

POLICY

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Student Supervision After School Dismissal
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8601 – STUDENT SUPERVISION AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL

The Board of Education adopts this Student 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 Rosemay Clarke.

The New Jersey Supreme Court, in Jerkins, indicated dangers exist for younger students 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 students after dismissal. The supervision provisions of Policy Guide 8601 are applicable to parents or legal guardians of students attending district-operated schools or programs in grades K to 5 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 student attending a district-operated school or program in grades K to 5, where the student 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 student to walk home after dismissal unless the student is released to the parents or legal guardians or escort(s) designated by the parents or legal guardians. To be honored, that request requires the submission of a completed Request for Supervision at Dismissal from School Form (For Students in Grades K-5) (“Request Form”) to the Principal or designee, or program administrator.

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) in the beginning of the school year.

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

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In order for the school administration to effectively implement the requirements of this Policy and to ensure the safety and security of students who will be released to parents or legal guardians 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, parents or legal guardians may rescind their request by submitting a written request to the Principal or program administrator indicating the date in which the parents or legal guardians no longer request the school provide supervision of their children after school dismissal. The children will be dismissed in accordance with typical dismissal protocol effective the date indicated in the rescinding request.

The Principal or program administrator upon receiving the Request for Supervision at Dismissal from School Form, shall notify the appropriate school staff member who has supervision of the student 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 maintain supervision of the student when other students are dismissed from school at the end of the school day.

Each Principal or program administrator will develop and implement a written Student 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 moving students 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 parents or legal guardians 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 Student Supervision After School Dismissal Plan shall be provided to all parents or legal guardians that have submitted a Request Form.

In the event the parents or legal guardians or designated escort does not arrive to pick up their children after the dismissal time of school, the Principal or designee will attempt to contact the parents or legal guardians using the district's emergency call procedures.

Students who are not picked up at the dismissal time of school by the parents or legal guardians or designated escort shall be supervised by school staff after school dismissal to the location of the Board-approved after-school program. The staff member(s) of the after-school program will assume supervision of the student and will only release the student when the parents or legal guardians or designated escort arrives in the designated area in the after-school program. Parents and legal guardians will be required to pay any fees and costs associated with this supervision.

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If the aftercare program is unable to accommodate the student, the school district will either have a staff member supervise the student at a cost of \$50/half hour (each 1-30 minute increment after the dismissal time for the school day) or contact the police if such care cannot be provided. Discretion regarding collection of the fee will be applied in the event of an emergency or in consideration of the frequency of this need.

In order to ensure the safety of other students being dismissed from school in accordance with typical school dismissal protocol, to limit interaction of parents or legal guardians or designated escorts with other students, and to avoid traffic and vehicular congestion outside the school building, the Principal or program administrator may prohibit the parents or legal guardians 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 may be made by each Principal or program administrator after considering the unique circumstances of the school building and the building's typical dismissal protocol.

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

The school will provide parents or legal guardians information regarding any supervised after-school services, if any, that may be available to students at the school's facilities after formal school dismissal.

This Policy shall be published in student/school handbooks. In addition, the school district shall provide to parents or legal guardians 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. Parents or legal guardians are required to return to the school a signed acknowledgement of receipt of the student/school handbook, which will include this Policy and the school calendar. In addition, any changes to the school's calendar made during the school year will also be provided in writing to parents or legal guardians.

Adopted: 6 April 2009

Revised and adopted: 18 August 2025