

POLICY GUIDE

BYLAWS
0162/page 1 of 3
Notice of Board Meetings
~~Sept~~ Apr 26

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 229 and 237]

0162 NOTICE OF BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education will give notice of all meetings in accordance with law.

Adequate Notice

The Board Secretary shall provide **adequate notice, which means** written advance notice of at least forty-eight hours, giving the time, date, location and, to the extent known, the agenda of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting, which notice shall accurately state whether formal action may or may not be taken and which shall be prominently posted in at least one public place reserved for such or similar announcements; ~~mailed, telephoned, telegraphed, or hand delivered to at least two newspapers which newspapers shall be designated by the public body to receive such notices because they have the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the area of jurisdiction of the public body of such meetings, one of which shall be the official newspaper, where any such has been designated by the public body or if the public body has failed to so designate, where any has been designated by the governing body of the political subdivision whose geographic boundaries are coextensive with that of the public body; and~~ filed with the clerk of the municipality when the public body's geographic boundaries are coextensive with that of a single municipality, with the clerk of the county when the public body's geographic boundaries are coextensive with that of a single county, and with the Secretary of State if the public body has Statewide jurisdiction. Where annual notice or revisions thereof in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-16 et seq., the Open Public Meetings Act, set forth the location of any meeting, no further notice shall be required for such meeting. **The Board Secretary shall publish or advertise the legal notice of the meeting on the Board's official internet website conspicuously placed on the website's homepage in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 35:3-1 et seq. and Bylaw 0162.01.**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-9., upon the affirmative vote of three-quarters of the members present, the Board may hold a meeting notwithstanding the failure to provide adequate notice if:



POLICY GUIDE

1. Such meeting is required in order to deal with matters of such urgency and importance that a delay for the purpose of providing adequate notice would be likely to result in substantial harm to the public interest; and

BYLAWS

0162/page 2 of 3

Notice of Board Meetings

2. The meeting is limited to discussion of and acting with respect to such matters of urgency and importance; and
3. Notice of such meeting is provided as soon as possible following the calling of such meeting by posting written notice of the same in the public place described in N.J.S.A. 10:4--8.d., and also by notifying the two newspapers described in N.J.S.A. 10:4--8.d. by telephone, telegram, or by delivering a written notice of same to such newspapers; and
4. Either the public body could not reasonably have foreseen the need for such meeting at a time when adequate notice could have been provided or although the public body could reasonably have foreseen the need for such meeting at a time when adequate notice could have been provided, it nevertheless failed to do so.

Personal Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b.(8), the Board may exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the Board discusses any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion, or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the Board, unless all the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that the matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.

The Board will provide notice to the affected person that will include the date and time of the closed session meeting, the subject or subjects scheduled for discussion at the closed session meeting, and the right of the affected person to request that the discussions be conducted at a public meeting. Such notice will be given no less than forty-eight hours in advance of the closed session meeting.



POLICY GUIDE

A written request for public discussion must be submitted to the Board Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting. Any such properly submitted request will be granted. In the event that one or more, but fewer than all, of a group of persons whose employment will be discussed request a public meeting, the discussion regarding the person or persons who have submitted the request will be severed from the rest and will be conducted publicly.

BYLAWS
0162/page 3 of 3
Notice of Board Meetings

A discussion held in public by reason of the written request of an individual will be conducted at a regularly scheduled meeting for which annual notice has been given or at a meeting for which adequate public notice has been given in accordance with law.

Nothing in this Bylaw will permit an employee to request or the Board to grant the public discussion of tenure charges or permit the public disclosure of information regarding a student.

N.J.S.A. 10:4-~~16~~ et seq.; ~~10:4-8~~; ~~10:4-9~~

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-11.; 18A:10-6.

N.J.S.A. 35:3-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.1

Adopted: September 8, 2026



POLICY GUIDE

BYLAWS
0162.01/page 1 of 3
Legal Notices
Sep ~~Apr~~ 26
M

[See **POLICY ALERT No. 237**]

0162.01 LEGAL NOTICES

Whenever the Board of Education is required by law or by order or rule of any court to publish or advertise a legal notice, the Board shall publish or advertise the legal notice on the Board's official internet website in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 35:3-1 et seq.

For the purpose of this Policy, "legal notice" means any resolution, official proclamation, notice, or advertisement of any sort, kind, or character, including proposals for bids on public work and otherwise, required by law or by the order or rule of any court to be published by the Board.

For the purpose of this Policy, "online news publication" means a news publication in electronic format that contains news on matters of public concern and has published news predominantly in the English language at least once per week for at least one year continuously.

The Board's official internet website shall be accessible and available to the public free of charge. A direct hyperlink to legal notices published on the Board's official internet website shall be conspicuously placed on the Board's website's homepage. The Board shall submit the hyperlink to the New Jersey Secretary of State and provide any updates thereto prior to effectuation in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 35:3-2.b.

The Board shall maintain an internet archive of legal notices that are no longer displayed, which shall be kept for at least one year. The archive shall not be subject to any records retention schedule adopted by the State Records Committee nor to the "Destruction of Public Records Law (1953)," N.J.S.A. 47:3-15 et seq. The Board shall display a legal notice on its legal notices internet webpage for at least one week from the date of initial posting, or other time period as required by law, before transferring the publication to the Board's internet archive. The Board shall initially publish an internet archive no later than July 1, 2026 and shall maintain the archive thereafter in accordance with N.J.S.A. 35:3-2.c.



POLICY GUIDE

BYLAWS
0162.01/page 2 of 3
Legal Notices

The Board may, in addition to the publication on its official internet website, publish or advertise a legal notice separately on an eligible online news publication that meets the criteria of N.J.S.A. 35:3-3.b. The Board shall provide a notice in a prominent location on its official internet website if it publishes or advertises its legal notices in an online news publication and shall publish a hyperlink to the online news publication in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 35:3-2.d.

The Board, whenever required by law or by the order or rule of any court to publish or advertise a legal notice shall publish or advertise the notice in accordance with the applicable law or court order or rule. The Board shall be deemed to satisfy their legal obligations to provide a legal notice upon publication of the notice as required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 35:3-1 et seq.

Legal notices published on the Board's internet website or the internet website of an online news publication in accordance with N.J.S.A. 35:3-1 et seq. shall not be deemed defective if at least one of the following circumstances exist:

1. There is an error in the content or form of the legal notice published or advertised on the Board's internet website or online news publication due to a clerical, administrative, or any other error outside of the control of the Board whenever required by law or court order or rule to publish the legal notice;
2. There is a temporary outage, technical malfunction, disruption, or service interruption preventing the publishing, posting, or display of a legal notice on the Board's internet website or online news publication;
3. The operator of the Board's internet website or the online news publication imposes standard restrictions that prevent access to the website or online news publication;



POLICY GUIDE

4. The Board's internet website or the online news publication is subject to a cyberattack or cybersecurity incident, including, but not limited to, ransomware or a data breach, causing the failure to timely or accurately publish the legal notice; or

BYLAWS
0162.01/page 3 of 3
Legal Notices

5. Any other circumstances preventing the publishing, posting, or display of a legal notice on the Board's internet website or online news publication that are outside of the control of the Board whenever required by law or court order or rule to publish the legal notice.

Starting on January 1, 2026 and at least twice per month through December 31, 2026, the Board whenever required by law or court order to rule to publish the legal notice shall provide an advertisement in an online news publication meeting the eligibility criteria at N.J.S.A. 35:3-3. that:

1. States that the complete text of each legal notice may be obtained or viewed by the public on the official internet website of the Board; and
2. Provides the hyperlink to the Secretary of State's legal notices hyperlink internet webpage established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 35:3-2.b.

N.J.S.A. 35:3-1 et seq.

Adopted: September 8, 2026



POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 1 of 41

Family Leave

~~SUP~~ Apr 26

M

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 222 and 237]

1643 FAMILY LEAVE

The Board of Education will provide family leave to staff members in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA) and the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). These laws have similar and different provisions that provide different rights and obligations for a staff member and the Board.

If a staff member is eligible for leave for reasons recognized under both the FMLA and NJFLA, then the time taken shall run concurrently and be applied to both laws. The NJFLA provides twelve weeks leave in a twenty-four month period and the FMLA provides twelve weeks leave in a twelve month period.

A. New Jersey Family Leave Act

1. Definitions Relative to New Jersey Family Leave Act

“Base Hours” means the hours of work for which a staff member receives compensation. Base hours shall include overtime hours for which a staff member is paid additional or overtime compensation, and hours for which a staff member receives workers’ compensation benefits. Base hours shall also include hours a staff member would have worked except for having been in military service. Base hours do not include hours for when a staff member receives other types of compensation, such as administrative, personal leave, vacation, or sick leave.

“Child” means a biological, adopted, foster child, or resource family child, stepchild, legal ward, or child of a parent, including a child who becomes the child of a parent pursuant to a valid written agreement between the parent and a gestational carrier.

“Eligible employee” means any individual employed by the same employer for ~~three~~ **twelve** months or more, who has worked **250**



POLICY GUIDE

~~1,000~~ or more base hours during the preceding twelve month period.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 2 of 41
Family Leave

“Employer” includes the State, any political subdivision thereof, and all public offices, agencies, boards, or bodies.

“Family member” means a child, parent, parent-in-law, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, spouse, domestic partner, or one partner in a civil union couple, or any other individual related by blood to a staff member, and any other individual that a staff member shows to have a close association with a staff member which is the equivalent of a family relationship.

“Health care provider” means a duly licensed health care provider or other health care provider deemed appropriate by the Director of the Division on Civil Rights in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety.

“Parent” means a person who is the biological parent, adoptive parent, foster parent, resource family parent, step-parent, parent-in-law, or legal guardian, having a “parent-child relationship” with a child as defined by law, or having sole or joint legal or physical custody, care, guardianship, or visitation with a child, or who became the parent of the child pursuant to a valid written agreement between the parent and a gestational carrier.

“Serious health condition” means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition which requires:

- a. Inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility; or
- b. Continuing medical treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider.



POLICY GUIDE

As used in the definition of a serious health condition, “continuing medical treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider” means:

- a. A period of incapacity (that is, inability to work, attend school, or perform regular daily activities due to a serious

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 3 of 41

Family Leave

health condition, treatment therefore, and recovery therefrom) of more than three consecutive days, and any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition, that also involves:

- (1) Treatment two or more times by a health care provider; or
 - (2) Treatment by a health care provider on one occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of a health care provider;
- b. Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy, or for prenatal care;
 - c. Any period of incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition;
 - d. A period of incapacity, which is permanent or long-term, due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective (such as Alzheimer's disease, a severe stroke, or the terminal stages of a disease) where the individual is under continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a health care provider; or
 - e. Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery therefrom) by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services under orders of, or on referral by a health care provider, either for



POLICY GUIDE

restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.), severe arthritis (physical therapy), or kidney disease (dialysis).

“Spouse” means a person to whom a staff member is lawfully married as defined by New Jersey law.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 4 of 41
Family Leave

“State of emergency” means a natural or man-made disaster or emergency for which a state of emergency has been declared by the President of the United States or the Governor, or for which a state of emergency has been declared by a municipal emergency management coordinator.

2. Reasons for NJFLA Leave

- a. A staff member may take NJFLA leave to provide care made necessary by reason of:
 - (1) The birth of a child of the staff member, including a child born pursuant to a valid written agreement between the staff member and the gestational carrier;
 - (2) The placement of a child into foster care with the staff member or in connection with adoption of such child by a staff member;
 - (3) The serious health condition of a family member of the staff member; or
 - (4) A state of emergency declared by the Governor of New Jersey, or when indicated to be needed by the Commissioner of Health – New Jersey Department



POLICY GUIDE

of Health or other public health authority, an epidemic or communicable disease, a known or suspected exposure to the communicable disease, or efforts to prevent spread of a communicable disease which:

- (a) Requires in-home care or treatment of a child due to the closure of the school or place of care of the child of a staff member, by order of a public official due to the epidemic or other public health emergency;

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 5 of 41

Family Leave

- (b) Prompts the issuance by a public health authority of a determination, including by mandatory quarantine, requiring or imposing responsive or prophylactic measures as a result of illness caused by an epidemic of a communicable disease or known or suspected exposure to the communicable disease because the presence in the community of a family member in need of care by a staff member would jeopardize the health of others; or
- (c) Results in the recommendation of a health care provider or public health authority, that a family member in need of care by a staff member voluntarily undergo self-quarantine as a result of suspected exposure to a communicable disease because the presence in the community of that family member in need of care by a staff member, would jeopardize the health of others.

3. Staff Member Eligibility



POLICY GUIDE

- a. NJFLA leave may be taken for up to twelve weeks within any twenty-four month period. The NJFLA leave shall be unpaid with benefits subject to contributions required to be made by the staff member.
- b. A staff member is eligible for NJFLA leave if a staff member is employed by the same Board for **three** ~~twelve~~ months or more, and has worked **250** ~~1,000~~ or more base hours during the preceding twelve month period.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 6 of 41
Family Leave

- c. The method to determine the twenty-four month period in which the twelve weeks of NJFLA leave entitlement occurs shall be

{Select one option

~~_____ the calendar year.~~

~~_____ any fixed "leave year," such as a fiscal year or a year starting on a staff member's "anniversary date".~~

~~_____ the twenty-four month period measured forward from the date any staff member's first leave under NJFLA begins.~~

_____ a "rolling" twenty-four month period measured backward from the date a staff member uses any leave under NJFLA. **(Recommended)}**



POLICY GUIDE

- d. This Policy shall serve as notice to all staff members of the method chosen in A.3.c. above. This method shall be applied consistently and uniformly to all staff members.
 - (1) If the Board transitions to another method, the Board is required to give at least sixty days' notice to all staff members and the transition must take place in such a way that staff members retain their full benefit of twelve weeks of NJFLA leave under whichever method affords the greatest benefit to a staff member.
- e. The Board shall grant NJFLA leave to more than one staff member from the same family (for example, a husband and a wife, or a brother and a sister) at the same time, provided such staff members are otherwise eligible for NJFLA leave.
- f. The fact that a holiday may occur within the week taken by a staff member as NJFLA leave has no effect and the week is counted as a week of NJFLA leave.

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 7 of 41

Family Leave

- (1) However, if a staff member is out on NJFLA leave and the staff member is not regularly scheduled to work for one or more weeks, the weeks the staff member is not regularly scheduled to work do not count against their NJFLA leave entitlement.

4. Types of NJFLA Leave

- a. Staff members are required to provide notice in writing for any NJFLA leave requested. In emergent circumstances, a staff member may provide the Board with oral notice when written notice is impracticable.
 - (1) Staff members must provide the Board written notice after submitting oral notice in emergent circumstances.



POLICY GUIDE

- b. Consecutive NJFLA leave is NJFLA leave that is taken without interruption based upon a staff member's regular work schedule and does not include breaks in employment in which a staff member is not regularly scheduled to work.
 - (1) A staff member must provide the Board with notice of consecutive NJFLA leave no later than thirty days prior to the commencement of consecutive NJFLA leave, except where emergent circumstances warrant shorter notice.
 - (2) A staff member shall provide the Board with certification pursuant to A.5. below.
- c. Intermittent NJFLA leave is NJFLA leave due to a single qualifying reason, taken in separate periods of time, broken up by periods in which the staff member returns to work.

ADMINISTRATION 1643/page 8 of 41 Family Leave

- (1) A staff member is entitled to take NJFLA leave intermittently for the birth of a child of the staff member, including a child born pursuant to a valid written agreement between the staff member and a gestational carrier or the placement of a child into foster care with the staff member or in connection with adoption of such child by the staff member.
 - (a) The staff member shall provide the Board with prior notice of not less than fifteen calendar days before the first day on which NJFLI benefits are paid for the intermittent NJFLA leave, unless an emergency or other



POLICY GUIDE

unforeseen circumstance precludes prior notice.

