules and regulations regarding the conduct of all students in the district. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

The Board shall adopt a Code of Student Conduct to govern student discipline, and students shall not be subject to disciplinary action because of race, sex, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin or handicap/disability. Each student must adhere to Board policies and the Code of Student Conduct governing student discipline. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)

The Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment by district staff to discipline students for violations of Board policies, the Code of Student Conduct and district rules and regulations. [\[10\]](#)

Any student disciplined by a district employee shall have the right to be informed of the nature of the infraction and the applicable rule or rules violated. [\[11\]](#)

When suspensions and expulsions are imposed, they shall be carried out in accordance with Board policy. [\[7\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with **law** enforcement and Board policies.[5][7][12][13][14][15]

On and Off-Campus Activities

This policy and the Code of Student Conduct apply to the behavior of students at all times during the time they are under the supervision of the school or at any time while on school property, while present at school-sponsored activities and while traveling to or from school and school-sponsored activities or at other times while riding in school-provided means of transportation ("on-campus"). This policy and the Code of Student Conduct also apply to student behavior that occurs at other times and places ("off-campus") when: [3]

1. The conduct involves, threatens or makes more likely violence, use of force or other serious harm directed at students, staff or the school environment;
2. The conduct materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with the school environment or the educational process, such as school activities, school work, discipline, safety and order on school property or at school functions;
3. The conduct interferes with or threatens to interfere with the rights of students or school staff or the safe and orderly operation of the schools and their programs;
4. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property; or
5. The proximity, timing or motive for the conduct in question or other factors pertaining to the conduct otherwise establish a direct connection to attendance at school, to the school community or to a school-sponsored activity. This would include, for example, but not be limited to, conduct that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if it occurred in school that is committed in furtherance of a plan made or agreed to in school, or acts of vandalism directed at the property of school staff because of their status as school staff.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that reasonable and necessary guidelines are developed to implement Board policy governing student conduct.

The Superintendent or designee shall publish and distribute to all staff, students and parents/guardians the rules and regulations for student behavior contained in the Code of Student Conduct, the sanctions that may be imposed for violations of those rules and a listing of students' rights and responsibilities. A copy of the Code of Student Conduct shall be available in each school library and school office and may be included in student handbooks and on the district website.[1][8]

The building principal **or designee** shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to Board policies, administrative regulations, the Code of Student Conduct and school rules, and to the student's due process right to notice, hearing and appeal.[7][11][16][17]

Teaching staff and other district employees responsible for students shall have the authority to take reasonable actions necessary to control the conduct of students in all situations and in all places where students are within the jurisdiction of this Board, and when such conduct interferes with the educational program of the schools or threatens the health and safety of others, in accordance with Board policy, administrative regulations, the Code of Student Conduct and school rules.[16]

Reasonable force may be used by teachers and school authorities under any of the following circumstances: to quell a disturbance, obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects, for the purpose of self-defense, **and/or** for the protection of persons or property.[10]

Referral to Law Enforcement and Reporting Requirements

For reporting purposes, the term **incident** shall mean an instance involving an act of violence; the possession of a weapon; the possession, use or sale of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined in the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act; the possession, use or sale of alcohol or tobacco **products**; or conduct that constitutes an offense listed **in the school safety and security provisions of School Code**. [18][19][20]

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report required incidents and may report discretionary incidents committed by students on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the **law enforcement agency** that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with **law** enforcement and Board policies.[15][18][20][21][22][23]

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the **law enforcement agency** that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.[15][18][24]

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all new incidents to the **PA Department of Education** on the required form.[15][20][23][25][26][27][28]

When a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[29][30]

The Superintendent shall report to the Board the methods of discipline imposed by administrators and incidences of student misconduct, in the degree of specificity required by the Board.

NOTES:

Act 116 of 2002 defines graffiti as it relates to criminal mischief offenses and defines defiant trespassers – Title 18, Sec. 3304 (3503)

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Legal

[1. 22 PA Code 12.3](#)

[2. 22 PA Code 12.4](#)

[3. 24 P.S. 510](#)

4. Pol. 103

5. Pol. 103.1

[6. 22 PA Code 12.2](#)

7. Pol. 113.1

8. Pol. 235

9. Pol. 146.1

[10. 22 PA Code 12.5](#)

11. Pol. 233

[12. 22 PA Code 10.23](#)

[13. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq](#)

14. Pol. 113.2

15. Pol. 805.1

[16. 24 P.S. 1317](#)

[17. 24 P.S. 1318](#)

[18. 22 PA Code 10.2](#)

[19. 35 P.S. 780-102](#)

[20. 24 P.S. 1319-B](#)

[21. 22 PA Code 10.21](#)

[22. 22 PA Code 10.22](#)

[23. 24 P.S. 1306.2-B](#)

[24. 22 PA Code 10.25](#)

25. Pol. 218.1

26. Pol. 218.2

Northgate School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Weapons
Code	218.1 Vol III 2024
Status	First Reading
Adopted	September 15, 2008
Last Revised	January 18, 2022
Prior Revised Dates	8/19/23

218.1

Purpose

The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

Definitions

Weapon - the term shall include but is not limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.[1][2]

Possession - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker or assigned storage area; or under the student's control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school or while the student is coming to or from school.

