

New Hartford Public Schools

Policy Subcommittee Meeting

February 18, 2026 5:15 pm

VIRTUAL

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/hmf-rbtv-qqf>

Or dial: (US) +1 252-365-4761 PIN: 784 464 926#

Agenda

1. Review of BOE policies

- NEW - Policy 6144.1 - Instruction - Exemption from Instruction
- REVISION - Policy 9221 - Filling Board Member Vacancies
- REVISION - Policy 3516.5 - Sexual Offenders on School Property
- REVISION - Policy 3541.313 - Video Cameras on School Transportation

2. Action steps for next regular BOE meeting

3. Adjournment

An optional policy to consider.

Instruction

Exemption from Instruction

Substance Abuse Education

Substance abuse education is required by state statutes for all students annually and students are not exempt.

Religious

If the religious belief and/or teachings of a student or his/her parents or guardian are contrary to the content of a school subject, or to any part of a school activity, the student may be exempt from participation. To receive such an exemption, the parent or guardian must submit a written request for exemption to the Principal, stating the specific conflict involved. In the event of religious exemption, an alternate assignment will be provided.

Medical

If a student is unable to participate in a physical education class, he/she must present to the Principal or designee a statement from a physician stating the reason for his/her inability to participate.

HIV/AIDS Instruction

Currently, there is no cure for those infected with AIDS, but the Board of Education believes that education is the best way to prevent the spread of AIDS. By learning the facts about AIDS, students will be able to make decisions that will keep them healthy and perhaps save their lives.

A student will be exempted from instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) upon receipt of a written request for exemption from his/her parent or guardian.

“HIV/AIDS Instruction” is defined as ongoing and systematic instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) offered by the District pursuant to state law.

Bilingual Education

A student will be exempted from the bilingual program upon receipt of a written request for exemption from his/her parent or guardian. Equivalent instruction, as determined by the teacher will be provided.

Instruction

Exemption from Instruction

Family Life Instruction Education

Students, parents, or guardians shall be informed of their right to exempt the student from the family life program. The student will be exempted upon a written request for exemption from his/her parent or guardian. “Family Life Instruction” is defined as instruction pertaining to family planning, human sexuality, parenting, nutrition, and the emotional, physical, psychological, hygienic, economic, and social aspects of family life.

Any student excused from any aspect of the curriculum may be required by the teacher to complete an alternate assignment.

Note: Family life education, and HIV/AIDS are three instructional areas in which, as indicated, upon the written request of a parent/guardian, the Board is required to permit curricular exemptions for instruction.

Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program

“**Sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program**” is defined as the state-wide program identified or developed by the Department of Children, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. (or a similar entity) that includes age-appropriate educational materials designed for children in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, regarding child sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention that may include, but not be limited to, (A) the skills to recognize (i) child sexual abuse and assault, (ii) boundary violations and unwanted forms of touching and contact, and (iii) ways offenders groom or desensitize victims and (B) strategies to (i) promote disclosure, (ii) reduce self-blame, and (iii) mobilize bystanders.

A student shall be excused from the sexual abuse and assault and prevention program in its entirety or any part thereof, upon receipt by the Principal or his/her designee, of a written request from the student’s parent/guardian.

Any student excused from any aspect of the curriculum may be required by the teacher to complete an alternative assignment. Any student excused from participating in the sexual abuse and assault awareness program shall be provided, during the period of time in which the student would otherwise be participating in such program, an opportunity for other study or academic work as determined by the teacher.

Instruction

Exemption from Instruction

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-16b Prescribed courses of study.

10-16c State board to develop family life education curriculum guides.

10-16e Students not required to participate in the family life education program.

10-17f Required bilingual program (as amended by PA 98-168)

17a-101q Statewide sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program.

10-19(b) AIDS education.

10-19 Effect of alcohol, nicotine or tobacco and drugs to be taught.