- (b) The staff member shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the intermittent NJFLA leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the Board and, if possible, provide the Board, prior to the commencement of intermittent NJFLA leave, with a regular schedule of the days or days of the week on which the intermittent NJFLA leave will be taken.
 - (c) A staff member shall provide the Board with certification for intermittent NJFLA leave pursuant to A.5.b. below.
- (2) The staff member is entitled to take intermittent NJFLA leave for the serious health condition of a family member of the staff member when medically necessary if:

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 9 of 41
Family Leave

- (a) The total time which the intermittent NJFLA leave is taken does not exceed twelve months if taken in connection with a single serious health condition. If the intermittent NJFLA leave is taken in connection with more than one serious health condition, the intermittent NJFLA leave must be taken within a consecutive twenty-four month period or until such time the twelve week



POLICY GUIDE

NJFLA leave is exhausted, whichever is shorter;

- (b) The staff member provides the Board with prior notice of not less than fifteen calendar days before the first day on which benefits are paid for the intermittent NJFLA leave.
 - (i) The staff member may provide notice less than fifteen days prior to the intermittent NJFLA leave if an emergency or other unforeseen circumstance precludes prior notice;
- (c) The staff member makes a reasonable effort to schedule the intermittent NJFLA leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the school district and, if possible, provide the school district, prior to the commencement of intermittent NJFLA leave, with a regular schedule of the days or days of the week on which the intermittent NJFLA leave will be taken; and
- (d) The staff member provides the Board with a copy of the certification outlined in A.5.c. below.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 10 of 41
Family Leave

- (3) In the case of NJFLA leave taken due to an epidemic of a communicable disease, a known or suspected exposure to the communicable disease, or efforts to prevent spread of the communicable disease, the NJFLA leave may only be taken intermittently if:



POLICY GUIDE

- (a) The staff member provides the Board with prior notice of the intermittent NJFLA leave as soon as practicable;
 - (b) The staff member makes a reasonable effort to schedule the NJFLA leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the school district and, if possible, provide the school district prior to the commencement of the intermittent NJFLA leave, with a regular schedule of the day or days of the week on which the intermittent NJFLA leave will be taken; and
 - (c) A staff member provides the Board with a copy of the certification outlined in A.5.d. below.
- (4) Intermittent leave taken on a reduced leave schedule is NJFLA leave due to a single qualifying reason, that is scheduled for fewer than a staff member's usual number of hours worked per workweek, but not for fewer than a staff member's usual number of hours worked per workday and may only be taken to care for the serious health condition of a family member of a staff member when medically necessary, except that:
- (a) A staff member shall not be entitled to intermittent NJFLA leave on a reduced leave schedule for a period exceeding twelve consecutive months for any one period of NJFLA leave;
 - (b) The staff member must provide the Board with prior notice of the intermittent NJFLA

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 11 of 41
Family Leave



POLICY GUIDE

leave on a reduced leave schedule as soon as practicable;

- (c) A staff member shall make a reasonable effort to schedule intermittent NJFLA leave on a reduced leave schedule so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the school district. A staff member shall provide the school district with prior notice of the care, medical treatment, or continuing supervision by a health care provider necessary due to a serious health condition of a family member, in a manner which is reasonable and practicable; and
 - (d) A staff member must provide the Board with a copy of the certification outlined in A.5.c. below.
- d. NJFLA leave taken because of the birth or placement for adoption of a child of the staff member may commence at any time within a year after the date of the foster care placement, birth, or placement for adoption.
- e. A staff member shall not, during any period of NJFLA leave, perform services on a full-time basis for any person for whom a staff member did not provide those services immediately prior to commencement of the NJFLA leave.
 - (1) A staff member on NJFLA leave may not engage in other full-time employment during the term of the NJFLA leave, unless such employment commenced prior to the NJFLA leave and is not otherwise prohibited by law.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 12 of 41
Family Leave



POLICY GUIDE

- (2) During the term of NJFLA leave a staff member may commence part-time employment which shall not exceed half the regularly scheduled hours worked for the Board from whom a staff member requested NJFLA leave. A staff member may continue part-time employment which commenced prior to a staff member's NJFLA leave, at the same number of hours that a staff member was regularly scheduled prior to such NJFLA leave.
- (3) The Board may not maintain a policy or practice which prohibits part-time employment during the course of a NJFLA leave.

5. Certification

- a. The Board shall require a staff member who requests NJFLA leave to sign a form of certification established by the Board attesting that such staff member is taking NJFLA leave in accordance with the law.
 - (1) The Board may not require a staff member to sign or otherwise submit a form of certification attesting to additional facts, including a staff member's eligibility for NJFLA leave.
 - (2) The Board may subject a staff member to reasonable disciplinary measures, depending on the circumstances, when a staff member intentionally misrepresents the reason that such staff member is taking NJFLA leave.
 - (3) The form of certification established by the Board shall contain a statement warning a staff member of the consequences of refusing to sign the certification or falsely certifying. Any staff member who refuses to sign the certification established by the Board may be denied the requested NJFLA leave.

ADMINISTRATION



POLICY GUIDE

1643/page 13 of 41
Family Leave

- (4) The Board requires that any period of NJFLA leave be supported by certification issued by a health care provider.
- b. Where the certification, issued by the health care provider, is for the birth of a child of a staff member, including a child born pursuant to a valid written agreement between the staff member and a gestational carrier or the placement of a child into foster care with the staff member or in connection with adoption of such child by the staff member, the certification need only state the date of birth or date of placement, whichever is appropriate.
- c. Any period of NJFLA leave for the serious health condition of a family member of a staff member shall be supported by certification provided by a health care provider. The certification shall be sufficient if it states:
 - (1) The date, if known, on which the serious health condition commenced;
 - (2) The probable duration of the condition;
 - (3) The medical facts within the knowledge of the provider of the certification regarding the condition;
 - (4) The serious health condition warrants the participation of the staff member in providing health care to the family member, as provided in the "Family Leave Act," P.L. 1989, c.261 (C.34:11B-1 et seq.) and regulations adopted pursuant to the NJFLA;
 - (5) An estimate of the amount of time the staff member is needed for participation in the care of the family member;



POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 14 of 41

Family Leave

- (6) If the NJFLA leave is intermittent, a statement of the medical necessity for the intermittent NJFLA leave and the expected duration of the intermittent NJFLA leave; and
 - (7) If NJFLA leave is intermittent and for planned medical treatment, the dates of the treatment.
- d. In any case in which the Board has reason to doubt the validity of the certification provided pursuant to A.5.c. above, the Board may require, at its own expense, that a staff member obtain an opinion regarding the serious health condition from a second health care provider designated or approved, but not employed on a regular basis, by the Board. If the second opinion differs from the certification provided pursuant to A.5.c. above, the Board may require, at its own expense, that a staff member obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the Board and a staff member concerning the serious health condition. The opinion of the third health care provider shall be considered to be final and shall be binding on the Board and a staff member.
- e. Where the certification is for an epidemic of a communicable disease, a known or suspected exposure to the communicable disease, or efforts to prevent the spread of the communicable disease, the certification shall be sufficient if it includes:
 - (1) For NJFLA leave taken to provide in-home care or treatment of a child due to the closure of the school or place of care of the child of a staff member, by order of a public official due to the epidemic or other public health emergency, the date on which the closure of the school or place of care of the



POLICY GUIDE

child of a staff member commenced and the reason for such closure;

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 15 of 41

Family Leave

- (2) For NJFLA leave taken due to a public health authority's issuance of a determination requiring or imposing responsive or prophylactic measures as a result of illness caused by an epidemic of a communicable disease or known or suspected exposure to the communicable disease because the presence in the community of a family member in need of care by a staff member would jeopardize the health of others, the date of issuance of the determination, and the probable duration of the determination; or
- (3) For NJFLA leave taken because a health care provider or public health authority recommends that a family member in need of care by a staff member voluntarily undergo self-quarantine as a result of suspected exposure to a communicable disease because the presence in the community of that family member in need of care by a staff member would jeopardize the health of others, the date of the recommendation, the probable duration of the condition, and the medical or other facts within the health care provider or public health authority's knowledge regarding the condition.

- f. The Board shall not use the certification requirements as outlined in A.5. to intimidate, harass, or otherwise discourage a staff member from requesting or taking NJFLA leave or asserting any of a staff member's rights to NJFLA leave.

6. Denial or Exemption of NJFLA Leave



POLICY GUIDE

a. Denial of NJFLA Leave

- (1) The Board may deny NJFLA leave to a staff member if:

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 16 of 41
Family Leave

- (a) A staff member is a salaried staff member who is among the highest paid 5% of the Board's staff members or the seven highest paid staff members of the Board, whichever is greater;
- (b) The denial is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the Board's operations; and
- (c) The Board notifies a staff member of its intent to deny the NJFLA leave at the time the Board determines that the denial is necessary.
- (2) The provisions of A.6.a.(1) above shall not apply when, in the event of a state of emergency declared by the Governor of New Jersey or when indicated to be needed by the Commissioner of Health – New Jersey Department of Health or other public health authority, the NJFLA leave is for an epidemic of a communicable disease, a known or suspected exposure to a communicable disease, or efforts to prevent spread of a communicable disease.
- (3) In any case in which NJFLA leave has already commenced at the time of the notification pursuant to A.6.a.(1)(c) above, a staff member shall return to



POLICY GUIDE

work within ten working days of the date of notification.

7. Reinstatement from NJFLA Leave

- a. Upon the expiration of a NJFLA leave, a staff member shall be restored to the position such staff member held immediately prior to the commencement of the NJFLA leave. If such position has been filled, the Board shall reinstate such staff member to an equivalent position of like seniority, status, employment benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 17 of 41
Family Leave

- b. If, during NJFLA leave, the Board experiences a reduction in force or layoff and a staff member would have lost their position had a staff member not been on NJFLA leave, as a result of the reduction in force or pursuant to the good faith operation of a bona fide layoff and recall system including a system under a collective bargaining agreement where applicable, a staff member shall not be entitled to reinstatement to the former or an equivalent position. A staff member shall retain all rights under any applicable layoff and recall system, including a system under a collective bargaining agreement, as if a staff member had not taken the NJFLA leave.

8. Notice to Staff Members

- a. The Board shall display the official Family Leave Act poster of the Division on Civil Rights in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety (Division) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:8-2.2. The poster is available for printing from the Division's website.
- b. Access to and/or distribution of this Policy shall serve as school district notice to staff members of their rights pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:14-1.14.



POLICY GUIDE

9. Local Board of Education Practices

a. Accrued Paid NJFLA Leave

- (1) Whether a staff member is required to use any other accrued leave time concurrent with NJFLA leave time will depend upon either the school district's practice or a provision in a collective bargaining agreement, if applicable.
 - (a) Sick leave may only be used concurrently with the NJFLA leave in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1 and N.J.S.A. 34:11B-3.

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 18 of 41

Family Leave

b. Multiple Leaves of Absence

- (1) Where a Board maintains leaves of absence which provide benefits, other than health benefits, that differ depending upon the type of leave taken, the Board shall provide those benefits to a staff member on NJFLA leave in the same manner as it provides benefits to staff members who are granted other leaves of absence which most closely resemble NJFLA leave.

10. New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program (NJFLI)

- a. Board of Education staff members are eligible to apply for benefits under the NJFLI Program administered by the State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.
- b. All applications for benefits under the NJFLI Program must be filed directly with the State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The eligibility requirements, wage requirements, benefit duration and



POLICY GUIDE

amounts, and benefit limitations shall be in accordance with the provisions of the NJFLI Program as administered by the State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. A formal appeal may be submitted to the State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development if an employee or the Board disagrees with a determination on a claim.

- c. The NJFLI Program provides eligible individuals a monetary benefit and not a leave benefit. The school district administrative and related staff will comply with the State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development requests for information in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 12:21-3.9.

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 19 of 41

Family Leave

- d. A printed notification of staff members' rights relative to the receipt of benefits under the NJFLI Program will be posted in each of the school district worksites and in a place or places accessible to all employees at the worksite.
- e. Each staff member shall receive a copy of this notification in writing at the time of the staff member's hiring, whenever the staff member provides written notice to the Superintendent of their intention to apply for benefits under the NJFLI Program, or at any time upon the first request of the staff member.
 - (1) The written notification may be transmitted to the staff member in electronic form.
 - (2) Access to and/or distribution of this Policy shall serve as school district notice to staff members of their rights under the NJFLI Program.

B. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act



POLICY GUIDE

1. Definitions Relative to Federal Family and Medical Leave Act

“Covered Employer” means any public or private elementary or secondary school(s) regardless of the number of employees employed.

“Employee” means a staff member eligible for family and medical leave in accordance with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

“Hours of Service” means hours actually worked by the employee. It does not mean hours paid. Thus, non-working time – such as vacations, holidays, furloughs, sick leave, or other time-off (paid or otherwise) – does not count for purposes of calculating FMLA eligibility for the employee.

“Parent” means a biological, adoptive, step, or foster father or mother, or any other individual who stood in loco parentis to a staff member when a staff member has a son or daughter as defined below. This term does not include parents “in law.”

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 20 of 41

Family Leave

“Serious health condition” means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical facility or continuing treatment by a health care provider. “Serious health condition” may include treatment of substance abuse pursuant to 29 CFR §825.119.

“Son” or “daughter” means a biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is either under age eighteen or age eighteen or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability at the time that FMLA leave is to commence.

“Spouse” means a husband or wife. For purposes of this definition, husband or wife refers to the other person with whom an individual entered into marriage as defined or recognized under State law in the State in which the marriage was entered into or, in



POLICY GUIDE

the case of a marriage entered into outside of any State, if the marriage is valid in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least one State. This definition includes an individual in a same-sex marriage or common law marriage.

“Week” or “Workweek” means the number of days a staff member normally works each calendar week.

2. Qualifying Reasons for FMLA Leave

a. A staff member may take FMLA leave to provide care made necessary:

- (1) For the birth of a son or daughter of a staff member and in order to care for such son or daughter;
- (2) For the placement of a son or daughter with a staff member for adoption or foster care;
- (3) In order to care for the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of a staff member if such spouse, son, daughter, or parent has a serious health condition;

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 21 of 41
Family Leave

- (4) For a serious health condition that makes a staff member unable to perform the functions of the position of such staff member.

b. FMLA leave taken in relation to military service shall be in accordance with 29 CFR §825.112.

c. Entitlement to FMLA leave taken for the birth of a son or daughter or placement of a son or daughter with a staff member for adoption or foster care shall expire at the end of the twelve month period beginning on the date of such birth or placement.

3. Staff Member Eligibility



POLICY GUIDE

- a. A staff member is eligible for up to twelve weeks of FMLA leave in a twelve month period.
- b. A staff member shall become eligible for FMLA leave after the staff member has been employed at least twelve months by the Board and employed for at least 1,250 hours of service during the twelve month period immediately preceding the commencement of the FMLA leave.
 - (1) The twelve months a staff member must have been employed need not be consecutive months pursuant to 29 CFR §825.110(b).
 - (2) The minimum 1,250 hours of service shall be determined according to the principles established under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) for determining compensable hours of work pursuant to 29 CFR §785.
 - (3) The Board shall not provide pay for FMLA leave.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 22 of 41
Family Leave

- c. The method to determine the twelve month period in which the twelve weeks of FMLA leave entitlement occurs will be

~~Select one option~~

~~_____ the calendar year.~~

~~_____ a school year.~~

~~_____ a staff member's employment anniversary date.~~



POLICY GUIDE

~~the twelve month period measured forward from when a staff member's first FMLA leave begins.~~

a "rolling" twelve month period measured backward from the date a staff member uses any FMLA leave.
(Recommended)}

- d. Pursuant to 29 CFR §825.201, a husband and wife both employed by the Board are limited to a combined total of twelve weeks of FMLA leave during the twelve month period if the FMLA leave is taken for the birth of a son or daughter of a staff member or to care for such son or daughter after birth; for placement of a son or daughter with a staff member for adoption or foster care or in order to care for the son or daughter after placement; or to care for a staff member's parent with a serious health condition.

4. Types of FMLA leave

- a. Continuous FMLA leave is taken by staff members for a continuous period of time. Such FMLA leave is not broken up by a period of work and is continuous when a staff member is absent for three consecutive working days or more. Continuous FMLA leave may be taken for any qualifying reason.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 23 of 41
Family Leave

- b. Intermittent FMLA leave is FMLA leave taken in separate blocks of time due to a single qualifying reason. A reduced FMLA leave schedule is a FMLA leave schedule that reduces a staff member's usual number of working hours per workweek, or hours per workday. A reduced FMLA leave schedule is a change in a staff member's schedule for a period of time, normally from full-time to part-time.



POLICY GUIDE

(1) Intermittent or reduced FMLA leave may be taken for the following qualifying reasons:

(a) For the serious health condition of the staff member or to care for a parent, son, or daughter with a serious health condition.

(i) For intermittent FMLA leave or FMLA leave on a reduced FMLA leave schedule taken for the reason outlined in B.4.b.(1)(a) above there must be a medical need for FMLA leave and it must be that such medical need can be best accommodated through an intermittent or reduced FMLA leave schedule.

(ii) The treatment regimen and other information described in the certification of a serious health condition and in the certification of a serious injury or illness, shall address the medical necessity of intermittent FMLA leave or FMLA leave on a reduced FMLA leave schedule.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 24 of 41
Family Leave

(iii) Intermittent FMLA leave may be taken for a serious health condition of a parent, son, or daughter, for a staff member's own serious health condition, which requires treatment



POLICY GUIDE

by a health care provider periodically, rather than for one continuous period of time, and may include FMLA leave of periods from an hour or more to several weeks.

- (b) For planned and/or unanticipated medical treatment of a serious health condition when medically necessary.
- (c) To provide care or psychological comfort to a covered family member with a serious health condition when medically necessary.
- (d) For absences where a staff member or family member is incapacitated or unable to perform the essential functions of the position because of a chronic serious health condition even if he or she does not receive treatment by a health care provider.
- (e) For FMLA leave taken after the birth of a healthy child or placement of a healthy child for adoption or foster care, only if the Board agrees.
 - (i) The Board's agreement is not required; however, for FMLA leave during which the mother has a serious health condition in connection with the birth of her child or if the newborn child has a serious health condition.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 25 of 41
Family Leave

- (2) If a staff member needs FMLA leave intermittently or on a reduced FMLA leave schedule for planned



POLICY GUIDE

medical treatment, then a staff member must make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the Board's operations.

- (3) When a staff member takes FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced FMLA leave schedule basis, the Board must account for the FMLA leave using an increment no greater than the shortest period of time that the Board uses to account for use of other forms of leave provided that it is not greater than one hour and provided further that a staff member's FMLA leave entitlement may not be reduced by more than the amount of FMLA leave actually taken.
 - (a) If the Board accounts for use of leave in varying increments at different times of the day or shift, the Board may not account for FMLA leave in a larger increment than the shortest period used to account for other leave during the period in which the FMLA leave is taken.
 - (b) If the Board accounts for other forms of leave use in increments greater than one hour, the Board must account for FMLA leave use in increments no greater than one hour.

5. Staff Member Notice Requirements

- a. A staff member eligible for FMLA leave must give at least a thirty day written advance notice to the Superintendent or designee if the need for the FMLA leave is foreseeable based on an expected birth, placement for adoption or foster care, or planned medical treatment for a serious health condition of a staff member or a family member.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 26 of 41
Family Leave



POLICY GUIDE

- (1) If thirty days is not practical, a staff member must provide notice “as soon as practicable” which means as soon as both possible and practical, taking into account all the facts and circumstances in the individual case.
- (2) Where it is not possible to give as much as thirty days’ notice, “as soon as practical” ordinarily would mean at least verbal notification to the Superintendent or designee within one or two business days or when the need for FMLA leave becomes known to a staff member.
- (3) The written notice shall include the reasons for the FMLA leave, the anticipated duration of the FMLA leave, and the anticipated start of the FMLA leave.
- (4) When planning medical treatment, a staff member must consult with the Superintendent or designee and make a reasonable effort to schedule the FMLA leave so as not to unduly disrupt the educational program, subject to the approval of the health care provider.
 - (a) Staff members are ordinarily expected to consult with the Superintendent or designee prior to scheduling of treatment that would require FMLA leave for a schedule that best suits the needs of the Board and a staff member.
- (5) Intermittent FMLA leave or FMLA leave on a reduced FMLA leave schedule must be medically necessary due to a serious health condition or a serious injury or illness. A staff member shall advise the Board of the reasons why the intermittent/reduced FMLA leave schedule is necessary and of the schedule for treatment, if applicable.