Authority

The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to or from school or a school-sponsored activity, or while the student is coming to or from school.[2][3]

The Board shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law and Board policy.[2][4][5]

The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.[2]

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding **with** law enforcement and Board policies.[2][4][6][7][8][9][10][11]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning possession of a weapon. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulations and with the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with **the** law enforcement **agency that has jurisdiction over the school's property**, and the district's emergency preparedness plan.[11][12][13]

When the behavior of a student in possession of a weapon indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[14][15]

Guidelines

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report incidents involving weapons on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the **law enforcement agency** that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding **with** law enforcement and Board policies.[2][11][12][16][17][18]

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving weapons as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the **law enforcement agency** that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.[11][17][19]

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents involving possession of a weapon to the **PA Department of Education** on the required form.[11][12][16]

The building principal shall annually inform staff, students and parents/guardians about the Board policy prohibiting weapons and about their personal responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of the school community.

An exception to this policy may be made by the Superintendent, **in accordance with law**, who shall prescribe special conditions to be followed.[\[2\]](#)

In accordance with federal law, possession or discharge of a firearm in, on, or within 1,000 feet of school grounds is prohibited. Violations shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.[\[20\]](#)[\[21\]](#)

Transfer Students

When the district receives a student who transfers from a public or private school during an expulsion period for an offense involving a weapon, the district may assign that student to an alternative assignment or may provide alternative education, provided the assignment does not exceed the expulsion period.[\[2\]](#)[\[22\]](#)

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Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 1301-A](#)

[2. 24 P.S. 1317.2](#)

3. Pol. 218

4. Pol. 113.1

5. Pol. 233

[6. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq](#)

[7. 22 PA Code 10.23](#)

8. Pol. 103.1

9. Pol. 113.2

10. Pol. 113.3

11. Pol. 805.1

[12. 24 P.S. 1319-B](#)

13. Pol. 805

[14. 24 P.S. 1302-E](#)

15. Pol. 236.1

[16. 24 P.S. 1306.2-B](#)

[17. 22 PA Code 10.2](#)

Northgate School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Terroristic Threats
Code	218.2 Vol III 2024
Status	First Reading
Adopted	September 15, 2008
Last Revised	January 8, 2022
Prior Revised Dates	8/19/13

218.2

Purpose

The Board recognizes the danger that terroristic threats by students present to the safety and welfare of district students, staff and community. The Board acknowledges the need for an immediate and effective response to a situation involving a terroristic threat.

Definitions

Communicate - shall mean to convey in person or by written or electronic means, including telephone, electronic mail, Internet, facsimile, telex and similar transmissions.[1]

Terroristic threat - shall mean a threat communicated either directly or indirectly to commit any crime of violence with the intent to terrorize another; to cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility of public transportation; or to otherwise cause serious public inconvenience, or cause terror or serious public inconvenience with reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience.[1]

Authority

The Board prohibits any district student from communicating terroristic threats directed at any student, employee, **school director**, community member or property owned, leased or being used by the district.

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies.[2][3][4][5][6][7]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee, in coordination with the threat assessment team, shall react promptly to information and knowledge concerning a possible or actual terroristic threat. Such action shall be in compliance with state law and regulations, and Board policy, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with **law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction over school property** and the district's emergency preparedness plan.[2][8][9][10][11]

Guidelines

In all cases of terroristic threats, where a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[8][10]

Staff members and students shall be made aware of their responsibility for informing the threat assessment team regarding any information or knowledge relevant to a possible or actual terroristic threat.[10][12]

The threat assessment team shall immediately inform the Superintendent or designee, School Safety and Security Coordinator and building principal of a terroristic threat, in accordance with Board policy. [10]

The Superintendent or designee may report incidents involving terroristic threats on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the **law enforcement agency** that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding **with** law enforcement and Board policies.[2][9][13][14][15]

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving a terroristic threat as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the **law enforcement agency** that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.[2][14][16]

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents of terroristic threats to the **PA Department of Education** on the required form.[2][9][13]

If a student is expelled for making terroristic threats, the Board may require, prior to readmission, that the student provide competent and credible evidence from a behavioral service provider that the student does not pose a risk of harm to others.[6][10][17]

NOTES:

Act 76 of 1998 – Restitution Payments – 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 2706

