Merchantville Board of Education 130 South Centre Street Merchantville, NJ 08109	File Code : 6164.2 Adopted : 06/24/1980 Revised : 11/22/2016 Reviewed : 07/15/2024

Guidance Services

A guidance program shall be incorporated into the district's educational program to aid pupils in making informed and responsible decisions and in using effective decision-making processes. The guidance program shall be developed and coordinated by the chief school administrator in consultation with teaching staff members he/she has identified as possessing necessary skills and abilities, to help pupils acquire the insights and knowledge they need to become autonomous, mature members of adult society in a democratic nation.

The board of education shall ensure all students have access to adequate and appropriate counseling services. When informing students about possible careers or professional or vocational opportunities, the options presented to students shall not be restricted or limited on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status. No biased or stereotyped tests or guidance or counseling materials shall be used.

The purpose of the guidance program shall be to help pupils in learning to make their own decisions concerning life's many choices--personal, educational, and career/vocational.

The guidance program shall provide, as fully as possible, the information needed to make the best decisions concerning the pupil's educational program. Such information shall include facts such as test scores, grades and educational history. Pupil records may also include anecdotes, but shall not carry judgments, opinions and other advice.

Pupils shall be encouraged to avail themselves of the help of the guidance department's personnel.

Guidance services shall include establishment of a referral system that guards the privacy of the pupil and monitors the efficacy of such referrals, when district resources are not sufficient, as in drug or alcohol counseling.

Key Words

Guidance Services

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.2	Career development program
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19	Pupil records; creation, maintenance and retention, security and access; regulations; nonliability
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.1	Military recruiters; access to schools and student information directories
N.J.S.A. 18A:38-36	Employment certificates to part-time pupils; revocation
N.J.S.A. 18A:46-5.1	Basic child study team services; provision by boards of education and state operated programs
N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7	Equality in school and classroom practices
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.1 et seq.	Standards and Assessment
See particularly: N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.2	
N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.2	Student assistance coordinator
N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.7	Director of school counseling services

N.J.A.C.	6A:9B-14.8	School counselor
N.J.A.C.	6A:14-3.4	Evaluation
N.J.A.C.	6A:16-4.1	Adoption of policies and procedures for the intervention of student alcohol and other drug abuse
N.J.A.C.	6A:30-1.1 et seq.	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
N.J.A.C.	6A:32-7.1 et seq.	Student Records
N.J.A.C.	6A:32-12-2	Guidance and counseling

Possible Cross References:

5000	Concepts and roles in pupil personnel
5010	Personal goals and objectives for pupils
*5020	Role of parents/guardians
*5113	Absences and excuses
*5114	Suspension and expulsion
*5120	Assessment of individual needs
*5124	Reporting to parents/guardians
*5125	Pupil records
*5131	Conduct/discipline
*5131.6	Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)
*6142.12	Career education
*6145	Extracurricular activities
*6146	Graduation requirements
*6164.4	Child study team
*6171.1	Remedial instruction
*6171.2	Gifted and talented
*6171.4	Special education
*6172	Alternative educational programs
*6173	Home instruction

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.
NJSBA File Date: 05/06