ADMINISTRATION



POLICY GUIDE

1643/page 27 of 41
Family Leave

- (a) A staff member and the Board shall attempt to work out a schedule for such FMLA leave that meets a staff member's needs without unduly disrupting the Board's operations, subject to the approval of the health care provider.
- (6) Where a staff member does not comply with the Board's usual notice and procedural requirements, and no unusual circumstances justify the failure to comply, FMLA-protected leave may be delayed or denied.
- b. When the approximate timing of the need for FMLA leave is not foreseeable, a staff member should give notice to the Superintendent or designee for FMLA leave as soon as practicable under the facts and circumstances of the particular case.
 - (1) It is expected a staff member will give notice to the Superintendent or designee within no more than one or two business days of learning of the need for FMLA leave, except in extraordinary circumstances where such notice is not foreseeable.
 - (2) A staff member should provide notice to the Board either in person, by telephone, telegraph, fax machine, email, or other electronic means.
- 6. Outside Employment During FMLA Leave
 - a. A staff member during any period of FMLA leave is prohibited from performing any services on a full-time basis for any person for whom a staff member did not provide services immediately prior to commencement of the FMLA leave.



POLICY GUIDE

- (1) A staff member using FMLA leave may commence part-time employment that shall not exceed half the regularly scheduled hours worked for the Board.

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 28 of 41

Family Leave

- (2) A staff member may continue the part-time employment that commenced prior to the FMLA leave at the same number of hours that a staff member was regularly scheduled prior to such FMLA leave.

7. “Instructional Employees” Exceptions for FMLA Leave

- a. “Instructional Employees” are those staff members whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in class, a small group, or in an individual setting. This term includes teachers, athletic coaches, driving instructors, and special education assistants, such as signers for the hearing impaired.
- (1) Teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal job actual teaching or instructing, guidance counselors, child study team members, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, and/or bus drivers are not considered instructional staff members for the purposes of this Policy.
- (2) For purposes of this Policy “Instructional Employees” shall be referred to as “Instructional Staff Members”.
- b. “Semester” means the school semester that typically ends near the end of the calendar year and the end of the spring each school year. The Board can have no more than two semesters in a school year.



POLICY GUIDE

- c. FMLA leave taken at the end of the school year and continues into the beginning of the next school year is considered consecutive FMLA leave.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 29 of 41
Family Leave

- d. Eligible instructional staff members that need intermittent or reduced FMLA leave to care for a family member or for a staff member's own serious health condition which is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment and would be on FMLA leave more than twenty percent of the total number of working days over the period the FMLA leave would extend, the Board may:
- (1) Require a staff member to take the FMLA leave for a period or periods of a particular duration, not greater than the duration of the planned treatment; or
 - (2) Transfer a staff member temporarily to an available alternative position for which a staff member is qualified, which has equivalent pay and benefits and which better accommodates recurring periods of FMLA leave than does a staff member's regular position.
- e. If the instructional staff member does not give the required notice for FMLA leave that is foreseeable and desires the FMLA leave to be taken intermittently or on a reduced FMLA leave schedule, the Board may require a staff member to take FMLA leave of a particular duration, or to transfer temporarily to an alternative position. Alternatively, the Board may require a staff member to delay taking the FMLA leave until the notice provision is met.



POLICY GUIDE

- f. If an instructional staff member begins FMLA leave more than five weeks before the end of the school year, the Board may require a staff member to continue taking FMLA leave until the end of the semester if:

- (1) The FMLA leave will last three weeks; and
- (2) A staff member would return to work during the three-week period before the end of the semester.

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 30 of 41

Family Leave

- g. If an instructional staff member begins FMLA leave for a purpose other than a staff member's own serious health condition during the five week period before the end of the semester, the Board may require a staff member to continue taking FMLA leave until the end of the semester if:

- (1) The FMLA leave will last more than two weeks; and
- (2) The staff member would return to work during the two week period before the end of the semester.

- h. If an instructional staff member begins FMLA leave for a purpose other than a staff member's own serious health condition during the three week period before the end of a semester, the Board may require a staff member to continue taking FMLA leave until the end of the semester if the FMLA leave will last more than five working days.

- i. An example of FMLA leave falling within the situations outlined in B.7.f., B.7.g., and B.7.h. above:

- (1) If a staff member plans two weeks of FMLA leave to care for a family member which will begin three weeks before the end of the term, the Board could



POLICY GUIDE

require a staff member to stay out on FMLA leave until the end of the term.

- j. In the case of a staff member who is required to take FMLA leave until the end of an academic term, only the period of FMLA leave until a staff member is ready and able to return to work shall be charged against a staff member's FMLA leave entitlement.
- k. The Board may require a staff member to stay on FMLA leave until the end of the school term. Any additional leave required by the Board to the end of the school term is not counted as FMLA leave; however:

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 31 of 41

Family Leave

- (1) The Board shall be required to maintain a staff member's group health insurance; and
- (2) The Board shall be required to restore a staff member to the same or equivalent job including other benefits at the conclusion of the leave.

8. FMLA Leave Related to Military Service

- a. Definitions for FMLA related to military service shall be in accordance with 29 CFR §§825.122; .126; .127; and .310.
- b. The foreign deployment of the staff member's spouse, child, or parent in accordance with 29 CFR §§825.122 and .126:
 - (1) The district must grant an eligible staff member up to twelve work weeks of unpaid, job-protected FMLA leave during any twelve month period for qualifying exigencies that arise when the staff member's spouse, child, or parent is on covered



POLICY GUIDE

active duty, or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty.

- c. Military caregiver FMLA leave provides care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness in accordance with 29 CFR §§825.122 and .127:
 - (1) The district must grant up to a total of twenty-six workweeks of unpaid, job-protected FMLA leave during a “single twelve month period” to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 32 of 41
Family Leave

9. Verification

- a. The Board shall require that a staff member’s FMLA leave to care for a staff member’s covered family member with a serious health condition, or due to a staff member’s own serious health condition that makes a staff member unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of a staff member’s position, be supported by a certification issued by the health care provider of a staff member or a staff member’s family member.
 - (1) The Board must give written notice of a requirement for certification each time a certification is required. The Board’s oral request to a staff member to furnish any subsequent certification is sufficient.



POLICY GUIDE

- b. The Board shall require a staff member furnish certification at the time a staff member gives notice of the need for FMLA leave or within five business days thereafter, or, in the case of unforeseen FMLA leave, within five business days after the FMLA leave commences.
- (1) The Board may request certification at some later date if the Board later has reason to question the appropriateness of the FMLA leave or its duration.
 - (2) A staff member must provide the requested certification to the Board within fifteen calendar days after the Board's request, unless it is not practicable under the particular circumstances to do so despite a staff member's diligent, good faith efforts or the Board provides more than fifteen calendar days to return the requested certification.
- c. When FMLA leave is taken because of a staff member's own serious health condition, or the serious health condition of a family member, the Board shall require a staff member to obtain a medical certification from a health care provider that sets forth the following information:
- ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 33 of 41
Family Leave
- (1) The name, address, telephone number, and fax number of the health care provider and type of medical practice/specialization;
 - (2) The approximate date on which the serious health condition commenced, and its probable duration;
 - (3) A statement or description of appropriate medical facts regarding the patient's health condition for which FMLA leave is requested. The medical facts must be sufficient to support the need for FMLA leave.



POLICY GUIDE

- (a) Such medical facts may include information on symptoms, diagnosis, hospitalization, doctor visits, whether medication has been prescribed, any referrals for evaluation or treatment (physical therapy, for example), or any other regimen of continuing treatment;
- (4) If a staff member is the patient, information sufficient to establish that a staff member cannot perform the essential functions of a staff member's job as well as the nature of any other work restrictions, and the likely duration of such inability;
- (5) If the patient is a covered family member with a serious health condition, information sufficient to establish that the family member is in need of care, and an estimate of the frequency and duration of the FMLA leave required to care for the family member;
- (6) If a staff member requests FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis for planned medical treatment of a staff member's or a covered family member's serious health condition, information sufficient to establish the medical

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 34 of 41

Family Leave

necessity for such intermittent or reduced schedule FMLA leave and an estimate of the dates and duration of such treatments and any periods of recovery;

- (7) If a staff member requests FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis for a staff member's serious health condition, including pregnancy, that may result in unforeseeable episodes of incapacity, information sufficient to



POLICY GUIDE

establish the medical necessity for such intermittent or reduced schedule FMLA leave and an estimate of the frequency and duration of the episodes of incapacity; and

- (8) If a staff member requests FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis to care for a covered family member with a serious health condition, a statement that such FMLA leave is medically necessary to care for the family member, which can include assisting in the family member's recovery, and an estimate of the frequency and duration of the required FMLA leave.
- d. A staff member may choose to comply with the certification requirement by providing the Board with an authorization, release, or waiver allowing the Board to communicate directly with the health care provider of a staff member or his or her covered family member.
- (1) It is a staff member's responsibility to provide the Board with complete and sufficient certification and failure to do so may result in the denial of FMLA leave.
- e. If the Board has reason to doubt the validity of a medical certification, the Board may require a staff member to obtain a second opinion at the Board's expense.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 35 of 41
Family Leave

- (1) The Board may designate the health care provider to furnish the second opinion, but the selected health care provider may not be employed on a regular basis by the Board.
- f. If the opinions of a staff member's and the Board's designated health care providers differ, the Board may



POLICY GUIDE

require a staff member to obtain certification from a third health care provider, again at the Board's expense. This third opinion shall be final and binding. The third health care provider must be designated or approved jointly by the Board and the staff member.

10. Reinstatement Following FMLA Leave

- a. On return from FMLA leave a staff member is entitled to be returned to the same position a staff member held when FMLA leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.
 - (1) A staff member is entitled to such reinstatement even if a staff member has been replaced or his or her position has been restructured to accommodate for a staff member's absence.
 - (2) The requirement that a staff member be restored to the same or equivalent job with the same or equivalent pay, benefits, and terms and conditions of employment does not extend to de minimis, intangible, or unmeasurable aspects of the job.
- b. Denial of Reinstatement
 - (1) A staff member has no greater right to reinstatement or to other benefits and conditions of employment that if a staff member had been continuously employed during the FMLA leave period.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 36 of 41
Family Leave

- (a) The Board must be able to show that a staff member would not otherwise have been employed at the time reinstatement is requested in order to deny restoration to



POLICY GUIDE

employment.

- (2) The Board may deny job restoration to “key employees”, if such denial is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to the operations of the Board.
 - (a) A “key employee” is a salaried FMLA-eligible staff member who is among the highest paid ten percent of all staff members employed by the Board within seventy-five miles of a staff member’s worksite.
- (3) If a staff member is unable to perform an essential function of the position because of a physical or mental condition, including the continuation of a serious health condition or an injury or illness also covered by workers’ compensation, a staff member has no right to restoration to another position under the FMLA.
 - (a) The Board’s obligation may; however, be governed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, State leave law, or workers’ compensation laws.
- (4) A staff member who fraudulently obtains FMLA leave from the Board is not protected by FMLA’s job restoration or maintenance of health benefits provisions.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 37 of 41
Family Leave

c. Intent to Return to Work



POLICY GUIDE

- (1) The Board may require a staff member on FMLA leave to report periodically on a staff member's status and intent to return to work.

d. Fitness for Duty Certification

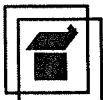
- (1) As a condition of restoring a staff member whose FMLA leave was a result of a staff member's own serious health condition that made a staff member unable to perform a staff member's job, the Board shall require all similarly-situated staff members (i.e., same occupation, same serious health condition) who take FMLA leave for such conditions to obtain and present certification from a staff member's health care provider that a staff member is able to resume work.
- (2) A staff member has the same obligations to participate and cooperate in the fitness-for-duty certification process as in the initial certification process.

11. The Board of Education Notice

a. Notice of Staff Member Rights Under FMLA

- (1) The Board shall post and keep posted on its premises, in conspicuous places where staff members are employed, a notice explaining the FMLA's provisions and providing information concerning the procedures for filing complaints of violations of the FMLA with the Wage and Hour Division.
 - (a) The notice will be posted prominently where it can be readily seen by staff members and applicants for employment.

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 38 of 41
Family Leave



POLICY GUIDE

(b) The poster and the text will be large enough to be easily read and contain fully legible text.

(c) Electronic posting is sufficient to meet this posting requirement as long as it otherwise meets the requirements of B.11.

(2) The Board shall also provide this general notice to each staff member by including the notice in staff members' handbooks or other written guidance to staff members concerning staff member benefits or FMLA leave rights, if such written materials exist, or by distributing a copy of the general notice to each new staff member upon hiring. In either case, distribution may be accomplished electronically.

(3) Access to and/or distribution of this Policy shall serve as school district notice to staff members of their rights pursuant to 29 CFR §825 et seq.

b. Eligibility Notice

(1) When a staff member requests FMLA leave, or when the Board acquires knowledge that a staff member's FMLA leave may be for an FMLA-qualifying reason, the Board must notify the staff member of the staff member's eligibility to take FMLA leave within five business days, absent extenuating circumstances.

c. Designation Notice

(1) The Board is responsible in all circumstances for designating leave as FMLA-qualifying, and for giving notice of the designation to a staff member. The Board must notify a staff member whether the leave will be designated and will be counted as FMLA leave within five business days absent extenuating circumstances.

ADMINISTRATION



POLICY GUIDE

1643/page 39 of 41
Family Leave

- (2) If the Board requires paid leave to be substituted for unpaid FMLA leave, or that paid leave taken under an existing leave plan be counted as FMLA leave, the Board must inform a staff member of this designation at the time of designating the FMLA leave.

12. Local Board of Education Practices

a. Substitution of Paid Leave

- (1) Whether a staff member is required to use sick time or any other accrued leave time concurrent with FMLA leave time will depend upon either the district's practice or a provision in the district's collective bargaining agreement, if applicable.

b. Maintenance of Staff Member Benefits

- (1) The Board must maintain a staff member's coverage under any group health plan on the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if a staff member had been continuously employed during the entire FMLA leave period.

C. Shared Provisions

1. Interference with Family Leave Rights

The NJFLA and the FMLA prohibit interference with a staff member's rights under the law, and with legal proceedings or inquiries relating to a staff member's rights. Unless permitted by the law, no staff member shall be required to take family leave or to extend family leave beyond the time requested. A staff member shall not be discriminated against for having exercised his/her rights under the NJFLA and the FMLA nor discouraged from the use of family leave.



POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION
1643/page 40 of 41
Family Leave

2. Non-Tenured Teaching Staff

Family leave granted to a nontenured staff member cannot extend a staff member's employment beyond the expiration of his/her employment contract.

3. Record Keeping

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the keeping of accurate attendance records that distinguish family leave from other kinds of leave so a staff member's entitlement to NJFLA leave and FMLA leave can be properly determined.

4. Processing of Complaints

a. New Jersey Family Leave Act

- (1) Any complaint alleging a violation of the NJFLA shall be processed in the same manner as a complaint filed under the terms of N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 13:4 through the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division on Civil Rights.

b. Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

- (1) If there is a dispute between the Board and a staff member as to whether leave qualifies as FMLA leave, it should be resolved through discussion between the staff member and the Superintendent or designee. Such discussions and the decision shall be documented by the Superintendent or designee.
- (2) A staff member also may file, or have another person file on his/her behalf, a complaint with the United States Secretary of Labor. A complaint may



POLICY GUIDE

be filed in person, by mail, or by telephone with the Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, at any local office of the Wage and Hour Division.

ADMINISTRATION

1643/page 41 of 41

Family Leave

- (3) This Policy 1643 shall be posted on the school district website, in a manner accessible to all staff members and a hard copy shall be provided to all staff members annually prior to the beginning of the school year and upon initial employment in the school district during the school year.

29 CFR §825 et seq.

29 CFR §785

N.J.S.A. 10:5-1;

N.J.S.A. 34:11B et seq.

N.J.A.C. 13:14-1 et seq.

Adopted: September 8, 2026



POLICY GUIDE

PROGRAM
2260/page 1 of 3
Equity in School and Classroom Practices
Sep ~~Apr~~ 26
M

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 191, 209, 232, and 237]

2260 EQUITY IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7(a), tThe Board of Education shall provide all students with equitable and bias-free access to all school facilities, courses, programs, activities, and services, regardless of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a), by:

1. Ensuring barrier-free access to all school and classroom facilities;
2. Attaining, within each school, minority representation; that approximates the district's overall minority representation. Exact apportionment is not required;; the ultimate goal is a reasonable plan achieving the greatest degree of a representative balance that is feasible and consistent with sound educational values and procedures;
3. Utilizing, on an annual basis, a State-approved English language proficiency assessment that evaluates a student's English language proficiency on the four domains of listening, speaking, writing, and reading for determining the eligibility and placement of students who may be identified as multilingual learners, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.3(a)3.;
4. Utilizing bias-free multiple measures for determining the special needs of students with disabilities, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4;
5. Ensuring support services, including intervention and referral services and school health services, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16, are available to all students; and
6. Ensuring a student is not discriminated against because of a medical condition. A student shall not be excluded from any education program or activity because of a long-term medical condition unless a physician certifies such exclusion is necessary.



POLICY GUIDE

- a. If excluded, the student shall be provided with equivalent and timely instruction that may include home instruction, without prejudice or penalty.