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Legal

- [1. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 2706](#)
2. Pol. 805.1
- [3. 22 PA Code 10.23](#)
- [4. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq](#)
5. Pol. 103.1
6. Pol. 113.1
7. Pol. 113.2
- [8. 24 P.S. 1302-E](#)
- [9. 24 P.S. 1319-B](#)
10. Pol. 236.1
11. Pol. 805
- [12. 22 PA Code 12.2](#)
- [13. 24 P.S. 1306.2-B](#)
- [14. 22 PA Code 10.2](#)
- [15. 22 PA Code 10.22](#)
- [16. 22 PA Code 10.25](#)
17. Pol. 233
- [34 CFR Part 300](#)

Northgate School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Tobacco and Vaping Products
Code	222 Vol II 2024
Status	First Reading
Adopted	September 15, 2008
Last Revised	November 16, 2020
Prior Revised Dates	6/18/12, 8/19/13, 8/10/15, 9/16/19

222

Purpose

The Board recognizes that tobacco and vaping products, **including** electronic cigarettes, present a health and safety hazard that can have serious consequences for users, nonusers and the school environment. The purpose of this policy is to prohibit student possession, use, purchase and sale of **tobacco and vaping products**.

Definition

For purposes of this policy, tobacco product encompasses not only tobacco but also vaping products including electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes). **Tobacco products**, for purposes of this policy and in accordance with state law, shall be defined to include the following: [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

1. Any product containing, made or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, a cigarette, cigar, little cigar, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff and snus.
2. Any electronic device that delivers nicotine or another substance to a person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, electronic nicotine delivery systems, an electronic cigarette, a cigar, a pipe and a hookah.
3. Any product containing, made or derived from either:

- a. Tobacco, whether in its natural or synthetic form; or
 - b. Nicotine, whether in its natural or synthetic form, which is regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration as a deemed tobacco product.
4. Any component, part or accessory of the product or electronic device listed in this definition, whether or not sold separately.

The term **tobacco product** does not include the following:[1][2]

1. A product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for other therapeutic purposes where the product is marketed and sold solely for such approved purpose, as long as the product is not inhaled. NOTE: *This exception shall be governed by Board policy relating to Medications.* [3]
2. A device, included under the definition of tobacco product above, if sold by a dispensary licensed in compliance with the Medical Marijuana Act. NOTE: *Guidance issued by the PA Department of Health directs schools to prohibit possession of any form of medical marijuana by students at any time on school property or during any school activities on school property. This exception shall be governed by Board policy relating to Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia.* [4]

Authority

The Board prohibits possession, use, purchase or sale of **tobacco products, regardless** of whether such products contain tobacco or nicotine, by or to students at any time in a school building; on school buses or other vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school district; on property owned, leased or controlled by the school district; or at school-sponsored activities that are held off school property.[1][2][5]

The Board prohibits student possession or use of products marketed and sold as tobacco cessation products or for other therapeutic purposes, except as authorized in the Board's Medication policy.[3]

The Board prohibits student possession of any form of medical marijuana at any time in a school building; on school buses or other vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school district; on property owned, leased or controlled by the school district; or at school-sponsored activities that are held off school property.[4]

The Board authorizes the confiscation and disposal of **tobacco** products prohibited by this policy.

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies.[6][7][8][9][10][11]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall develop guidelines to implement this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify students, parents/guardians and staff about the Board's tobacco and vaping products policy by publishing information in student handbooks, parental newsletters, posters and by other efficient methods, such as posted notices, signs and on the district website.[2]

Reporting

Parental Report –

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving possession, use, purchase or sale of a **tobacco product**, immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether the **law enforcement agency** that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.[11][12][13]

Annual School Safety and Security Incidents Report -

The Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents of possession, use or sale of **tobacco products** by students to the **PA Department of Education** on the required form.[11][14][15]

Law Enforcement Incident Report –

The Superintendent or designee may report incidents of possession, use or sale of **tobacco products** by students on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the **law enforcement agency** that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies.[1][2][11][12][14][15][16]

Guidelines

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to prosecution initiated by the district and, if convicted, shall be required to pay a fine for the benefit of the district, plus court costs. In lieu of the imposition of a fine, the court may admit the student to an adjudication alternative.[2]

Tampering with devices installed to detect use of **tobacco products** shall be deemed a violation of this policy and subject to disciplinary action.[17]

Northgate School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
Code	227 Vol II 2024
Status	First Reading
Adopted	September 15, 2008
Last Revised	September 19, 2022
Prior Revised Dates	8/19/13

227

Purpose

The Board recognizes that the **use and** abuse of controlled substances **as defined in this policy** is a serious problem with legal, physical and social implications for the whole school community. **The purpose of this policy is to prohibit student possession, use and/or distribution of controlled substances, except as permitted by applicable state or federal law and Board policy.**[1][2]

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, **controlled substances** shall include:[3][4]

1. **Any** controlled substance prohibited by federal or **Pennsylvania** laws.
2. Look-alike drugs.
3. Alcoholic beverages.
4. Anabolic steroids.
5. Drug paraphernalia.
6. Any volatile solvents or inhalants, such as but not limited to glue and aerosol products.
7. Substances that when ingested cause a physiological effect that is similar to the effect of a controlled substance as defined by state or federal laws.