Policy adopted:

rev. 5/98

rev 7/15

rev 8/15

rev 12/15

Bylaws of the Board

Filling Board Member Vacancies

1. When a vacancy occurs on the Board, the remaining members of the Board shall elect by ballot a successor of the same political party or an ~~unaffiliated independent~~ voter to fill such a vacancy. The Board shall make every effort to fill the vacancy within thirty (30) days.
2. A member resigning from the Board of Education should present or have presented a letter of resignation to the Board of Education at a regular meeting.
3. Having accepted a letter of resignation, the Board of Education will schedule the election of a replacement at the next regular Board meeting.
4. Said election, made by the majority of the Board, shall be in effect until the next regular Town election, at which a successor shall be elected for the unexpired portion of the term.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[7-107](#) Vacancy appointments by selectmen.

~~9-59 All candidates must be affiliated with a party for more than 3 months to be eligible~~

[9-204](#) Minority representation on boards of education.

[10-219](#) Procedure for filling vacancy on board of education.

[10-156e](#) Employees of boards of education permitted to serve as elected officials; exception.

[10-232](#) Restriction on employment of members of the board of education.

Bylaw adopted by the Board: January 17, 2006

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Safety

Sexual Offenders on School Property

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, a sexual offender is defined in Connecticut General Statutes 54-250 through 54-261 and/or is required per these statutes to register on the state's sex offender registry. A *parent/guardian sexual offender* is an individual who meets this policy's definition of sexual offender and who has either parental or legal guardianship rights to a child attending a District school. A *non-parent/non-guardian sexual offender* is an individual who meets this policy's definition of sexual offender and who has no parental rights or legal guardianship rights to a child attending a district school.

School property includes all land within the perimeter of the school site and all school buildings, structures, facilities, computer networks and systems, and school vehicles, whether owned or leased by the school district, and the site of any school-sponsored activity.

Non-parent/Guardian Sexual Offenders

A non-parent sexual offender is prohibited from entering a District school except:

1. When he/she is a qualified voter and is entering school property solely for the purpose of casting his/her vote. (Schools are currently not used as a voting location)
2. To attend an open meeting.

A non-parent sex offender who attempts to communicate electronically with a student while the student is on school property will be considered on school property without permission and will be in violation of this policy.

Parent/Guardian Sex Offenders

Parent/guardian sexual offenders are prohibited from entering school property except:

1. When he/she is a qualified voter and is entering school property solely for the purpose of casting his/her vote. (Schools are currently not used as a voting location)
2. To attend an open meeting.
3. With the Principal's prior approval in the following instances:
 - a. To transport his/her own child to and/or from school.

- b. To attend a scheduled conference to discuss his/her student's progress, placement, or individual education plan (IEP).
- c. Under other circumstances on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the Superintendent.
- d. To attend **an open house event**.

A parent/guardian sex offender who attempts to communicate electronically with a student other than his/her child while the student is on school property will be considered on school property without permission and will be in violation of this policy.

Student Sex Offenders

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall determine the appropriate educational placement for student sex offenders except those identified as having a disability. When determining educational placement, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall consider such factors as the safety and health of the student population. The Superintendent or designee shall develop guidelines for managing each student sexual offender in District schools. If the Superintendent or designee determines that, in the best interest of District schools, the student sexual offender should be placed in an alternative educational setting, the District shall pay for the costs associated with this placement.

A PPT/IEP team shall determine the educational placement of a student sexual offender with a disability. The student with a disability is entitled to all the due process procedures available to a student with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The PPT/IEP team shall develop procedures for managing each student sexual offender with a disability that attends a District school. If the PPT/IEP team determines that the student sexual offender should be placed in an alternative educational setting, the District shall pay for the costs associated with this placement.

General Provisions

The Superintendent or his/her designee will inform the appropriate principal and other relevant District staff of the scope of the permission granted to each sexual offender.