PROGRAM

2260/page 2 of 3

Equity in School and Classroom Practices

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7(b), the Board shall ensure the district's curriculum and instruction are aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS). The Board also shall ensure its curriculum and instruction address the elimination of discrimination by narrowing the achievement and opportunity gaps, by providing equity in educational activities and programs, and by providing opportunities for students to interact positively with others regardless of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a), by:

1. Ensuring there are no differential requirements for completion of course offerings or programs of study solely on the basis of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a);
2. Ensuring courses shall not be offered separately on the basis of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a);
 - a. Portions of classes that deal exclusively with human sexuality may be conducted in separate developmentally appropriate sessions based on gender identity, provided ~~that~~ the course content for such separately conducted sessions is the same;-
3. Increasing and promoting equitable representation of all students in all classes and programs;
4. Ensuring schools demonstrate the inclusion of a multicultural curriculum in its instructional content, materials and methods, and ensuring students understand the basic tenet of multiculturalism;
5. Ensuring the Amistad Commission Curriculum is infused into the curriculum and is taught;
6. Ensuring the Commission on Holocaust Education curriculum is included in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary schools, as developmentally appropriate, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-28.; and



POLICY GUIDE

7. Ensuring all curricular requirements pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8 and the NJSLS are taught, including any curriculum developed concerning any of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a) or curriculum developed by any commissions constituted for the development of curriculum concerning any of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a).

PROGRAM

2260/page 3 of 3

Equity in School and Classroom Practices

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7(c), the Board shall ensure all students have access to adequate and appropriate counseling services.

1. **When informing students about possible careers or professional or vocational opportunities, the Board shall not restrict or limit the options presented to students on the basis of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a).**
2. **The Board shall not use tests or guidance or counseling materials that are biased or stereotyped on the basis of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a).**

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7(d), the Board shall ensure the district's physical education is in a co-educational setting that is developmentally appropriate and does not discriminate on the basis of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a), as follows:

1. The district shall provide separate restroom, locker room, and shower facilities on the basis of gender, but such facilities provided for students of each gender shall be comparable;
2. The district may choose to operate separate teams based on sex in one or more sports or single teams open competitively to members of all sexes, as long as the athletic program as a whole provides equal opportunities for students of all sexes to participate in sports at comparable levels of difficulty and competency; and
3. The activities comprising such athletic programs shall receive equitable treatment, including, but not limited to, staff salaries, purchase and maintenance of equipment, quality and availability of



POLICY GUIDE

facilities, scheduling of practice and game time, length of season,
and all other related areas or matters.

N.J.S.A. **18A:35-28.**; 18A:36-20.

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1; 6A:7-1.3; 6A:7-1.7

Adopted: September 8, 2026



4324 RIGHT OF PRIVACY**[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 196 and 231]**

The Board of Education will provide facilities and school district-owned property to assist support staff members in their job responsibilities or for the support staff members' convenience. These facilities or district-owned property may include, but are not limited to, an office, a storage closet, a filing cabinet, a locker, and/or a desk. The Principal or designee may provide a support staff member with exclusive use and access to such facilities or school district-owned property or may require the facility or school district-owned property be shared with other staff members. The support staff member may be provided a lock or key by the school district or may secure the facility or school district-owned property using their own locking device with permission from the Principal or designee, or immediate supervisor.

Support staff members should be aware their expectation of privacy in these facilities and/or the school district-owned property provided by the Board of Education is reduced by virtue of actual office practices and procedures, for searches conducted pursuant to an investigation of work-related employee misconduct, or by school district policies or regulations. In addition, support staff members shall have a reduced expectation of privacy in these facilities and school district-owned property if there is reasonable suspicion the support staff member is violating a law or school policy. Support staff members shall be on notice this reduced expectation of privacy may result in such facilities and/or school district-owned property being searched without a search warrant. In order to avoid exposing personal belongings to such a search, support staff members are discouraged from storing personal papers and effects in these facilities or school district-owned property.

[Optional]

The Board prohibits any audio or video recording of a support staff member or student by any student; other school staff member; visitor; or any other person while a support staff member is performing their Board-assigned job responsibilities without the prior approval of the support staff member's supervisor. In addition to protecting the privacy rights of all support staff members, such recordings may violate the privacy rights of students and support staff members and can be disruptive to the educational program. The support staff members' supervisor's prior approval for a person to make a video or audio recording of a support staff member or a school-sponsored activity is not required for a school-sponsored activity that is open to parents, family members, or other members of the public to attend. Such activities include, but are not limited to: curricular activities; co-curricular activities; athletic events; student programs; or any other school-sponsored activity.

A person requesting prior approval to an audio or video record a support staff member or student that is not permitted in accordance with the provisions of this Policy, must submit a written request to the support staff member's supervisor. The supervisor will review the written request and provide the requester with a written decision. If a written approval is not provided by the

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

SUPPORT STAFF
4324 RIGHT OF PRIVACY

supervisor to the person submitting the request prior to the requested recording date or event, the request shall be deemed denied and audio or video recording shall not be permitted.

Any person making an audio or video recording in violation of the provisions of this Policy shall be required to immediately cease making the recording to avoid violating the privacy rights of others. Any support staff member found to have violated the provisions of this Policy may be subject to discipline.]

Adopted: September 8, 2026

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

SUPPORT STAFF
4340 GRIEVANCE

4340 GRIEVANCE

The Board of Education shall develop and practice reasonable and effective means for the resolution of disputes that may arise in the employment of support staff members not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement.

The Board directs that any grievance not provided for by negotiated agreement be resolved by submission to the following grievance procedure, which is designed to promote proper and equitable settlement of grievances at the lowest appropriate level and to facilitate an orderly process for the resolution of grievances.

For the purposes of this policy, "grievance" means an unresolved problem concerning the application or interpretation by an officer or employee of this district of law, regulations of the State Board of Education, the bylaws or policies of the Board, or the administrative regulations of the Superintendent; "grievant" is a district employee who alleges a grievance or the employee's representative; "party" means the grievant or any person named in the grievance as allegedly having violated a law, bylaw, policy, or regulation; and "day" means a school day.

Optional

[If the same or substantially the same alleged grievance is made by more than one employee, a single grievant may process the grievance through the grievance procedure on behalf of all grievants. The names of all the grievants will appear on all documents related to the settlement of the grievance.]

Optional

[A grievant may be represented or accompanied at any time by a person whom the grievant chooses.]

A grievant may use personal leave time when it becomes necessary to process a grievance during the working day. There will be no reprisal of any kind taken against any employee or employee's representative for participation in a grievance.

Optional

[All documents, communications, and records regarding the processing of a grievance will be filed in a separate grievance file and will not be kept in the personnel file of any of the participants of the grievance.]

Any alleged grievance should, at the first instance, be discussed in one or more private, informal conferences between the parties involved or between the grievant and his/her immediate supervisor. A grievance not resolved in one or more such private meetings may be processed in accordance with the following procedure.

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

SUPPORT STAFF
4340 GRIEVANCE

Level One

Within three working days of the occurrence of the act or omission giving rise to the grievance, the grievant must present his/her grievance in writing to the grievant's immediate supervisor. The written document will be a clear, concise statement of the grievance and will include the law, rule, policy, or regulation that the grievant alleges to have been violated; the factual circumstances on which the grievance is based; the person or persons involved; the decision, if any, rendered at the private conference; and the remedy sought.

Optional

[Any party to the grievance may request a personal conference with the supervisor in order to resolve the grievance.]

Within seven working days the supervisor shall present a decision to the grievant in writing. If the supervisor does not respond during the time permitted, the grievant may appeal to the next level.

Level Two

A grievant not satisfied with a decision at Level One may appeal that decision in writing to the _____ within three working days after receipt of the decision or the expiration of the time during which the decision must be rendered. The written appeal will include a copy of the original grievance; the decision rendered, if any; the name of the grievant's representative, if any; and a clear, concise statement of the reasons for the appeal of the decision.

Optional

[Any party to the grievance may request a personal conference to discuss the grievance.]

The _____ shall present a decision to the grievant within seven working days. If no decision is rendered within that time limit, the grievant may appeal to the next level.

Level Three

A grievant not satisfied with a decision at Level Two may appeal that decision in writing to the Superintendent within three working days after receipt of the decision or the expiration of the time during which the decision must be rendered. The written appeal to the Superintendent will include copies of the original grievance, the appeal of that grievance at Level Two, and the decision, if any, rendered at Level Two. Within ten working days after the delivery of the appeal, the Superintendent shall investigate the grievance, giving all persons who participate in Levels One and Two a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

Within seven working days of the presentation of the appeal, the Superintendent shall submit a decision in writing together with the reasons that support that decision to the grievant and any

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

SUPPORT STAFF
4340 GRIEVANCE

other party to the grievance. If the Superintendent does not render a decision within that time limit, the grievant may appeal to the next level.

Level Four

A grievant not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision may appeal that decision in writing to the Board within three working days after the receipt of the decision or the expiration of the time during which the decision must be rendered. The written appeal to the Board will include copies of the original grievance, the appeal of that grievance at Level Two, and the decisions, if any, rendered at Levels Three and Four.

The Board shall schedule the grievance for hearing

Optional

[at a private session]

to be held within forty-five calendar days of the presentation of the appeal. The grievant shall be present at the hearing

Optional

[and may require the presence of a party to the grievance.]

Within ten calendar days of the hearing, the Board shall submit its decision in writing together with reasons that support the decision to the grievant. A copy of the decision shall be given to the Superintendent and to any other party to the grievance.

Choose only one of the following alternatives:

___ The decision of the Board shall be final.

___ Level Five (See below)

[Level Five

The grievant may appeal the decision of the Board to an arbitrator mutually chosen by the grievant and the Board. In the event the grievant and the Board are unable to agree on the selection of an arbitrator within ten working days, the grievant and the Board shall each select an arbitrator and the arbitrators so selected shall select a third arbitrator by agreement.

The arbitrator or arbitrators shall receive evidence and hear testimony concerning the grievance at a private hearing.

Choose only one of the following alternatives:

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

SUPPORT STAFF
4340 GRIEVANCE

___ The arbitration award shall be final and binding.

___ The arbitration award shall be advisory only.]

N.J.S.A. 34:13A-5.3

Adopted: September 8, 2026

4410 COMPENSATION

The Board of Education will establish the compensation for support staff members not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement.

Full-Time Employees

The Board shall compensate regular full time support staff members in accordance with the terms of an individual contract offered annually to each full-time, non-aligned employee.

Part-Time Employees

Part-time non-aligned support staff members will be compensated on the salary schedule for the same type of full-time support staff members, prorated to their part-time service.

Substitute Support Staff

Substitutes shall be compensated at a daily rate established annually by the Board and in conformity with any State or Federal minimum wage requirements.

Summer Support Staff Employees

Summer employees, such as paraprofessionals working ESY, will be compensated at the individual employee's hourly rate.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-6; 18A:16-11

Adopted: September 8, 2026

POLICY GUIDE

STUDENTS

5561/page 1 of 3

Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques
for Students with Disabilities

Sep 26
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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 192, 215, 216, and 237]

5561 USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION TECHNIQUES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

~~[Select Only One Option Below]~~

~~_____ The Board of Education does not allow for the use of restraint and
seclusion for students with disabilities.~~

The Board of Education strives to provide a safe, caring atmosphere that supports all students in the least restrictive environment. On occasion, during an emergency, a situation may arise making it necessary to temporarily restrain or seclude a student with a disability in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:46-13.4. through 13.7.

A school district, an educational services commission, or an approved private school for students with disabilities (APSSD) that utilizes physical restraint on students with disabilities shall ensure that:

1. Physical restraint is used only in an emergency in which the student is exhibiting behavior that places the student or others in immediate physical danger;
2. A student is not restrained in the prone position, unless the student's primary care physician authorizes, in writing, the use of this restraint technique;
3. Staff members who are involved in the restraint of a student receive training in safe techniques for physical restraint from an entity determined by the Board of Education to be qualified to provide such training, and that the training is updated at least annually;
4. The parent of a student is immediately notified when physical restraint is used on the student. This notification may be by telephone or electronic communication. A post-incident written



POLICY GUIDE

notification report of the incident of physical restraint shall be provided to the parent within forty-eight hours of the occurrence of the incident;

STUDENTS

5561/page 2 of 3

Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities

5. Each incident in which physical restraint is used is carefully and continuously visually monitored to ensure it was used in accordance with established procedures set forth in **this** Policy and Regulation 5561 — ~~Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities~~, developed in conjunction with the entity that trains staff in safe techniques for physical restraint, in order to protect the safety of the child and others; and
6. Each incident in which physical restraint is used is documented in writing in sufficient detail to enable staff to use this information to develop or improve the behavior intervention plan at the next individualized education plan (IEP) meeting.

A school district, an educational services commission, and an APSSD shall attempt to minimize the use of physical restraints through inclusion of positive behavior supports in the student's behavior intervention plans developed by the IEP team.

A school district, an educational services commission, or an APSSD that utilizes seclusion techniques on students with disabilities shall ensure that:

1. A seclusion technique is used on a student with disabilities only in an emergency in which the student is exhibiting behavior that places the student or others in immediate physical danger;
2. Each incident in which a seclusion technique is used is carefully and continuously visually monitored to ensure it was used in accordance with established procedures set forth in **this** Policy and Regulation 5561 — ~~Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities~~, developed in conjunction with the entity that trains staff in safe techniques for



POLICY GUIDE

physical restraint, in order to protect the safety of the child and others; and

3. Each incident in which a seclusion technique is used is documented in writing in sufficient detail to enable the staff to use this information to develop or improve the behavior intervention plan at the next IEP meeting.

STUDENTS

5561/page 3 of 3

Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques
for Students with Disabilities

A school district, an educational services commission, and an APSSD shall attempt to minimize the use of seclusion techniques through inclusion of positive behavior supports in the student's behavior intervention plans developed by the IEP team.

The New Jersey Department of Education shall establish guidelines for school districts, educational services commissions, and APSSDs to ensure a review process is in place to examine the use of physical restraints or seclusion techniques in emergency situations, and for the repeated use of these methods for an individual child, within the same classroom, or by a single individual. The review process shall include educational, clinical, and administrative personnel. Pursuant to the review process the student's IEP team may, as deemed appropriate, determine to revise the behavior intervention plan or classroom supports, and a school district, educational services commission, or APSSD may determine to revise a staff member's professional development plan pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-13.7.

The Superintendent or designee may gather input from school staff members and parents of students with disabilities on this Policy and Regulation **5561**. All students with disabilities and their parents shall be afforded the procedural safeguards provided by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The Superintendent or designee shall report all incidents of restraint and seclusion through the Student Safety Data System (SSDS). The Superintendent or designee shall annually inform parents of students with disabilities about ~~this the Board's~~ Policy and Regulation **5561** regarding restraint and seclusion.



POLICY GUIDE

N.J.S.A. 18A:46-13.4.; 18A:46-13.5.; 18A:46-13.6.; 18A:46-13.7.
New Jersey Department of Education Restraint and Seclusion Guidance for
Students with Disabilities – July 10, 2018

Adopted: September 8, 2026



POLICY GUIDE

FINANCES

6112/page 1 of 3

Reimbursement of Federal and Other
Grant Expenditures

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[See **POLICY ALERT** Nos. 190, 218, 230, and 237]

6112 REIMBURSEMENT OF FEDERAL AND OTHER GRANT EXPENDITURES

The Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) and related Federal regulations require a State to minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds from the United States Treasury and the expenditure of funds for program purposes. This requirement applies to grantees such as the State of New Jersey and their subgrantees, such as a school district. The State of New Jersey and school districts must assure funds have been, or will be, spent within a minimal amount of time after having been drawn from the Federal government.

In accordance with this requirement, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has implemented a reimbursement request system of payment. The procedures as outlined in the ~~NJDOE New Jersey Department of Education~~ Policies and Procedures for Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures shall be followed by school districts in submitting reimbursement requests. Reimbursement requests for entitlement grant awards under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, and any other program designated by the NJDOE shall be made using the NJDOE's Electronic Web-Enabled Grant (EWEG) System.

Reimbursement requests by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall be made for individual titles and awards using the payment functionality of the EWEG system. Only one reimbursement request per month may be submitted for an individual title, award, or subgrant. Reimbursement requests may only be for expenditures that have already occurred or will occur within three business days of receipt of funds.

The submission of a reimbursement request constitutes a certification by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary that the school district has previously made the appropriate expenditures and/or will make the expenditures



POLICY GUIDE

within three business days of receipt of funds and that the expenditures are allowable and appropriate to the cost objective(s) of the subgrant.

FINANCES

6112/page 2 of 3

Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for submitting an amendment application to the NJDOE for approval if a new budget category for which no funds were previously budgeted or approved has been created. The Superintendent or designee is responsible for submitting an amendment application to the NJDOE for approval if cumulative transfers among expenditure categories exceed ten percent of the total award. The Superintendent or designee is responsible for monitoring the cumulative ten percent level of fiscal change.

Reimbursement requests must be in accordance with approved grant applications. A reimbursement request may be submitted at any time after the subgrant has received final NJDOE approval. Reimbursement requests submitted at least ten business days before the end of the month but no later than the fifteenth day of the month will be reviewed and, if approved, processed for payment the first business day of the following month. School districts will normally receive payment by the fifth business day of the month and will be able to track the grant's payment history in EWEG through the payments link of the grant application.

Reimbursement requests must contain a brief description of the expenditures for which reimbursement is being requested. Individual line items need not be detailed. Expenditures must be supported by documentation at the school district level but should not be submitted to the NJDOE with a reimbursement request. The Superintendent or designee is responsible to maintain supporting documentation for seven years and for making it available to the NJDOE, the United States Department of Education, and/or their authorized representatives upon request. Documentation for salary expenditures is subject to the requirements of the Federal Uniform Grant Guidance. Documentation for all other expenditures must include evidence that the expenditures are allowable costs and of the relationship of the expenditure to the subgrant's cost objectives.