8. Prescription or nonprescription (over-the-counter) medications, except those for which permission for use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy.[1][2]

For purposes of this policy, **under the influence** shall include any consumption or ingestion of controlled substances by a student.

For purposes of this policy, **look-alike drug** shall include any pill, capsule, tablet, powder, plant matter or other item or substance that is designed or intended to resemble a controlled substance prohibited by this policy, or is used in a manner likely to induce others to believe the material is a controlled substance.

Authority

The Board prohibits students from using, possessing, distributing and being under the influence of any controlled substances during school hours, at any time while on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, and during the time spent traveling to and from school and to and from school-sponsored activities.[5][6][7]

The Board may require participation in drug counseling, rehabilitation, testing or other programs as a condition of reinstatement into the school's educational, extracurricular or athletic programs resulting from violations of this policy.

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies.[8][9][10][11][12][13]

Off-Campus Activities

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property or during nonschool hours to the same extent as provided in Board policy on student discipline.[14]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall develop guidelines to identify and control substance abuse in the schools which:

1. Establish procedures to appropriately manage situations involving students suspected of using, possessing, being under the influence or distributing controlled substances. [15][16][17]
2. Make available to students, parents/guardians and staff the Board policy governing student use of controlled substances. This will be accessible on the website.

Guidelines

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution.[14][18][19]

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report required incidents and may report discretionary incidents involving **the prohibited** possession, use or sale of controlled substances on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the **law enforcement agency** that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies.[13][15][16][20][21][22]

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving **the prohibited** possession, use or sale of controlled substances as a victim or suspect immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the **law enforcement agency** that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.[13][20][23]

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents of **prohibited** possession, use or sale of controlled substances to the **PA Department of Education on the required form**. [13][15][16]

In all cases involving students and controlled substances, the need to protect the school community from undue harm and exposure to drugs shall be recognized.

Anabolic Steroids

The Board prohibits the use of anabolic steroids by students involved in school-related athletics, except for a valid medical purpose. Body building and muscle enhancement, increasing muscle bulk or strength, or the enhancement of athletic ability are not valid medical purposes. Human Growth Hormone (HGH) shall not be included as an anabolic steroid. [24]

Students shall be made aware of the dangers of steroid use; that anabolic steroids are classified as controlled substances; and that their unauthorized use, possession, purchase or sale could subject students to suspension, expulsion and/or criminal prosecution. [18][25]

Reasonable Suspicion/Testing

If based on the student's behavior, medical symptoms, vital signs or other observable factors, the building principal has reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of a controlled substance, the student may be required to submit to drug or alcohol testing. The testing may include but is not limited to the analysis of blood, urine, saliva or the administration of a Breathalyzer test.

NOTES:

Off-Campus Activities - Content related to off-campus conduct is now located in Policy 218 Student Discipline.

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Legal

1. Pol. 210
2. Pol. 210.1
- [3. 35 P.S. 780-102](#)
- [4. 21 U.S.C. 812](#)
- [5. 24 P.S. 510](#)
- [6. 24 P.S. 511](#)
- [7. 22 PA Code 12.3](#)
- [8. 22 PA Code 10.23](#)
- [9. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq](#)
10. Pol. 103.1
11. Pol. 113.1
12. Pol. 113.2
13. Pol. 805.1
14. Pol. 218
- [15. 24 P.S. 1306.2-B](#)
- [16. 24 P.S. 1319-B](#)
- [17. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8337](#)
18. Pol. 233
19. Pol. 236
- [20. 22 PA Code 10.2](#)
- [21. 22 PA Code 10.21](#)
- [22. 22 PA Code 10.22](#)
- [23. 22 PA Code 10.25](#)
- [24. 35 P.S. 807.1](#)
- [25. 35 P.S. 807.2](#)
- [22 PA Code 403.1](#)
- [35 P.S. 780-101 et seq](#)
- [35 P.S. 807.1 et seq](#)
- [20 U.S.C. 7114](#)

Northgate School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	300 Employees
Title	Tobacco and Vaping Products
Code	323 Vol II 2024
Status	First Reading
Adopted	September 15, 2008
Last Revised	November 16, 2020
Prior Revised Dates	9/16/19

323

Purpose

The Board recognizes that tobacco and vaping products, **including electronic cigarettes**, present a health and safety hazard that can have serious consequences for users, nonusers and the school environment. The purpose of this policy is to regulate use of tobacco and **vaping products** by district employees and contracted personnel.