Sexual offenders who receive permission to enter school property must immediately report to the individual or location designated in the Superintendent's or designee's written permission statement. The building Principal shall assign a chaperone to accompany the sexual offender while he/she is on district property. The only exceptions to these requirements are when the Superintendent grants permission to a parent/guardian sex offender to transport his/her child and when a student sex offender receives permission to attend a District school in which case the guidelines developed for this individual shall apply.

The Superintendent shall use the Connecticut sex offender registry law, in conjunction with policy #3516.4, to establish a system for identifying sexual offenders **and will inform known sexual offenders living in New Hartford of this policy**. Lack of notification does not excuse sexual offenders from abiding by the requirements and prohibitions in this policy.

The Superintendent will contact law enforcement anytime a sexual offender violates this policy and will immediately revoke any privileges granted to the sexual offender under this policy.

~~Parents/guardians who are registered sex offenders shall receive a copy of this policy via registered mail.~~

(cf. [1110.1](#)-Parent Involvement)

(cf. [1212](#)-School Volunteers)

(cf. [1250](#)-Visits to Schools)

(cf. [1251](#)-Loitering or Causing Disturbance)

(cf. [1411](#)-Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies)

(cf. [3516.4](#)-Sex Offender Notification)

(cf. 3517-Security of Buildings and Grounds)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[54](#)-250 through 54-261 Registration of Sexual Offenders.

PA 07-143: An Act Concerning Jessica's Law and Consensual Sexual Activity Between Adolescents Close in Age to Each Other.

PA 07-4, June 07 Special Session: An Act Concerning the Provisions of the Budget Concerning Education.

United States Code, Title 42 14071 Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Program Act.

Policy adopted: September 16, 2008

Business/Non-Instructional Operations**Routes and Services/Transportation****Video Cameras on School Transportation****1. Policy:**

Video cameras may be installed on school buses operated by the New Hartford Board of Education or its transportation contractor. The administration has the authority to request that a camera be running on a bus at any time. All video ~~tapes recordings~~ will remain in the custody of the transportation provider. The use of video cameras is primarily intended to be an extension of the disciplinary procedures employed by school administrators and for driver/student training purposes. Video ~~tapes recordings~~ may be used to supplement or support the investigation of disciplinary infractions.

2. Procedures:

A. Camera installation/distribution: Video system hardware ~~and black boxes~~ may be installed on all buses operated by the transportation provider. The actual number of cameras employed will be at the joint discretion of the Board and the transportation provider. ~~The cameras will normally be rotated between the vehicles on a random daily basis, however, a~~ A school administrator or the transportation provider may request surveillance of a particular vehicle ~~for a longer duration~~ at any time. ~~Neither the vehicle operators or the students should have knowledge of which vehicles have cameras installed.~~

B. Video ~~tape recording~~ custody: ~~Video tapes~~ Recordings will be retained by the transportation provider at least twenty (20) working days. After twenty working days, the ~~tapes recordings~~ will be reused in the video equipment on the vehicles. If an administrator needs to view a ~~tape recording~~, he/she must request the ~~tape recording~~ within twenty (20) working days of the time the incident occurred. A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR IS THE ONLY PARTY THAT MAY REQUEST ~~TAPES RECORDINGS~~ FROM THE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER FOR VIEWING PURPOSES.

C. Video ~~tape recording~~ retention: If a school administrator determines that a ~~tape recording~~ should be kept for evidence, the ~~tape recording~~ should be retained permanently by the school administrator and not returned to the transportation provider.

D. Confidentiality: Every effort must be made to preserve the confidential nature of video surveillance and the rights of students and vehicle operators.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10](#) 97 Transportation to vocational schools.

[10](#) 186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re: school attendance.

[10](#) 220 Duties of boards of education.

[10](#) 220c Transportation of children over private roads.

[10](#) 233a and [10](#) 233c Suspension of students.

Policy adopted: December 5, 2006

Policy revised: September 16, 2008

Policy reviewed: June 4, 2013