The NJDOE staff will review reimbursement requests to determine that they meet the subgrant's criteria. When a reimbursement request is approved or denied, the school district will receive an email notification through the EWEG system.



POLICY GUIDE

Approval of a reimbursement request by NJDOE does not imply approval of the expenditures as allowable or appropriate to the subgrant's cost objectives as the approval of expenditures will continue to be processed through the final report.

FINANCES

6112/page 3 of 3

Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee assumes responsibility for assuring that all funds requested through the EWEG system either have already been expended, or will be expended within three business days of receipt of funds.

New Jersey Department of Education Policies and Procedures for Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures – **January 2023** ~~March 2014~~

Adopted: September 8, 2026



REGULATION GUIDE

FINANCES

R 6115.01/page 1 of 8

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls –
Allowability of Costs

SLP ~~Apr~~ 26
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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 224 and 237]

R 6115.01 FEDERAL AWARDS/FUNDS INTERNAL CONTROLS – ALLOWABILITY OF COSTS

Expenditures must be aligned with approved budgeted items. Any changes or variations from the State-approved budget and grant application need prior approval from the State.

A. Delegation of Responsibility

When determining how the school district will spend its grant funds, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, will review the proposed cost to determine whether it is an allowable use of Federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on the proposed good or service.

B. Allowability Determinations

1. All costs supported by Federal education funds must meet the standards outlined in EDGAR, 2 CFR Part 3474 and 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, which are listed below. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, must consider these factors when making an allowability determination. A section entitled, Helpful Questions for Determining Whether Costs are Allowable, is located at the end of this Regulation.

2 CFR Part 200 sets forth general cost guidelines that must be considered, as well as rules for specific types of items, both of which must be considered when determining whether a cost is an allowable expenditure of Federal funds. The expenditure must also be allowable under the applicable program statute (e.g., Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), or the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins)), along



REGULATION GUIDE

with accompanying program regulations, nonregulatory guidance and grant award notifications.

FINANCES

R 6115.01/page 2 of 8

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability of Costs

Restrictions in State and local rules or policy also must be considered. For example, travel and other job-related expenses incurred by employees are not allowable unless they also are in compliance with Policy and Regulation 6471 and related administrative regulations.

Whichever allowability requirements are stricter will govern whether a cost is allowable. General allowability determination factors include the following:

- a. Be Necessary and Reasonable for the performance of the Federal award. A cost is reasonable if, in its nature and amount, it does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision to incur the cost was made. For example, “reasonable” means that sound business practices were followed, and purchases were comparable to market prices.

When determining reasonableness of a cost, consideration must be given to:

- (1) Whether the cost is a type generally recognized as ordinary and necessary for the operation of the district or the proper and efficient performance of the Federal award.
- (2) The restraints or requirements imposed by factors, such as: sound business practices; arm’s-length bargaining; Federal, State and other laws and regulations; and terms and conditions of the Federal award.



REGULATION GUIDE

- (3) Market prices for comparable goods or services for the geographic area.
- (4) Whether the individual incurring the cost acted with prudence in the circumstances considering responsibilities to the district, its employees, its students, the public at large, and the Federal government.

FINANCES

R 6115.01/page 3 of 8

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability of Costs

- (5) Whether the district significantly deviates from its established practices and policies regarding the incurrence of costs, which may unjustifiably increase the Federal award's cost. (2 CFR 200.404)

Whether a cost is “necessary” will be determined based on the needs of the program. Specifically, the expenditure must be necessary to achieve an important program objective. A key aspect in determining whether a cost is necessary is whether the district can demonstrate that the cost addresses an existing need, and can prove it. For example, the school entity may deem a language skills software program necessary for a limited English proficiency program.

When determining whether a cost is necessary, consideration may be given to:

- (1) Whether the cost is needed for the proper and efficient performance of the Federal award program.
- (2) Whether the cost is identified in the approved budget or application.
- (3) Whether there is an educational benefit associated with the cost.
- (4) Whether the cost aligns with identified needs based on results and findings from a needs assessment.



REGULATION GUIDE

- (5) Whether the cost addresses program goals and objectives and is based on program data.
- b. Allocable to the Federal award. A cost is allocable to the Federal award if the goods or services involved are chargeable or assignable to the Federal award in accordance with the relative benefit received. This means that the Federal grant program derived a benefit in

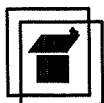
FINANCES

R 6115.01/page 4 of 8

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability of Costs

proportion to the funds charged to the program. (2 CFR 200.405) For example, if fifty percent of a teacher's salary is paid with grant funds, then that teacher must spend at least fifty percent of their time on the grant program.

- c. Consistent with policies and procedures that apply uniformly to both Federally-financed and other activities of the school entity.
- d. Conform to any limitations or exclusions set forth as cost principles in 2 CFR Part 200 or in the terms and conditions of the Federal award.
- e. Consistent treatment. A cost cannot be assigned to a Federal award as a direct cost if any other cost incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances has been assigned as an indirect cost under another award.
- f. Adequately documented. All expenditures must be properly documented.
- g. Be calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), unless provided otherwise in 2 CFR Part 200.
- h. Not included as a match or cost-share, unless the specific Federal program authorizes Federal costs to be treated as



REGULATION GUIDE

such. Some Federal program statutes require the non-Federal entity to contribute a certain amount of non-Federal resources to be eligible for the Federal program.

- i. Be the net of all applicable credits. The term “applicable credits” refers to those receipts or reduction of expenditures that operate to offset or reduce expense items allocable to the Federal award. Typical examples of such transactions are: purchase discounts; rebates or allowances; recoveries or indemnities on losses; and adjustments of overpayments or erroneous charges. To the extent that such credits

FINANCES

R 6115.01/page 5 of 8

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls –
Allowability of Costs

accruing to or received by the State relate to the Federal award, they shall be credited to the Federal award, either as a cost reduction or a cash refund, as appropriate. (2 CFR 200.406)

C. Selected Items of Cost

2 CFR 200, Subpart E, sets forth principles to be applied in establishing the allowability of fifty-five specific cost items (commonly referred to as Selected Items of Cost), at 2 CFR 200.420 through 200.475. These specific cost items are listed in the chart below along with the citation to the section of Subpart E addressing the allowability of that item. These principles are in addition to the other general allowability standards, and apply whether or not a particular item of cost is properly treated as direct cost or indirect (Facilities and Administration) cost. Meeting the specific criteria for a listed item does not by itself mean the cost is allowable, as it may be unallowable under other standards or for other reasons, such as restrictions contained in the terms and conditions of a particular grant or restrictions established by the State or in Board policy. If an item is unallowable for any of these reasons, Federal funds cannot be used to purchase it.

School district personnel responsible for spending Federal grant funds and for determining allowability must be familiar with and refer to the 2 CFR



REGULATION GUIDE

Part 200 selected items of cost section. These rules must be followed when charging these specific expenditures to a Federal grant. When applicable, employees must check costs against the selected items of cost requirements to ensure the cost is allowable, and also check State, district and program-specific rules.

The selected item of cost addressed in 2 CFR Part 200 includes the following:

Item of Cost	Citation of Allowability Rule
Advertising and public relations costs	2 CFR 200.421
Advisory councils	2 CFR 200.422
Alcoholic beverages	2 CFR 200.423
Alumni/ae activities	2 CFR 200.424

FINANCES

R 6115.01/page 6 of 8

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability of Costs

Audit services	2 CFR 200.425
Bad debts	2 CFR 200.426
Bonding costs	2 CFR 200.427
Collection of improper payments	2 CFR 200.428
Commencement and convocation costs	2 CFR 200.429
Compensation – personal services	2 CFR 200.430
Compensation – fringe benefits	2 CFR 200.431
Conferences	2 CFR 200.432
Contingency provisions	2 CFR 200.433
Contributions and donations	2 CFR 200.434
Defense and prosecution of criminal and civil proceedings, claims, appeals, and patent infringements	2 CFR 200.435
Depreciation	2 CFR 200.436
Employee health and welfare costs	2 CFR 200.437
Entertainment costs	2 CFR 200.438
Equipment and other capital expenditures	2 CFR 200.439
Exchange rates	2 CFR 200.440
Fines, penalties, damages, and other settlements	2 CFR 200.441



REGULATION GUIDE

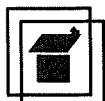
Fund raising and investment management costs	2 CFR 200.442
Gains and losses on disposition of depreciable assets	2 CFR 200.443
General costs of government	2 CFR 200.444
Goods and services for personal use	2 CFR 200.445
Idle facilities and idle capacity	2 CFR 200.446
Insurance and indemnification	2 CFR 200.447
Intellectual property	2 CFR 200.448
Interest	2 CFR 200.449
Lobbying	2 CFR 200.450
Losses on other awards or contracts	2 CFR 200.451
Maintenance and repairs costs	2 CFR 200.452
Materials and supplies costs, including costs of computing devices	2 CFR 200.453
Memberships, subscriptions, and professional activity costs	2 CFR 200.454

FINANCES

R 6115.01/page 7 of 8

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls –
Allowability of Costs

Organization costs	2 CFR 200.455
Participant support costs	2 CFR 200.456
Plant and security costs	2 CFR 200.457
Pre-award costs	2 CFR 200.458
Professional services costs	2 CFR 200.459
Proposal costs	2 CFR 200.460
Publication and printing costs	2 CFR 200.461
Rearrangement and reconversion costs	2 CFR 200.462
Recruiting costs	2 CFR 200.463
Relocation costs of employees	2 CFR 200.464
Rental costs of real property and equipment	2 CFR 200.465
Scholarships and student aid costs	2 CFR 200.466
Selling and marketing costs	2 CFR 200.467
Specialized service facilities	2 CFR 200.468
Student activity costs	2 CFR 200.469
Taxes (including Value Added Tax)	2 CFR 200.470
Termination costs	2 CFR 200.471



REGULATION GUIDE

Training and education costs	2 CFR 200.472
Transportation costs	2 CFR 200.473
Travel costs	2 CFR 200.474
Trustees	2 CFR 200.475

D. Helpful Questions for Determining Whether Costs are Allowable

1. In addition to applying the cost principles and standards described above, district staff involved in expending Federal funds should ask the following questions when assessing the allowability of a particular cost:
 - a. Is the proposed cost allowable under the relevant program?
 - b. Is the proposed cost consistent with an approved program plan and budget?
 - c. Is the proposed cost consistent with program specific fiscal rules? For example, the school entity may be required to use Federal funds only to supplement the amount of funds available from non-Federal (and possibly other Federal) sources, or only as a match for funds from non-Federal sources.
 - d. Is the proposed cost consistent with EDGAR?
 - e. Is the proposed cost consistent with specific conditions imposed on the grant (if applicable)?
 - f. Is the proposed cost consistent with the underlying needs of the program? For example, program funds must benefit the appropriate population of students for which they are allocated. This means that, for instance, funds allocated under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) governing language instruction programs for Limited English Proficient (LEP) students must only be spent on LEP students and cannot be used to benefit non-LEP students.

FINANCES

R 6115.01/page 8 of 8

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls –
Allowability of Costs



REGULATION GUIDE

- g. Will the cost be targeted at addressing specific areas of weakness that are the focus of the program, as indicated by available data?

Any questions related to specific costs should be forwarded to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who shall consult with the school solicitor for clarification as appropriate.

Adopted: September 8, 2026



POLICY GUIDE

FINANCES

6115.02/page 1 of 4

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls –
Mandatory Disclosures

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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 224 and 237]

6115.02 FEDERAL AWARDS/FUNDS INTERNAL CONTROLS – MANDATORY DISCLOSURES

The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (UGG), 2 CFR §200.113 – Mandatory disclosures requires a non-Federal entity or applicant (a New Jersey Board of Education) for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, **conflict of interests**, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award.

If the Board of Education receives a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined below as per 2 CFR §200 – Appendix XII – Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters shall report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to the System for Award Management (SAM). Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR §200.338 – Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment. (See also 2 CFR §180, 31 USC 3321, and 41 USC 2313)

A. General Reporting Requirement

1. If the total value of all Board of Education currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then the Superintendent or designee, on behalf of the Board of Education as the recipient during that period of time, must maintain the currency of information reported to the SAM that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings described in B. below.



POLICY GUIDE

2. This is a statutory requirement under section 872 of Public Law 110-417, as amended (41 USC 2313).

FINANCES

6115.02/page 2 of 4

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Mandatory Disclosures

3. As required by section 3010 of Public Law 111-212, all information posted in designated integrity and performance system on or after April 15, 2011, except past performance reviews required for Federal procurement contracts, will be publicly available.
4. **The Superintendent or designee must disclose, in writing, any potential conflict of interest to the Federal agency or pass-through entity in accordance with the established Federal agency policies.**

B. Proceedings About Which the Board of Education Must Report

1. The Superintendent or designee must disclose, **in writing**, to the Federal awarding agency or to the **NJDOE New Jersey Department of Education** information required about each proceeding that:
 - a. Is in connection with the award or performance of a grant, cooperative agreement, or procurement contract from the Federal Government;
 - b. Reached its final disposition during the most recent five-year period; and
 - c. Is one of the following:
 - (1) A criminal proceeding that resulted in a conviction, as defined in E. below;
 - (2) A civil proceeding that resulted in a finding of fault and liability and payment of a monetary fine, penalty, reimbursement, restitution, or damages of \$5,000 or more;



POLICY GUIDE

- (3) An administrative proceeding, as defined in E. below, that resulted in a finding of fault and liability and the payment of either a monetary fine or penalty of \$5,000 or more or reimbursement, restitution, or damages in excess of \$100,000; or

FINANCES

6115.02/page 3 of 4

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls –
Mandatory Disclosures

- (4) Any other criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding if:
- (a) It could have led to an outcome described in B.1.c.(1), (2), or (3) above of this award term and condition;
 - (b) It had a different disposition arrived at by consent or compromise with an acknowledgment of fault on the school district's part; and
 - (c) The requirement in this award term and condition to disclose information about the proceeding does not conflict with applicable laws and regulations.

C. Reporting Procedures

1. The Superintendent or designee shall enter in the SAM Entity Management area the information that the SAM requires about each proceeding described in B. above.
2. The Superintendent or designee does not need to submit the information a second time under assistance awards the Board of Education received if the Superintendent or designee already provided the information through the SAM because the Board of Education was required to do so under Federal procurement contracts the Board of Education was awarded.



POLICY GUIDE

D. Reporting Frequency

1. During any period of time when the Board of Education is subject to the requirement in A. above, the Superintendent or designee must report proceedings information through the SAM for the most recent five-year period, either to report new information about any proceeding(s) the Board of Education has not reported previously or affirm that there is no new information to report.

FINANCES

6115.02/page 4 of 4

Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls –
Mandatory Disclosures

2. If the Board of Education has Federal contract, grant, and cooperative agreement awards with a cumulative total value greater than \$10,000,000, the Board of Education must disclose semiannually any information about the criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings.

E. Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Policy:
 - a. “Administrative proceeding” for the purposes of 2 CFR §200 – Appendix XII and this Policy means a non-judicial process that is adjudicatory in nature in order to make a determination of fault or liability. This includes proceedings at the Federal and State level but only in connection with performance of a Federal contract or grant. It does not include audits, site visits, corrective plans, or inspection of deliverables.
 - b. “Conviction” for the purposes of 2 CFR §200 – Appendix XII and this Policy, means a judgment or conviction of a criminal offense by any court of competent jurisdiction, whether entered upon a verdict or a plea, and includes a conviction entered upon a plea of nolo contendere.
 - c. Total value of currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts includes:



POLICY GUIDE

- (1) Only the Federal share of the funding under any Federal award with a Board of Education cost share or match; and
- (2) The value of all expected funding increments under a Federal award and options, even if not yet exercised.

2 CFR §200.113; **200.212**

Adopted: September 8, 2026



POLICY GUIDE

FINANCES

6311/page 1 of 2

Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by

Federal Grants

SEP 26
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[See **POLICY ALERT** Nos. 192, 224, 230, and 237]

6311 CONTRACTS FOR GOODS OR SERVICES FUNDED BY FEDERAL GRANTS

Any vendor providing goods or services to the school district to be funded by a Federal grant must be cleared for contract in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (UGG), 2 CFR §200.2143 – Suspension and Debarment.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be responsible to check the web-based System for Award Management (SAM), accessible at www.sam.gov maintained by the United States government – the General Services Administration (GSA). The purpose of the SAM is to provide a single comprehensive list of individuals and firms excluded by Federal government agencies from receiving Federal contracts or Federally approved contracts or Federally approved subcontracts and from certain types of Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, upon opening of bids or upon receipt of proposals for goods or services to be funded by a Federal grant shall access the SAM to determine if the vendor has been disbarred, suspended, or proposed for disbarment. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall also access the SAM list immediately prior to the award of a bid or contract to ensure that no award is made to a vendor on the list.

In the event a vendor under consideration to be awarded a bid or contract for goods or services to be funded by a Federal grant is on the SAM list or proposed for disbarment, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall comply with the contracting restrictions as outlined in 2 CFR §200.

Continuation of current contracts and restrictions on subcontracting with vendors who are on the SAM list or proposed for disbarment shall be in accordance with the limitations as outlined in 2 CFR §200.



POLICY GUIDE

Any rejection of a bid or disqualification of a vendor who has been disbarred, suspended, or proposed for disbarment shall be consistent with the requirements as outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A – Public School Contracts Law and all applicable State laws.

FINANCES

6311/page 2 of 2

Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by
Federal Grants

The applicability of the provisions of this Policy apply to covered transactions as defined in 2 CFR §3485.220. A covered transaction is any contract that is awarded by the Board of Education that is covered under 2 CFR §180.210 and the amount of the contract is expected to equal or exceed \$25,000, unless the Board chooses a lower threshold.