Definition

For purposes of this policy, tobacco product encompasses not only tobacco but also vaping products **including** electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes). **Tobacco products**, for purposes of this policy and in accordance with state law, shall be defined to include the following: [1][2]

1. Any product containing, made or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, a cigarette, cigar, little cigar, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff and snus.
2. Any electronic device that delivers nicotine or another substance to a person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, electronic nicotine delivery systems, an electronic cigarette, a cigar, a pipe and a hookah.
3. Any product containing, made or derived from either:

- a. Tobacco, whether in its natural or synthetic form; or
 - b. Nicotine, whether in its natural or synthetic form, which is regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration as a deemed tobacco product.
4. Any component, part or accessory of the product or electronic device listed in this definition, whether or not sold separately.

The term **tobacco product** does not include the following:[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

1. A product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for other therapeutic purposes where the product is marketed and sold solely for such approved purpose, as long as the product is not inhaled.
2. A device, included under the definition of tobacco product above, if sold by a dispensary licensed in compliance with the Medical Marijuana Act. *Federal law requires the district to maintain a drug-free workplace, at which marijuana of any kind is prohibited.*[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

Authority

The Board prohibits use of **tobacco products** by district employees and contracted personnel at any time in a school building; on school buses or other vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school district; or on property owned, leased or controlled by the school district, except as expressly permitted in designated areas which must be located at least fifty (50) feet from school buildings, stadiums or bleachers.[\[2\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

The Board also prohibits use of **tobacco products** by district employees at any time while responsible for the supervision of students during school-sponsored activities that are held off school property.[\[2\]](#)

This policy does not prohibit possession of **tobacco products** by district employees and contracted personnel of legal age.

The Board deems it to be a violation of this policy for any district employee or contracted personnel to furnish a **tobacco product** to a student.[\[1\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall notify employees and contracted personnel about the Board's tobacco and vaping products policy by publishing information in handbooks, newsletters, posters and other efficient methods such as posted notices, signs and on the district website.[\[2\]](#)

Reporting

Annual School Safety and Security Incidents Report –

The Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report incidents of prohibited possession, use or sale of **tobacco products** on school property to the **PA Department of Education** on the required form.[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)

Law Enforcement Incident Report –

The Superintendent or designee may report incidents involving the sale of **tobacco products** to minors by employees on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the **law enforcement agency** that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)

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Legal

[1. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 6305](#)

[2. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 6306.1](#)

3. Pol. 317

4. Pol. 351

[5. 20 U.S.C. 7973](#)

6. Pol. 818

[7. 35 P.S. 637.1 et seq](#)

[8. 24 P.S. 1306.2-B](#)

[9. 24 P.S. 1319-B](#)

10. Pol. 805.1

[11. 22 PA Code 10.2](#)

[12. 22 PA Code 10.22](#)

[20 U.S.C. 7971 et seq](#)

Northgate School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	300 Employees
Title	Controlled Substance Abuse
Code	351 Vol II 2024
Status	First Reading
Adopted	September 15, 2008
Last Revised	August 19, 2013

357

Purpose

The Board recognizes that the misuse of **controlled substances** by administrative, professional and support employees is a serious problem with legal, physical and social implications for the whole school community and is concerned about the problems that may be caused by **controlled substance abuse** by district employees, especially as it relates to an employee's safety, efficiency and productivity.

The primary purpose and justification for any district action will be for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of students, staff and school property.

Definitions

Controlled Substances – shall be defined as those outlined in the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.[\[1\]](#)

Conviction – for purposes of this policy, is defined as a finding of guilt, including a plea of nolo contendere, an imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of federal or state criminal drug statutes.[\[2\]](#)

Criminal Drug Statute - a federal or state criminal statute involving the manufacture, distribution, dispensation, use or possession of a controlled substance.[\[2\]](#)

Drug-free Workplace - the site for the performance of work at which employees are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance.[\[2\]](#)

Authority

The Board requires that each administrative, professional and support employee be given notification that, as a condition of employment, the employee will abide by the terms of this policy and notify the district of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace immediately, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours, after such conviction.[3][4]

Any employee convicted of delivery of a controlled substance or convicted of possession of a controlled substance with the intent to deliver **or convicted of an offense defined as a felony under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, shall be terminated from his/her employment with the district, in accordance with applicable law, and Board policy.**[1][3][5][6]

Delegation of Responsibility

A statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the employee's workplace shall be provided by the Superintendent or designee and shall specify the actions that will be taken against the employee for violation of this policy, up to and including termination and referral for prosecution.[4][7]

Within ten (10) days after receiving notice of the conviction of a district employee, the district shall notify any federal agency or department that is the grantor of funds to the district.[4]

The district shall take appropriate personnel action within thirty (30) days of receiving notice against any convicted employee, up to and including termination, or require the employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a federal, state or local health, law enforcement or other appropriate agency.[4][6][7]

In establishing a drug-free **workplace** awareness program, the Superintendent or designee shall inform employees about:[4]

1. Dangers of drug abuse in the workplace.
2. Board's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace.
3. Availability of drug counseling, drug rehabilitation and employee assistance programs.
4. Penalties that may be imposed for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace.