Compliance with the provisions of 2 CFR §200 and this Policy must be demonstrated by written evidence to be maintained by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. Examples of evidence include printouts of searches from the SAM, imprints from an ink stamp, or Avery or similar labels affixed to purchase orders memorializing performance of this verification.

2 CFR §200

2 CFR §3485.220

2 CFR §180.210

Adopted: September 8, 2026



6422 BUDGET TRANSFERS (M)**M**

[See **POLICY ALERT** Nos. 92, 95, 110, 122, 143, 154, 160, 180 and 189]

Except as otherwise provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.1 et seq., whenever the school district desires to transfer amounts among line items and program categories, the transfers shall be by resolution of the Board approved by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the Board. Each resolution shall indicate the exact amount of the transfers and from the applicable accounts or fund balance.

{Optional}

However, this Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and this Policy as adopted by the Board, designates the **School Business Administrator, with approval of the Superintendent of Schools**, to approve such transfers as are necessary between meetings of the Board. Transfers approved by the Superintendent shall be reported to the Board, ratified and duly recorded in the minutes at a subsequent meeting of the Board, but not less than monthly.

Transfers from line accounts that include waiver amounts approved by the Commissioner and expenditures and/or reallocations directed by the Commissioner are prohibited unless approved in writing by the Executive County Superintendent and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1. The Board shall submit written requests for transfers including the amount to be transferred, the account(s) to be reduced, the account(s) to be increased, the purpose, and justification. These transfers shall not be requested or made prior to December 1 of the applicable budget year and shall only be approved for an emergent circumstance(s).

Where actual audited undesignated general fund balance at the fiscal year-end exceeds the estimated amount reflected in the school district's originally approved budget that contained an adjustment to the tax levy limitation approved by the Commissioner, any excess amount shall be reserved for the offset of the Commissioner's waiver requests, if any, in the second subsequent year's budget and reflected as such in the CAFR for the budget year.

Whenever the Executive County Superintendent shall, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7-8, disapprove a portion of the school district's proposed budget because the district has not implemented all potential efficiencies in its administrative operations or because the budget includes excessive non-instructional expenses, the school district shall not transfer funds back into those accounts during the budget year.

Transfers of surplus amounts or any other unbudgeted or underbudgeted revenue to line items and program categories shall require the approval of the Commissioner of Education and shall only be approved between April 1 and June 30 for line items and program categories necessary to achieve the thoroughness standards established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.260

POLICY GUIDE

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FINANCES

6422 BUDGET TRANSFERS (M)

(N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-46); except that upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the Board, the Board may petition the Commissioner of Education for authority to transfer such revenue prior to April 1 due to an emergent circumstance and the Commissioner may authorize the transfer if he determines that the transfer is necessary to meet such emergency.

Transfers from any general fund appropriation account that, on a cumulative basis, exceed 10% of the amount of the account included in the school district's budget as certified for taxes shall require the approval of the Commissioner of Education. In a school district wherein the Commissioner of Education has directed an in-depth evaluation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14, the Board shall obtain the written approval of the Executive County Superintendent of Schools prior to implementing any Board authorized transfer of funds.

No transfer may be made under N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 from appropriations or surplus accounts for interest and debt redemption charges, capital reserve account or items classified as general fund expenses except to other items so classified, or to the capital projects fund to supplement the proceeds from a bond authorization or lease purchase agreement upon application to and a formal finding by the Commissioner that the transfer is in the best interest of both the students and taxpayers of the district after consideration of alternative corrective actions.

N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1; 18A:22-8.2

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.1; 6A:23A-13.2; 6A:23A-13.3

Adopted: September 8, 2026

R 6422 BUDGET TRANSFERS (M)**M**

[See **POLICY ALERT Nos. 154, 160, 180 and 189**]

A. Transfer of Surplus or Other Unbudgeted or Underbudgeted Revenue Between April 1 and June 30

1. The Board may transfer surplus or other unbudgeted or underbudgeted revenue between April 1 and June 30 only upon prior approval of the transfer by the Executive County Superintendent, as the Commissioner's designee, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1.
2. Requests must be received by June 30.
3. All approved transfer requests must be expended or encumbered for the approved use by June 30, or the district shall reserve and designate such funds for tax relief in the subsequent budget year.
4. To request approval of such transfers, the district shall submit to the Executive County Superintendent the following:
 - a. Documentation of approval of the transfer by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the Board;
 - b. Certification by that same membership of the Board that the transfer is necessary to achieve the thoroughness standards for the current year. The certification shall include the purpose, need of transfer and include, at a minimum, a list of specific line items to be transferred into and corresponding amounts. Requests to appropriate surplus for textbooks, computers, equipment, or other needs for use and operation for the subsequent school year is not considered a need for the current year and shall not be approved; and
 - c. The latest Board Secretary's report as documentation that no other line item balances are available and all appropriation balances are or will be expended or encumbered.

B. Transfer of Surplus or Other Unbudgeted or Underbudgeted Revenue Prior to April 1

1. Prior to April 1, the Board may petition the Commissioner, by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the Board, for approval of a transfer of surplus or other unbudgeted or underbudgeted revenue only for an emergent circumstance.

2. The district shall be subject to an on-site inspection by the Executive County Superintendent for verification of the emergent circumstance and other supporting documentation.
3. The district shall submit such Board-approved petition to the Executive County Superintendent for recommendation to the Commissioner. At a minimum, the submission shall include the following:
 - a. Certification the transfer is necessary for an emergent circumstance, that no other line item balances are or will be available, and that the remaining surplus will enable the district to operate in a fiscally solvent position for the remainder of the budget year;
 - b. Documentation the emergent circumstance, if not addressed through an appropriation of additional revenue, would render peril to the health and safety of students or staff, and/or force the district into an operating deficit as a result of the required implementation of the thoroughness standards;
 - c. The latest Board Secretary's report as documentation that no other line item balances are or will be available as set forth in (1) below:
 - (1) Any unexpended, unencumbered balances are for non-discretionary fixed costs and supported by historical expenditures or other documentation ensuring that the balances will be expended by June 30.
 - d. Evidence of approval of the petition and supporting documentation by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the Board.

C. Appropriations at Any Time Without Commissioner Approval

1. The Board may at any time and without Commissioner approval:
 - a. Appropriate unbudgeted or underbudgeted State aid for which the approval was granted by the Department of Education in the written notification to the Board of the additional aid;
 - b. Appropriate unbudgeted and underbudgeted tuition revenue generated from a school district-specific program, which is not part of a formal sending-receiving relationship pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-19 and 18A:46-21;
 - c. Appropriate unbudgeted or underbudgeted school transportation revenue generated from a school district's or Coordinated Transportation Services

Agency's role as the host provider of school transportation services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11 and 18A:39-11.1;

- d. Appropriate unbudgeted or underbudgeted restricted miscellaneous local revenue;
- e. Appropriate unbudgeted or underbudgeted Federal revenue; and
- f. Appropriate surplus generated from any Federal and/or State revenue excluded from the excess surplus calculation in the prebudget year in accordance with the annual audit program.

D. Transfers from General Fund Appropriation Accounts

1. For the purposes of Policy and Regulation 6422, "general fund appropriation account" means the required advertised appropriation accounts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-1 et seq., except where consolidated as follows:
 - a. Basic skills, bilingual and special education instruction, including other related and extraordinary services;
 - b. Student activities, student athletics, and other student instructional services;
 - c. Student support services, including attendance, health, guidance, Child Study Team, and media;
 - d. Improvement of instruction and staff training; and
 - e. Special programs (Fund 13).
2. For all transfers from any general fund appropriation account as defined in D.1. above, and as amended to include prior year encumbrances carried forward to the current year and revenue appropriated pursuant to C. above, the Board shall obtain the approval for such transfers by two-thirds affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1.
 - a. When the total amount of such transfers, on a cumulative basis, exceeds ten percent of the amount of the account that was included in the school district's budget as certified for taxes, as amended to include prior year encumbrances carried forward to the current year and revenue appropriated pursuant to C. above, the Board shall request in writing approval from the Executive County Superintendent, as the Commissioner's designee, by submitting the request and purpose for the transfer using the report pursuant to (1) below.

- (1) The Board may request approval from the Executive County Superintendent prior to obtaining the two-thirds affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the school Board for such approval.
 - (2) The Board's written transfer request shall be deemed approved after ten working days of receipt of such request by the Executive County Superintendent if no Executive County Superintendent approval or denial is provided within that timeframe. The district shall maintain documentation of the Executive County Superintendent's receipt of all transfer requests deemed approved under this provision.
- b. Prior to any transfers from capital outlay accounts to current expense, except for equipment, the district shall submit a written request for approval to the Executive County Superintendent with documentation that such transfer is required due to demonstrated hardship.

E. Transfers to Certain Advertised Appropriation Accounts

1. For all transfers to the advertised appropriation accounts identified as general administration, school administration, central services and administrative information technology, or other support services that, on a cumulative basis, exceed ten percent of the amount of the account included in the school district's budget as certified for taxes, amended to include prior year encumbrances carried forward to the current year, a Board shall, prior to such transfer, submit to the Executive County Superintendent, in a format prescribed by the Commissioner, a request for such approval.
 - a. Such approval will not be granted, except as provided in b. below if:
 - (1) The school district's budget currently exceeds the administrative cost limits; or
 - (2) The transfer would result in a budget in excess of the administrative cost limits in the applicable budget year, as prescribed in N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5(c).
 - b. Transfers may be approved to support a contractual obligation or one-time increase in spending as justified by district documentation. Transfers may not be approved if the district did not budget sufficient funds upon review of actual expenditures and historical trends in those accounts. A district that is granted such approval remains subject to the requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5(c).

F. Transfers to Capital Outlay Accounts

1. For all transfers to the advertised appropriation accounts identified as capital outlay for a capital outlay project not previously approved by the voters or Board of School Estimate pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.4, the Board shall, prior to such transfer, submit to the Executive County Superintendent a request for such approval.

Approvals are required for unbudgeted or underbudgeted revenue, including those listed and appropriated pursuant to C. above and shall only be granted for requests with written documentation that supports the existence of an emergent circumstance as defined in B.3.b. above and only after an on-site inspection by the Executive County Superintendent to verify the emergent circumstance. Transfers to equipment accounts or to supplement a capital outlay project previously approved by the voters or Board of School Estimate, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.4, do not require approval by the Executive County Superintendent.

- a. The district shall maintain a report of current month and year-to-date transfers between general fund appropriation accounts as defined in D. above, in a format prescribed by the Commissioner, or in a format developed locally and approved by the Executive County Superintendent, and submit such report to the Executive County Superintendent with any transfer requests and in accordance with the submission requirements of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's financial reports under N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10.

Issued: September 8, 2026

6740 RESERVE ACCOUNTS**[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 159 and 189]**

The Board of Education or Board of School Estimate, as appropriate, may at any time establish by Board resolution a capital reserve account, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:21-2 and 3, and 18A:7G-31.

Funds in the capital reserve account shall not be used for current expenses, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.2, and shall only be used for purposes as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(b). The Board of Education may increase the balance in the capital reserve account by appropriating funds in the annual general fund budget certified for taxes to meet the needs of the Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) that are not met by State support. The balance in the account may also be increased by requesting approval from the Executive County Superintendent, as the Commissioner's designee, to appropriate any excess unreserved general fund balance as calculated in the supporting documentation of the proposed budget into capital reserve in the proposed budget pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-7b only when the Board of Education has formally established a capital reserve account and obtained an approved LRFP in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2. The Board of Education, at its option, may satisfy the withdrawal approval requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(h) in accordance with the procedures as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(d).

The Board of Education may request express approval of the voters for appropriation of additional amounts into the capital reserve in accordance with the procedures as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(e). The Board of Education shall not deposit into a capital reserve account audited excess undesignated, unreserved general fund balance. The Board of Education shall reserve and designate such funds in the subsequent year's budget pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.5(b). The Board of Education shall maintain an amount of funds in the capital reserve account that does not exceed the amount needed to implement capital projects in a school district's LRFP that are not met by State support.

The Board of Education may withdraw funds from the capital reserve account at any time in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(h). However, the Board of Education or Board of School Estimate, as appropriate, may at any time, apply to the Commissioner for approval to withdraw funds from its capital reserve account for uses authorized in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(b). The Board of Education or Board of School Estimate, as appropriate, may make a withdrawal pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(i) only upon receipt of written approval of the Commissioner and the Board of Education shall establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that an emergent condition exists necessitating an immediate withdrawal of capital reserve account funds.

The Board of Education shall administer and account for the capital reserve account in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(j). Funds in capital reserve accounts in existence prior to July 18, 2000 are subject to the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act (EFCFA), P.L. 2000, c. 72, and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14, and the Board of Education

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

FINANCES
6740 RESERVE ACCOUNTS

shall only use such funds for the original purpose for which the funds were deposited and as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(k)1. and (k)2.

The Board of Education shall establish, by resolution, a maintenance reserve account in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2 to be used to implement required maintenance of the school district's facilities. The Board of Education is prohibited from using such funds for routine or capital maintenance and the account shall be established and maintained in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and shall be subject to annual audit pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 et seq. The balance in the maintenance reserve account may be increased by appropriating funds in the annual general fund budget certified for taxes. Funds may be withdrawn from the maintenance reserve account and appropriated into the required maintenance account lines at budget time or any time during the year for use on required maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the comprehensive maintenance plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26A-4 in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(d). In any year that maintenance reserve account funds are withdrawn, the Board of Education shall restore any unexpended required maintenance appropriations, up to the amount of maintenance reserve account funds withdrawn, to the maintenance reserve account at year-end.

The Board of Education shall, by resolution, transfer to the general fund on an annual basis any interest earned on the investments in the maintenance reserve account. Such interest may be transferred on a more frequent basis at the discretion of the Board of Education. The Board of Education shall ensure the maintenance reserve account balance does not, at any time, exceed four percent of the replacement cost of the school district's school facilities for the current year. If the account exceeds this maximum amount at June 30, the Board of Education shall reserve and designate such excess in the subsequent year's budget.

The Board of Education or Board of School Estimate, as appropriate, may supplement a capital reserve account in accordance with requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.3. The Board of Education or a Board of School Estimate, as appropriate, may through the adoption of a Board resolution, establish a current expense emergency reserve account, a debt service reserve account, and a tuition adjustment reserve account in accordance with requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.4.

All reserve accounts shall be recorded in accordance with GAAP and subject to annual audit. Any capital gains or interest earned shall become part of the reserve account. A separate bank account is not required; however, a separate identity for each reserve account shall be maintained.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-31; 18A:21-2

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1; 6A:23A-14.2; 6A:23A-14.3; 6A:23A-14.4; 6A:23A-14.5

Adopted: September 8, 2026

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

PROPERTY

7440 SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY (M)

7440 SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY (M)

[See **POLICY ALERT** Nos. 214, 217, 218, 221 and 230]

M

The Board of Education believes the buildings and facilities of the school district represent a substantial community investment. The Board directs the development and implementation of a plan for school district security to protect the school community's investment in the school buildings and facilities. The Board will comply with the security measures required in N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5.2 for new school construction and for existing school buildings.

The school district security program will include: maintenance of facilities that are secure against unwelcome intrusion; protection against fire hazards and faulty equipment; and compliance with safe practices in the use of electrical, plumbing, heating, and other school building equipment.

As used in this Policy and N.J.S.A. 18A:41-7.1, "critical incident mapping data" means information provided in electronic or digital form to assist first responders in an emergency including, but not limited to: aerial images of schools; floor plans, including room and suite numbers; building access points; locations of hazardous materials and utility shut-offs; and any other relevant location information.

The Board shall provide to local law enforcement authorities critical incident mapping data for all schools and school grounds. In the case of a school building located in a municipality in which there is no municipal police department, critical incident mapping data shall be provided to an entity designated by the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. The Board shall provide revised mapping data to the applicable law enforcement authorities or designated entities any time that there is a change to the critical incident mapping data.

Critical incident mapping data provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:41-7.1.a. shall be: compatible with all platforms and applications used by local, State, and Federal law enforcement authorities; provided in a printable format; and verified for accuracy through an annual walkthrough of school buildings and school grounds.

Nothing in this Policy or N.J.S.A. 18A:41-7.1 shall be construed to require local law enforcement authorities or designated entities to access critical incident mapping data using third party viewing software.

The Board directs close cooperation of district officials with law enforcement, fire officials, and other emergency agencies.

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

PROPERTY

7440 SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY (M)

Each public elementary and secondary school building shall be equipped with at least one panic alarm for use in a school security emergency pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:41-10 through 13 and this Policy and Regulation 7440.

The Superintendent of Schools shall designate a school administrator, or a school employee with expertise in school safety and security, as a School Safety Specialist for the district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3 and this Policy and Regulation 7440. The School Safety Specialist shall be required to acquire a New Jersey Department of Education School Safety Specialist certification in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.2 and this Policy and Regulation 7440. The School Safety Specialist shall also serve as the school district liaison with local law enforcement and national, State, and community agencies and organizations in matters of school safety and security.

Access to school buildings and grounds outside the hours school is in session shall be limited to personnel whose employment requires their presence in the facility. An adequate key control system will be established to limit building access to authorized personnel and guard against the potential of intrusion by unauthorized persons who have obtained access improperly.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5.2.b.(15), propping open doors to buildings on school grounds is strictly prohibited and students and staff shall not open a door for any individual. All persons seeking entry into the building shall be directed to the main entrance.

Building records and funds shall be kept in a safe place and secured as appropriate and necessary.

Protective devices designed to be used as safeguards against illegal entry and vandalism may be installed when appropriate. The Board may approve the employment of school resource officers, school security officers, and/or law enforcement officers in situations in which special risks are involved.

The school district shall annually conduct a school safety audit for each school building in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-14.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5.2; 18A:17-43.1; 18A:17-43.2; 18A:17-43.3;
18A:41-7.1; 18A:41-10; 18A:41-11; 18A:41-12;
18A:41-13; 18A:41-14
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3; 6A:26-1.2

Adopted: September 8, 2026

R 7440 SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY (M)

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 96, 214, 217, 218 and 221]

M**A. Definitions**

“Access” means authorized access to a school building or school grounds through the use of a Board-approved key control system.