The district shall make a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of this policy.[4]

Guidelines

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report incidents involving the **prohibited** possession, use or sale of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined in the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act by any employee while on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the **law enforcement agency** that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies.[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents of **prohibited** possession, use or sale of controlled substances or drug paraphernalia to the **PA Department of Education** on the required form.[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

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Legal

[1. 35 P.S. 780-101 et seq](#)

[2. 41 U.S.C. 8101](#)

[3. 24 P.S. 111](#)

[4. 41 U.S.C. 8103](#)

[5. 24 P.S. 527](#)

6. Pol. 317

[7. 41 U.S.C. 8104](#)

[8. 24 P.S. 1306.2-B](#)

[9. 24 P.S. 1319-B](#)

[10. 22 PA Code 10.2](#)

[11. 22 PA Code 10.21](#)

[12. 35 P.S. 780-102](#)

13. Pol. 805.1

[41 U.S.C. 8101 et seq](#)

Pol. 810.1

Pol. 810.3

Northgate School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	Public Records
Code	801 Vol III 2024
Status	First Reading
Adopted	September 15, 2008

801

Purpose

The Board recognizes the importance of public records as the record of the district's actions and the repository of information about this district. The public has the right to access and procure copies of public records, with certain exceptions, subject to law, and Board policy.

Definitions

Financial record - any account, voucher or contract dealing with the receipt or disbursement of funds; or acquisition, use or disposal of services, supplies, materials, equipment or property; or the salary or other payments or expenses paid to an officer or employee, including the individual's name and title; **or** a financial audit report, excluding the audit's underlying work papers.[\[1\]](#)

Public record - a record, including a financial record, that is not protected by a defined privilege or is not exempt from being disclosed under one of the exemptions in Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law or under other federal or state law or regulation, or judicial decree or order.[\[1\]](#)

Record - information, regardless of physical form or characteristics, that documents a district transaction or activity and is created, received or retained pursuant to law or in connection with a district transaction, business or activity, including: a document; paper; letter; map; book; tape; photograph; film or sound recording; information stored or maintained electronically; and a data-processed or image-processed document.[\[1\]](#)

Response - the district's notice informing a requester of a granting of access to a record or the district's written notice to a requester granting, denying or partially granting and partially denying access to a requested record.[\[1\]](#)

Requester - a person that is a legal resident of the United States who requests access to a record. **The term Requester includes an agency.**[\[1\]](#)

Authority

The Board shall make the district's public records available for access and duplication to a requester, in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulations.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

The Board authorizes the district to deny anonymous requests for records. A request may be considered anonymous if the requester has submitted insufficient information for the district to identify if the requester is a legal resident of the United States.[\[1\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board shall designate an Open Records Officer, who shall be responsible to:[\[7\]](#)

1. Receive written requests for access to records submitted to the district.
2. Review and respond to written requests in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulations.
3. Direct requests to other appropriate individuals in the district or in another agency.
4. Track the district's progress in responding to requests.
5. Issue interim and final responses to submitted requests.
6. Maintain a log of all record requests and their disposition.
7. Ensure district staff are trained to perform assigned job functions relative to requests for access to records.

Upon receiving a request for access to a record, the Open Records Officer shall:[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)

1. Note the date of receipt on the written request.
2. Compute and note on the written request the day on which the five-day period for response will expire.
3. Maintain an electronic or paper copy of the written request, including all documents submitted with the request, until the request has been fulfilled.
4. If the written request is denied, maintain the written request for thirty (30) days or, if an appeal is filed, until a final determination is issued or the appeal is deemed denied.

Guidelines

Requesters may access and procure copies of the public records of the district during the regular business hours of the administration offices.[5]

A requester's right of access does not include the right to remove a record from the control or supervision of the Open Records Officer.

The district shall not limit the number of records requested.[2]

When responding to a request for access, the district is not required to create a record that does not exist nor to compile, maintain, format or organize a record in a manner which the district does not currently use.[10]

Information shall be made available to individuals with disabilities in an appropriate format, upon request and with sufficient advance notice.[11][12][13]

The district shall post at the administration office and on the district's **website**, the following information:[4][14]

1. Contact information for the Open Records Officer.
2. Contact information for the state's Office of Open Records or other applicable appeals officer.
3. The form to be used to file a request, with a notation that the state Office of Open Records form may also be used if the district decides to create its own form.

The district shall post the acceptable form(s) on the district website with information notifying requesters that the district may choose to deny a request for failure to submit the proper form.[15]

4. Board policy and procedures governing requests for access to the district's public records.

Request for Access

A written request for access to a public record shall be submitted on the required form(s) and addressed to the Open Records Officer.[4][14][15][16]

Requests made in accordance with this policy may be submitted to the district in person, by mail **or** to a designated email address **and must include the following information:** [5][16]

1. Identification or description of the requested record, in sufficient detail **to allow the district to determine what records are being requested.**

2. Medium in which the record is requested.
3. Name and address of the individual to receive the district's response.

The district shall not require an explanation of the reason for the request or the intended use of the requested record, unless otherwise required by law.[\[16\]](#)

Fees

Except for the duplication fee established by the state, the Board shall approve a list of reasonable fees relative to requests for public records. The district shall maintain a list of applicable fees and disseminate the list to requesters.[\[17\]](#)

No fee may be imposed for review of a record to determine whether the record is subject to access under law.[\[17\]](#)

Prior to granting access, the district may require prepayment of estimated fees when the fees required to fulfill the request are expected to exceed \$100.[\[17\]](#)

The Superintendent may waive duplication fees when the requester duplicates the record, or the Superintendent deems it is in the public interest to do so.[\[17\]](#)

Response to Request

District employees shall be directed to immediately forward requests for access to public records to the Open Records Officer.[\[7\]](#)[\[18\]](#)

Upon receipt of a written request for access to a record, the Open Records Officer shall determine if the requested record is a public record and if the district has possession, custody or control of that record.[\[8\]](#)

The Open Records Officer shall respond as promptly as possible under the existing circumstances, and the initial response time shall not exceed five (5) business days from the date the written request is received by the Open Records Officer.[\[8\]](#)

The initial response shall grant access to the requested record; deny access to the requested record; partially grant and partially deny access to the requested record; notify the requester of the need for an extension of time to fully respond; or request more detail from the requester to clearly identify the requested material.

If the district fails to respond to a request within five (5) business days of receipt, the request for access shall be deemed denied.[\[8\]](#)

Extension of Time

If the Open Records Officer determines that an extension of time is required to respond to a request, in accordance with the factors stated in law, written notice shall be sent within five (5) business days of receipt of request. The notice shall indicate that the request for access is being reviewed, the reason that the review requires an extension, a reasonable date when the response is expected and an estimate of applicable fees owed when the record becomes available.[\[8\]](#)[\[19\]](#)

Up to a thirty-day extension for one (1) of the listed reasons does not require the consent of the requester. If the response is not given by the specified date, it shall be deemed denied on the day following that date.

A requester may consent in writing to an extension that exceeds thirty (30) days, in which case the request shall be deemed denied on the day following the date specified in the notice if the Open Records Officer has not provided a response by that date.

Granting of Request

If the Open Records Officer determines that the request will be granted, the response shall inform the requester that access is granted and either include **a copy of the requested records**, information on the regular business hours of the administration office, provide electronic access or state where the requester may go to inspect the records or information electronically at a publicly accessible site. The response shall include a copy of the fee schedule in effect, a statement that prepayment of fees is required in a specified amount if access to the records will cost in excess of \$100 and the medium in which the records will be provided.

A public record shall be provided to the requester in the medium requested if it exists in that form; otherwise, it shall be provided in its existing medium. However, the district is not required to permit use of its computers.[\[5\]](#)

The Open Records Officer may respond to a records request by notifying the requester that the record is available through publicly accessible electronic means or that the district shall provide access to inspect the record electronically. If the requester, within thirty (30) days following receipt of the district's notice, submits a written request to have the record converted to paper, the district shall provide access in printed form within five (5) days of receipt of the request for conversion to paper.[\[5\]](#)[\[20\]](#)

A public record that the district does not possess but is possessed by a third party with whom the district has contracted to perform a governmental function and which directly relates to that governmental function, shall be considered a public record of the district, **and shall be made accessible in accordance with law, and Board policy**. When the district contracts with such a third party, the district shall require the contractor to agree in writing to comply with requests for such records and to provide the district with the requested record in a timely manner to allow the district to comply with law.[\[21\]](#)

If the Open Records Officer determines that a public record contains information both subject to and not subject to access, the Open Records Officer shall grant access to the information subject to access and deny access to the information not subject to access. The Open Records Officer shall redact from the record the information that is not subject to access. The Open Records Officer shall not deny access to a record if information is able to be redacted.[22]

If the Open Records Officer responds to a requester that a copy of the requested record is available for delivery at the administration office and the requester does not retrieve the record within sixty (60) days of the district's response, the district shall dispose of the copy and retain any fees paid to date.[23]

Notification to Third Parties

The Open Records Officer shall notify a third party of a record request if the requested record contains a trade secret or confidential proprietary information, in accordance with law. [24]

When the district produces a record that is not a public record in response to a request, the Open Records Officer shall notify any third party that provided the record to the district, the person that is the subject of the record and the requester.[24]

Denial of Request

If the Open Records Officer denies a request for access to a record, whether in whole or in part, a written response shall be sent within five (5) business days of receipt of the request. The response denying the request shall include the following:[8][25]

1. Description of the record requested.
2. Specific reasons for denial, including a citation of supporting legal authority.
3. Name, title, business address, business telephone number and signature of the Open Records Officer on whose authority the denial is issued.
4. Date of the response.
5. Procedure for the requester to appeal a denial of access.