“Key control system” means the use of a key, card, code, or any other means to disengage a locking mechanism to provide entry to a school building or school grounds.

“Panic alarm” means a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation requiring a response from law enforcement.

“School buildings” and “school grounds” means and includes land, portions of land, structures, buildings, and vehicles, when used for the provision of academic or extracurricular programs sponsored by the school district or community provider and structures that support these buildings, such as school district wastewater treatment facilities, generating facilities, and other central service facilities including, but not limited to, kitchens and maintenance shops. “School buildings” and “school grounds” also includes athletic stadiums; swimming pools; any associated structures or related equipment tied to such facilities including, but not limited to, grandstands; night field lights; greenhouses; garages; facilities used for non-instructional or non-educational purposes; and any structure, building, or facility used solely for school administration. “School buildings” and “school grounds” also includes other facilities such as playgrounds; and other recreational places owned by local municipalities, private entities, or other individuals during those times when the school district has exclusive use of a portion of such land in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3 and 6A:26-1.2.

B. Access to School Buildings and School Grounds

1. Access to school buildings and grounds during the school day will be permitted to all students enrolled in the school, all authorized school staff members, and visitors pursuant to Policy and Regulation 9150.
2. Access to school buildings and grounds before and after the school day will be permitted to:
 - a. Members of the Board of Education;

REGULATION GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

PROPERTY

R 7440 SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY (M)

- b. Administrative and supervisory staff members, teaching staff members, and support staff members assigned to a school building or grounds in the performance of their duties;
 - c. Other school staff members in the performance of their professional responsibilities;
 - d. Students involved in interscholastic athletics, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities, and authorized spectators;
 - e. Members of organizations granted the use of school premises pursuant to Policy and Regulation 7510;
 - f. Police officers, fire fighters, health inspectors, and other agents of Federal, State, and local government in the performance of their official duties;
 - g. Members of the public present to attend a public Board of Education or public school-related function; and
 - h. Others authorized by the Superintendent or designee and/or by Board Policy.
3. All visitors to a school building during a school day will be required to register their presence in the school and comply with the provisions of Policy and Regulation 9150. The school's registration and sign-in procedures may include the use of a school visitor management system requiring the visitor to present acceptable identification to access the school building.
4. Signs will be conspicuously posted to inform visitors of the requirement to register their presence into the building.

C. Key Control System for Access to School Buildings and Facilities

- 1. School staff members will be provided access to a school building using the school's key control system as follows:
 - a. Teaching staff members and support staff members will be provided access using the school's key control system to the school building and to other facilities on school grounds to which they require access for the performance of their professional duties.
 - (1) The Building Principal will determine the school staff members who shall be provided access to facilities within the school building and on school grounds.

REGULATION GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

PROPERTY

R 7440 SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY (M)

- (2) The Superintendent or designee will determine the district administrators, supervisors, and other staff members who shall be provided access to facilities within the school building and on school grounds.
 2. School staff members provided access to a school building or other facilities on school grounds shall be responsible for ensuring their key control system authorization is not shared with another individual without prior approval of the Principal or designee for school staff members, or the Superintendent or designee for district staff members. Staff members are prohibited from permitting their key control system authorization to be used by another person unless prior approval is obtained from the Principal or designee at the building level and Superintendent or designee at the district level or in the event of an emergency.
 3. A staff member's loss of a key, card, or any other device authorizing the staff member access to a school building or a facility on school grounds must be immediately reported to the Principal or Superintendent or designee. The staff member who loses a key, card, or any such access device may be responsible for the replacement cost.
- D. School Building Panic Alarm or Emergency Mechanisms (N.J.S.A. 18A:41-10 through 13)
1. Each public elementary and secondary school building shall be equipped with at least one panic alarm for use in a school security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation.
 2. The alarm shall be directly linked to local law enforcement authorities or, in the case of a school building located in a municipality in which there is no municipal police department, a location designated by the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police.
 3. The alarm shall be capable of immediately transmitting a signal or message to such authorities outlined in D.2. above upon activation.
 4. The alarm shall not be audible within the school building.
 5. Each panic alarm required under N.J.S.A. 18A:41-11 and Policy and Regulation 7440 shall:
 - a. Adhere to nationally recognized industry standards, including the standards of the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories; and

REGULATION GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

PROPERTY

R 7440 SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY (M)

- b. Be installed solely by a person licensed to engage in the alarm business in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 45:5A-27.
 - 6. The school district may equip its elementary and secondary school buildings with an emergency mechanism that is an alternative to a panic alarm if the mechanism is approved by the New Jersey Department of Education.
- E. Staff Member Responsibilities
 - 1. Staff members should not bring to school valuable personal items that cannot be in the staff member's personal possession at all times. The Board of Education is not responsible for a staff member's personal possession in the event the item is lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged, or destroyed.
 - 2. In the event a staff member observes a student has a valuable item in school, the staff member will report it to the Principal or designee. A valuable item may include, but is not limited to, an unusually large amount of money, expensive jewelry or electronic equipment, or any item that is determined by the Principal or designee to be valuable to a student based on the student's age.
 - a. The Principal or designee may contact the student's parent and request the parent come to school to retrieve the valuable item;
 - b. The Principal or designee may secure the valuable item and return it to the student at the end of the school day and inform the student and the parent not to bring the valuable item to school in the future; or
 - c. The Principal or designee will permit the student to maintain the valuable item and inform the student and the parent not to bring the valuable item to school in the future.
 - d. The Board of Education is not responsible for a student's personal possession in the event the item is lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged, or destroyed when in the possession of the student.
 - 3. Teaching staff members shall close classroom windows and shut and lock classroom doors when leaving at the end of the school day; shut and lock classroom doors during the school day when the room is not going to be in use after their assignment, and report immediately to the Principal or designee any evidence of tampering or theft.
 - 4. Custodians shall, at the end of the work day, conduct a security check of the building to make certain that all windows are closed and all office, classroom, and building doors are shut and locked, except as such doors may be required to be open for persons with access.

5. Office personnel shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the security of all school and district records and documents against unauthorized access, deterioration, and destruction.

F. School Safety Specialist

1. The Superintendent of Schools shall designate a school administrator, or a school employee with expertise in school safety and security, as a School Safety Specialist for the district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3.
2. The School Safety Specialist shall:
 - a. Be responsible for the supervision and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, policies, and procedures in the school district;
 - b. Ensure that these policies and procedures are in compliance with State law and regulations; and
 - c. Provide the necessary training and resources to school district staff in matters relating to school safety and security.
3. The School Safety Specialist shall also serve as the school district's liaison with law enforcement and national, State, and community agencies and organizations in matters of school safety and security.
4. The School Safety Specialist shall be required to acquire a New Jersey Department of Education School Safety Specialist Certification in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.2.

G. Summoning Law Enforcement Authorities

1. Law enforcement authorities will be summoned promptly whenever evidence is discovered that indicates: a crime has been committed on school premises or in the course of staff or student transportation to or from school; a break and entry may have occurred on school grounds; a deadly weapon is on school premises; a breach of the peace has occurred on school premises; for any reason required in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Education and Law Enforcement and in accordance with Policy and Regulation 9320; or for any other reason there is concern about the health, safety, and welfare of persons on school grounds or school property.
2. Anytime law enforcement agents are summoned in accordance with G.1. above, the Superintendent will be notified as soon as possible.

H. Annual School Safety Audit for Each School Building

1. The district shall annually conduct a school safety audit for each school building using the checklist developed by the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness in collaboration with the Department of Education pursuant to section H.2. below.
 - a. The district shall submit the completed audit to the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and the Department of Education in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-14.a.
 - b. The audits shall be kept confidential and shall not be deemed a public record under N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. or the common law concerning access to public records, but may be utilized for the purpose of allocating any State grants or loans made available for the purpose of school facility safety and security upgrades.
2. The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness in collaboration with the Department of Education shall develop a comprehensive checklist of items to be reviewed and evaluated in the school safety audit(s) conducted by the school district pursuant to Section H.1. above.
 - a. The checklist shall include items to assess the security features and security vulnerabilities of the school district's school buildings and grounds. The checklist shall also include items to assess the emergency notification systems used to facilitate notification to parents and other members of the community in the case of school emergencies.
 - b. The checklist shall be reviewed annually by the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and the Department of Education and updated as appropriate.
3. The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness in collaboration with the Department of Education shall provide technical assistance to school districts to facilitate the completion of the checklists in a uniform manner.

Issued: September 8, 2026

7523 SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDED TECHNOLOGY DEVICES TO STUDENTS

[See **POLICY ALERT No. 199**]

The Board of Education may provide technology devices to students in the district for school district authorized use only. The purpose of this Policy is to establish general guidelines for the issuance and utilization of any school district technology device provided to students of this district. For the purposes of this Policy, "technology device" or "device" shall include, but not be limited to, portable devices such as computers, laptops, tablets, cellular telephones, or any other computing or electronic devices the school district provides to students to be used as part of their educational program.

A technology device made available to students will not be considered a textbook or supply, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1, mandatory to a successful completion of the classroom curriculum. Therefore, because a technology device defined in this Policy is not mandatory to a successful completion of a student's classroom curriculum, a student will not be required to obtain a technology device provided by the school district as defined in this Policy. In the event the school district provides a technology device that is deemed mandatory to a successful completion of the classroom curriculum, the district will provide students with such a technology device consistent with its textbook or supply policies. **Although it is not recommended**, nothing in this Policy prohibits a student from using their personal technology device in accordance with school rules and regulations.

A technology device provided by the school district may include pre-loaded software. A student is prevented from downloading additional software onto the technology device or tampering with software installed on the technology device. Only school district authorized staff members may load or download software onto a school district provided technology device.

To receive a school district provided technology device, the parent and student must sign a **Network Use/iPad Chromebook Agreement** ~~School District Provided Technology Device~~ Form requiring the parent and the student to comply with certain provisions. These provisions may include, but are not limited to:

1. A school district provided technology device must be used only by the student for school district authorized use;
2. A student shall comply with the school district's acceptable use of technology policies, which shall be attached to the **Network Use/iPad Chromebook Agreement** Form, in their use of any school district provided technology device;
3. Any school district provided technology device loaned to a student must be returned to the school district in the condition it was initially provided to the student considering reasonable use and care by the student;

7523 SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDED TECHNOLOGY DEVICES TO STUDENTS

4. The parent or student shall be responsible to reimburse the school district the cost of any technology device that is lost, damaged beyond reasonable use or beyond its value, abandoned, missing, stolen, or cannot be returned to the district in accordance with the terms of the **Network Use/iPad Chromebook Agreement** Form;
5. The district may require, or offer as an option, depending on the type of technology device provided to the student, a fee to be purchased by the parent or student that would cover certain minor losses or damage to a technology device during the time period the student has possession of the device;
- ~~6. In the event the school district does not require the purchase of an insurance policy for a technology device or the parent or student elects not to purchase optional insurance, the parent and/or student shall be responsible for any loss or damage to the technology device in accordance with the terms of the School District Provided Technology Device Form;~~
6. A student will be required to report any hardware or software problems in the operation of the device to the school district staff member, designated on the **Network Use/iPad Chromebook Agreement** Form, within two school days of the commencement of the problem;
7. A student must report to the school district staff member designated on the **Network Use/iPad Chromebook Agreement** Form within two school days in the event the technology device has been damaged or is missing;
8. A parent or student is required to immediately file a police report in the event it is believed the technology device has been stolen. Within one school day after filing a police report, a parent or student shall ~~complete the School District Provided Technology Device Loss Form and submit the completed Loss Form and a copy of the police report to~~ **notify** the Principal or designee;
9. A student shall be required to provide routine cleaning and care of the device in accordance with school district cleaning and care guidelines;
10. The student shall have the technology device in their possession in school as required; and
11. Any other provisions the Superintendent of Schools determines should be included on the **Network Use/iPad Chromebook Agreement** Form.

The school district will provide the student and parent with written or electronic notification that the technology device provided by the school district may record or collect information on the student's activity or the student's use of the technology device if the device is equipped with a camera, global positioning system, or other feature capable of recording or collecting information on the student's activity or use of the device. This notification shall also include a

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

PROPERTY

7523 SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDED TECHNOLOGY DEVICES TO STUDENTS

statement that the school district shall not use any of the capabilities in a manner that would violate the privacy rights of the student or any individual residing with the student. The parent shall be required to acknowledge receipt of this notification and the parent acknowledgement shall be retained by the Principal or designee for as long as the student retains the use of the school district provided technology device. The parent acknowledgement and a signed **Network Use/iPad Chromebook Agreement** Form shall be required before the issuance of a technology device to a student. In accordance with the provisions of P.L. 2013, Chapter 44, a school district failing to provide this notification shall be subject to a fine of \$250 per student, per incident. The fine shall be remitted to the New Jersey Department of Education, and shall be deposited in a fund that shall be used to provide laptop or other portable computer equipment to at-risk students as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-45.

Students shall comply with all school district policies for the use of a school district provided technology device. A student shall be subject to consequences in the event the student violates any school district policy, including the district's acceptable use policies; student code of conduct; any provision of this Policy; or any provision of the **Network Use/iPad Chromebook Agreement** Form.

N.J.S.A. 18A:34-1

P.L. 2013, Chapter 44 – “The Anti-Big Brother Act”

Adopted: September 8, 2026

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

OPERATIONS

8335 FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

8335 FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

[See POLICY ALERT No. 175]

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted: September 8, 2026

POLICY GUIDE

OPERATIONS

8561/page 1 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition

Programs

Apr 26

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[See **POLICY ALERT** Nos. 215, 216, 217, 221, 223, and 237]

[**SCHOOL DISTRICTS NOT PARTICIPATING IN A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S (USDA) SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ADOPT POLICY 8561.**]

8561 PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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

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

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

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

A. General Procurement



POLICY GUIDE

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

OPERATIONS

8561/page 2 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

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

Board Micro-Purchase Threshold: Per 2 CFR 200.67

Board Small Purchase Threshold: Per 2 CFR 200.320

The Board will follow formal procurement procedures for all purchases over the Small Purchase Threshold amount.

The Board will perform a cost or price analysis to determine the estimated dollar amounts for purchases and thus the required procurement method.

Product/ Services	Estimated Dollar Amount	Procurement Method	Evaluation	Contract Award Type	Contract Duration/ Frequency

B. Micro-Purchase Procedures

1. Public/Charter Schools



POLICY GUIDE

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

OPERATIONS

8561/page 3 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

2. Non-Public Schools

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

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

~~{Choose one or more of the following:~~

- ~~___ centralized system;~~
- ~~___ individual school;~~
- ~~___ multi-school system; and/or~~
- ~~___ State contract.}~~

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

C. Small Purchase Procedures

If the amount of purchases for items is less than the Board's small purchase threshold, the following small purchase procedures



POLICY GUIDE

including quotes will be used. Quotes from a minimum number of three qualified sources will be required.

1. Written specifications will be prepared and provided to all vendors.
2. Each vendor will be contacted and given an opportunity to provide a price quote on the same specifications. A minimum of three vendors must be contacted.

OPERATIONS

8561/page 4 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition
Programs

3. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for contacting potential vendors when price quotes are needed.
4. The price quotes will receive appropriate confidentiality before award.
5. Quotes will be awarded by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. Quotes will be awarded based on the lowest price.
6. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for documentation of records to show selection of vendor, names of all vendors contacted, price quotes from each vendor, and written specifications.
7. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for documentation that the actual product specified is received.
8. Any time an accepted item is not available, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will select the acceptable alternate. Full documentation will be made available as to the selection of the acceptable item.
9. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee is required to sign all quote tabulations, signifying a review and approval of the selections.