The Open Records Officer may deny a request for access to a record if the requester has made repeated, **identical** requests for that same record and the repeated requests have placed an unreasonable burden on the district.[21]

The Open Records Officer may deny a request for access to a record when timely access is not possible due to a disaster, or when access may cause physical damage or irreparable harm to the record. To the extent possible, a record's contents shall be made accessible even when the

record is physically unavailable.[\[21\]](#)

Information that is not subject to access and is redacted from a public record shall be deemed a denial.[\[22\]](#)[\[25\]](#)

Appeals

If a written request for access to a record is denied or deemed denied, the requester may file an appeal with the state's Office of Open Records within fifteen (15) business days of the mailing date of the Open Records Officer's response or deemed denial.[\[9\]](#)

Appeals Involving Third Party Records –

The Open Records Officer shall provide notice to a third party within seven (7) business days of any appeal relating to records requested, which affect the legal or security interest of an employee; contain or constitute proprietary, confidential or trademarked records of a third party; or are held by a third party contractor or vendor, the district shall notify such parties of the appeal and advise them of their ability to participate in accordance with law. The Open Records Officer shall also provide proof of such notice to the Office of Open Records within seven (7) business days of sending the third party notification.[\[9\]](#)[\[26\]](#)

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Legal

[1. 65 P.S. 67.102](#)

[2. 65 P.S. 67.302](#)

[3. 65 P.S. 67.305](#)

[4. 65 P.S. 67.504](#)

[5. 65 P.S. 67.701](#)

6. Anonymous v. Downingtown Area School District, OOR Dkt. No.: AP 2023-2329

[7. 65 P.S. 67.502](#)

[8. 65 P.S. 67.901](#)

[9. 65 P.S. 67.1101](#)

[10. 65 P.S. 67.705](#)

[11. 42 U.S.C. 12132](#)

[12. 28 CFR 35.160](#)

[13. 28 CFR 35.164](#)

[14. 65 P.S. 67.505](#)

15. K Pace v. City of Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections, OOR Dkt.

Northgate School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	School Calendar
Code	803 Vol III 2024
Status	First Reading
Adopted	September 15, 2008
Last Revised	November 16, 2020

803

Purpose

The Board recognizes that preparation of an annual school calendar is necessary for the efficient operation of the district **and communication with students, staff, parents/guardians and the school community.**

Authority

The Board shall determine annually the days and the hours when the schools will be in session for instructional purposes, in accordance with state law and regulations. This may include, as appropriate, activities qualifying as instructional days **or hours** under the direction of certified school employees for fulfilling the minimum required days **or hours** of instruction under law, regulations **and state guidance.** [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)

The school calendar shall normally consist of a minimum of 180 student days. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[10\]](#)

The Board reserves the right to alter the school calendar when it is in the best interests of the district, **including in cases of emergency, in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The Board shall take action to establish temporary provisions in cases of emergency, in accordance with law, and shall document such actions with the PA Department of Education when required.** [\[2\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)

Temporary provisions established in accordance with law may include but are not limited to: [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)[\[15\]](#)

1. Keeping schools in session such days and **hours** as the Board deems necessary, which shall include maintaining the requirement for a minimum of 180 student days **or 900 hours of instruction at the elementary level and 990 hours of instruction at the secondary level.**

450 hours of instruction for half-day kindergarten programs.

and prekindergarten programs.

2. Reducing the length of time of daily instruction for courses and classes.
3. Implementing remote and other alternative methods of delivering instruction under the direction of certified school employees.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent shall annually prepare a school calendar for Board consideration.

The Superintendent or designee shall document alterations to the school calendar and any temporary provisions in accordance with law, regulations, guidance from the PA Department of Education **and** Board policy.[15]

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Legal

- [1. 24 P.S. 133](#)
- [2. 24 P.S. 1501](#)
- [3. 24 P.S. 1502](#)
- [4. 24 P.S. 1503](#)
- [5. 24 P.S. 1504](#)
- [6. 24 P.S. 1505](#)
- [7. 24 P.S. 1506](#)
- [8. 22 PA Code 11.1](#)
- [9. 22 PA Code 11.2](#)
- [10. 22 PA Code 4.4](#)
- [11. 24 P.S. 520](#)
- [12. 24 P.S. 520.1](#)
- [13. 24 P.S. 1501.3](#)
- 14. Pol. 006
- 15. Pol. 805
- Pol. 204