POLICY GUIDE

DE. Formal Procurement

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

1. An announcement of an IFB or a RFP will be placed in the Board designated official newspaper to publicize the intent of the Board of Education to purchase needed items. ~~The advertisement for bids/proposals or legal notice will be published in the official newspaper for at least one day in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-21.~~

OPERATIONS

8561/page 5 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition
Programs

- a. **The advertisement of the IFB or legal notice will run for one day a minimum of ten calendar days prior to the bid opening.**
 - b. **The advertisement of the RFP or legal notice will run for one day a minimum of twenty calendar days prior to the proposal due date.**
2. An advertisement ~~in the official newspaper for at least one day~~ is required for all purchases over the school district's small purchase threshold ~~as outlined in Federal Funds Procurement Method Section Chart State Agency Form #358.~~ The **announcement (advertisement or legal notice)** will contain the following:
 - a. A general description of items to be purchased;
 - b. The deadline for submission of questions and the date written responses will be provided, including addenda to bid specifications, terms, and conditions as needed;
 - c. The date of the pre-bid meeting, if provided, and if attendance is a requirement for bid award;
 - d. The deadline for submission of sealed bids or proposals;
and



POLICY GUIDE

- e. The address of the location where complete specifications and bid forms may be obtained.
- 3. In an IFB or RFP, each vendor will be given an opportunity to bid **or propose** on the same specifications.
- 4. The developer of written specifications or descriptions for procurements will be prohibited from submitting bids or proposals for such products or services.
- 5. The IFB or RFP **must will** clearly define the purchase conditions. The following list includes requirements, not exclusive, to be addressed in the procurement document:

OPERATIONS
8561/page 6 of 19
Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition
Programs

- a. Contract period for the base year and renewals as permitted;
- b. The Board of Education is responsible for all contracts awarded (statement);
- c. Date, time, and location of IFB/RFP opening;
- d. How the vendor is to be informed of bid acceptance or rejection;
- e. Delivery schedule;
- f. **IFB r**Requirements (terms and conditions) **that the** bidder must fulfill in order for bid to be **awarded evaluated**;
- g. **RFP requirements (terms and conditions) that proposer must fulfill in order for proposal to be evaluated and awarded;**
- hg. Benefits to which the Board of Education will be entitled if the contractor cannot or will not perform as required;



POLICY GUIDE

- ih. Statement assuring positive efforts will be made to involve small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms;
- ji. Statement regarding the return of purchase incentives, discounts, rebates, and credits under a cost reimbursement FSMC contract to the Board of Education's nonprofit school food service account;
- kj. Contract provisions as required in Appendix II to 2 CFR 200:
 - (1) Termination for cause and convenience – contracts in excess of \$10,000;

OPERATIONS
8561/page 7 of 19
Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition
Programs

- (2) Equal Opportunity Employment – “Federally assisted construction contracts”;
- (3) Davis-Bacon Act – construction contracts in excess of \$2,000;
- (4) Contract work Hours and Safety Standards – contracts in excess of \$100,000;
- (5) Right to inventions made under a contract or agreement – if the contract meets the definition of a “funding agreement” under 37 CFR 401.2(a);
- (6) Clean Air Act – contracts in excess of \$150,000;
- (7) Debarment and Suspension – all Federal awarded contracts;
- (8) Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment – contracts in excess of \$100,000; and



POLICY GUIDE

- (9) Contracts must address administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as appropriate.
- lk. Contract provisions as required in 7 CFR 210.21(f) for all cost reimbursable contracts;
- ml. Contract provisions as required in 7 CFR 210.16(a)(1-10) and 7 CFR 250.53 for food service management company contracts;
- ~~m. Procuring instrument to be used are purchase orders from firm fixed prices after formal bidding;~~
- n. Price adjustment clause for renewal of multi-year contracts as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42. – **Definitions.** The “index rate” means the annual percentage increase rounded

OPERATIONS

8561/page 8 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

to the nearest half percent in the implicit price deflator for State and local government purchases of goods and services computed and published quarterly by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis;

- o. Method of evaluation and type of contract to be awarded (solicitations using an IFB are awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; solicitations using a RFP are awarded to the most advantageous **proposer** ~~bidder/officer~~ with price as the primary factor among **other** factors considered);
- p. Method of award announcement and effective date (if intent to award is required by State or local procurement requirements);



POLICY GUIDE

- q. Specific bid protest procedures including contact information of person and address and the date by which a written protest must be received;
- r. Provision requiring access by duly authorized representatives of the Board of Education, New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), ~~United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)~~, or Comptroller General to any books, documents, papers, and records of the contractor which are directly pertinent to all negotiated contracts;
- s. Method of shipment or delivery upon contract award;
- t. Provision requiring contractor to maintain all required records for three years after final payment and all other pending matters (audits) are closed for all negotiated contracts;
- u. Description of process for enabling vendors to receive or pick up orders upon contract award;

OPERATIONS

8561/page 9 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

- v. Provision requiring the contractor to recognize mandatory standards/policies related to energy efficiency contained in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (PL 94-163);
- w. Signed statement of non-collusion;
- x. Signed Debarment/Suspension Certificate, clause in the contract or a copy of search results from the System for Award Management (SAM);
- y. Provision requiring "Buy American" as outlined in 7 CFR Part 210.21(d) and **7 CFR Part 220.16(d)** and USDA Guidance Memo SP **23-2024** ~~38-2017, including specific~~



POLICY GUIDE

~~instructions for prior approval and documentation of utilization of non-domestic food products only;~~

- z. Specifications and estimated quantities of products and services prepared by the **Board** ~~school district~~ and provided to potential contractors desiring to submit bids/proposals for the products or services requested; and
- aa. The Board ~~of Education~~'s Electronic Signature Policy (**see New Jersey Uniform Electronic Signature Transaction Act, N.J.S.A. 12A:12-1 et seq.**).

6. If any potential vendor is in doubt as to the true meaning of specifications or purchase conditions, questions may be sent to the **representatives listed below** ~~School Business Administrator/Board Secretary~~. The **Board's** ~~School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee's~~ response will be provided in writing to all potential bidders **or proposers** within _____ days.

- a. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for providing responses to questions and securing all bids or proposals.

OPERATIONS

8561/page 10 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

- b. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible to ensure all Board ~~of Education~~ procurements are conducted in compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local procurement regulations.
- e. ~~The following criteria will be used in awarding contracts as a result of bids/proposals. Price must be the highest weighted criteria. Examples of other possible criteria include quality, service, delivery, and availability.~~



POLICY GUIDE

7. In awarding a RFP, a set of award criteria in the form of a weighted evaluation sheet will be provided to each **proposer bidder** in the initial **RFP bid** document materials. Price alone is not the sole basis for award, but remains the primary consideration among all factors when awarding a contract. Following evaluations ~~and negotiations~~, a firm fixed price or cost reimbursable contract is awarded.
- a. The contracts will be awarded to the responsible ~~bidder~~/proposer whose ~~bid or~~ proposal is responsive to the **request invitation** and is most advantageous to the Board of Education, price as the primary, and other factors considered. Any and all ~~bids or~~ proposals may be rejected in accordance with the law.
 - b. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee is required to sign on the ~~bid tabulation of competitive sealed bids or the~~ evaluation criterion score sheet of competitive proposals signifying a review and approval of the selections.
 - c. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall review the procurement system to ensure compliance with applicable laws.
 - d. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for **the** documentation that the actual product specified was received.

OPERATIONS

8561/page 11 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition
Programs

- e. Any time an accepted item is not available, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will select the acceptable alternate. The contractor must inform the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary within one workday if a product is not available. In the event a nondomestic agricultural product is to be provided to the Board of Education, the contractor must obtain, in advance,



POLICY GUIDE

written approval for the product. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary must comply with the “Buy American” pProvision.

- f. Full documentation regarding the reason an accepted item was unavailable, and the procedure used in determining acceptable alternates, will be available for audit and review. The person responsible for this documentation is the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.
- g. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is responsible for maintaining all procurement documentation.

8. In awarding an IFB, price is the only consideration.

- a. **The contract will be awarded to the responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to the invitation and is the lowest price. Any and all bids may be rejected in accordance with the law.**
- b. **The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is required to sign on the bid tabulations of competitive sealed bids.**
- c. **The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary reviews the procurement system to ensure compliance with applicable laws.**
- d. **The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is responsible for documentation that the actual product specified is received.**

OPERATIONS

8561/page 12 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition
Programs

- e. **Any time an accepted item is not available, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will select the acceptable alternate. The contractor must inform the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary within one workday if a product is not available. In the event a**



POLICY GUIDE

nondomestic agricultural product is to be provided to the Board, the contractor must obtain, in advance, written approval for the product. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary must comply with the "Buy American" provision.

- f. Full documentation regarding the reason an accepted item was unavailable, and the procedure used in determining acceptable alternates, will be available for audit and review. The person responsible for this documentation is the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.
- g. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is responsible for maintaining all procurement documentation.

~~D. Small Purchase Procedures~~

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

- ~~1. Written specifications will be prepared and provided to all vendors.~~
- ~~2. Each vendor will be contacted and given an opportunity to provide a price quote on the same specifications. A minimum of three vendors shall be contacted.~~
- ~~3. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for contacting potential vendors when price quotes are needed.~~

OPERATIONS

8561/page 13 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition
Programs

- ~~4. The price quotes will receive appropriate confidentiality before award.~~



POLICY GUIDE

- ~~5. Quotes/Bids will be awarded by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. Quotes/Bids will be awarded on the following criteria. Quote/Bid price must be the highest weighted criteria. Examples of other possible criteria include quality, service, delivery, and availability.~~
- ~~6. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for documentation of records to show selection of vendor, reasons for selection, names of all vendors contacted, price quotes from each vendor, and written specifications.~~
- ~~7. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for documentation that the actual product specified is received.~~
- ~~8. Any time an accepted item is not available, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will select the acceptable alternate. Full documentation will be made available as to the selection of the acceptable item.~~
- ~~9. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee is required to sign all quote tabulations, signifying a review and approval of the selections.~~

E. Noncompetitive Proposal Procedures

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

1. Written specifications will be prepared and provided to the vendor.
2. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for the documentation of records to fully explain the decision to use the noncompetitive proposal. The records will be available for audit and review.

OPERATIONS

8561/page 14 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition
Programs



POLICY GUIDE

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

F. Miscellaneous Provisions

1. ~~New product evaluation procedures will include a review of product labels and ingredients; an evaluation of the nutritional value; taste tests and surveys; and any other evaluations to ensure the new product would enhance the program.~~
12. The Board of Education agrees the reviewing official of each transaction will be the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.
23. Payment will be made to the vendor when the contract has been met and verified and has met the Board of Education's procedures for payment. (If prompt payment is made, discounts, etc., are accepted.)

OPERATIONS
8561/page 15 of 19



POLICY GUIDE

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

34. Specifications will be updated as needed.
45. If the product is not as specified, the following procedure, including, but not limited to, will take place: remove product from service; contact vendor for approved alternate product; or remove product from bid.

G. Emergency Purchases

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

All emergency procurements shall be approved by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

At a minimum, the following emergency procurement procedures shall be documented ~~to include, but not be limited to:~~ **item name; dollar amount; vendor; and reason for emergency.**

- a. **Item name;**
- b. **Dollar amount;**
- c. **Vendor; and**
- d. **Reason for emergency.**

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

1. When participating in intergovernmental and inter-agency agreements the Board of Education will ensure that competitive procurements are conducted in accordance with 2 CFR Part



POLICY GUIDE

200.318 through .326 and applicable program regulations and guidance.

OPERATIONS
8561/page 16 of 19
Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition
Programs

2. When utilizing the services of a co-op, agent, or third party the Board of Education will ensure that the following conditions have been met and considered as one source of pricing in addition to other prices:
 - a. All procurements were subject to full and open competition and were made in accordance with Federal/State/local procurement requirements;
 - b. The existing contract allows for the inclusion of additional Boards of Educations that were not contemplated in the original procurement to purchase the same supplies/equipment through the original award;
 - c. The specifications in the existing contract meets their needs and that the items being ordered are in the contract;
 - d. The awarded contract requires all the Federally required certifications; e.g. "Buy American," debarment, restrictions on lobbying, etc.;
 - e. The agency will confirm the addition of their purchasing power (goods or services) to the procurement in scope or services does not create a material change, resulting in the needs to re-procure re-bid the contract;
 - f. Administrative costs (fees) for participating in the agreement are adequately defined, necessary and reasonable, and the method of allocating the cost to the participating agencies must be specified;
 - g. The "Buy American" provisions are included in the procurement of food and agricultural products; and



POLICY GUIDE

- h. The agreement includes the basis for and method of allocating each discount, rebate, or credit and how they will be returned to each participating agency when utilizing a cost-reimbursable contract.

OPERATIONS

8561/page 17 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

I. The “Buy American” Act

- 1. The “Buy American” provision requires the Board to purchase, to the maximum amount practicable, domestic commodities or products. This provision supports the mission of the Child Nutrition Programs, which is to serve children nutritious meals and support American agriculture. Program regulations that govern this provision apply to a Board that operates the NSLP and SBP and are found at 7 CFR 210.21(d) and 7 CFR 220.16(d). The Board complies by:
 - a. Purchasing domestic commercial food products for the school meals programs;
 - b. Including “Buy American” provision language in procurement procedures, solicitations, and contracts; and
 - c. Tracking non-domestic commercial food purchases.

JH. Records Retention

- 1. The Board of Education shall agree to retain all books, records, and other documents relative to the award of the contract for three years after final payment. If there are audit findings that have not been resolved, the records shall be retained beyond the three-year period as long as required for the resolution of the issues raised by the audit. Specifically, the Board of Education shall maintain, at a minimum, the following documents:
 - a. Written rationale for the method of procurement;



POLICY GUIDE

- b. A copy of the original solicitation;
- c. The selection of contract type;
- d. The bidding and negotiation history and working papers;
- e. The basis for contractor selection;

OPERATIONS
8561/page 18 of 19
Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition
Programs

- f. Approval from the State agency to support a lack of competition when competitive bids or offers are not obtained;
- g. The basis for award cost or price;
- h. The terms and conditions of the contract;
- i. Any changes to the contract and negotiation history;
- j. Billing and payment records;
- k. A history of any contractor claims; **and**
- l. A history of any contractor breaches; ~~and~~
- ~~m. Any other documents as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-
Public School Contracts Law.~~

KJ. Code of Conduct for Procurement

1. All procurements must ensure there is open and free competition and adhere to the most restrictive Federal, State, and local requirements. The Board of Education seeks to conduct all procurement procedures in compliance with stated regulations and to prohibit conflicts of interest and actions of employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts. All procurements will be in accordance with this Policy and all



POLICY GUIDE

applicable provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A – Public School Contracts Law.

2. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a Federal, State, or local award if **they have** ~~he or she has~~ a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent; any member of **their** ~~his or her~~ immediate family, **their** ~~his or her~~ partner; or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

OPERATIONS

8561/page 19 of 19

Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs

3. The officers, employees, and agents of the non-Federal entity may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, non-Federal entities may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value.
4. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the non-Federal entity. Based on the severity of the infraction, the penalties could include a written reprimand to their personnel file, a suspension with or without pay, or termination.
5. All questions and concerns regarding procurement solicitations, contract evaluations, and contract award, shall be directed to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

LK. Food Service Management Company (FSMC)

1. In the operation of the school district's food service program, the school district shall ensure that a FSMC complies with the requirements of the Program Agreement, the school district's Free and Reduced School Lunch Policy Statement, all applicable USDA program policies and regulations, and applicable State and local laws. In order to operate an a la carte food service program, the



POLICY GUIDE

FSMC shall agree to offer free, reduced price, and full price reimbursable meals to all eligible children.

2. The school district shall monitor the FSMC billing invoices to ensure compliance with Federal and State procurement regulations.
3. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5.a.(22), RFPs are required in all solicitations for a FSMC.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq. — ~~Public School Contracts Law~~
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
“Procurement Procedures for School Food
Authorities” Model Policy – **October 2025** ~~September 2018~~

Adopted: September 8, 2026



8613 WAIVER OF STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

[See **POLICY ALERT No. 196**]

The Board of Education is required to provide transportation services for the school year to an elementary student living more than two miles from the public school of attendance or to a secondary school student living more than two and one-half miles from the public school of attendance in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq.

The Board shall determine student transportation needs and approve student transportation routes based on all students eligible for transportation in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and any less than remote, courtesy busing, and/or hazardous route transportation determined by the Board of Education. However, while providing school bus seats for those students eligible for transportation each school year, the Board recognizes certain students eligible for transportation services voluntarily elect not to use the transportation services offered by the Board resulting in empty seats on school buses going to and from school. To assist the Board in operating the school district's transportation system in the most cost-effective manner, the Board may provide a student's parent/guardian the option of waiving transportation services for that school year in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1c. In the event the Board provides this option, a student's parent/guardian will be required to sign a written statement indicating the student waives transportation services for that school year. The written statement shall be in such form as determined by the New Jersey Department of Education.

In the event a parent/guardian of a student eligible for transportation services waives transportation services for that school year and circumstances change during that school year due to a family or economic hardship, the school district will reinstate the student's eligibility for transportation to and from school.

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1; 18A:39-1c

Adopted: September 8, 2026

8820 OPENING EXERCISES/CEREMONIES

[See **POLICY ALERT Nos. 92 and 206**]

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

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

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

Adopted: September 8, 2026

9700 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 164 and 188]

The Board of Education recognizes the contributions of persons and organizations outside the school district may take the form of materials, activities, and awards that tend to serve the interests of the contributor as well as benefit the school district and students. For the purposes of this Policy, “organizations outside the school district” shall be any organization, group, activity, club, association, agency, or individual that is not approved or sponsored by the Board of Education.

The Board reserves the right to review, approve, or reject proposed contributions from organizations outside the school district. Proposed contributions may be rejected by the Board, including but not limited to, proposed contributions that have the primary effect of advancing the name, product, or special interest of a person, corporation, or organization; fail to meet district standards of accuracy and good taste; are of little or no educational value to students; make unreasonable demands upon the time and energies of staff and students or upon the resources of the district; interrupt or interfere with the regular school program; or involve a direct cost to the district.

The approval of the use of any material or the conduct of any activity offered by an organization outside the school district shall not under any circumstances be construed as an endorsement by this Board of any interest, cause, or organization.

Permission to solicit or raise funds on school premises will be granted only to those persons and organizations whose purposes are consistent with the goals of this district and the interests of the community and are in accordance with the Board’s fundraising policy. Solicitation or fundraising may not interfere with the orderly operation of the schools. The Board will not be responsible for the protection of or accounting for such funds and these funds may not be deposited in any district account.

The Board will not permit the distribution of literature to or through students in the school district for any organization outside the school district.

However, distribution of literature to or through students in the school district may be approved by the Superintendent of Schools or designee if the organization requesting the distribution of literature is a local, State, county or Federal governmental agency or a community, non-profit organization and the information is determined by the Superintendent or designee to be of special interest to school district students or the community. Written requests for the distribution of this literature must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee with one copy of the specific literature to be distributed. The approval and method of the distribution of literature will be at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. Any approval for such distribution will be consistent with the governing principles of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. In no circumstance will the school district release confidential student information.

POLICY GUIDE

STRAUSS ESMAY ASSOCIATES

COMMUNITY
9700 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Board prohibits the distribution of political literature to or through the students of this district in school buildings or on school grounds that promotes, favors, or opposes the candidacy of any candidate for election at any annual school election, or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or any public question submitted at any general, municipal or school election. No student shall be requested or directed by any school official or employee to engage in any activity that tends to promote, favor, or oppose any such candidacy, bond issue, proposal or a public question submitted at any election.

The Board will permit the award of scholarships or prizes to deserving students provided that information regarding students is released only in accordance with Policy No. 8330 on Student Records, the manner of selection of the recipient is approved by the Superintendent or designee and includes consultation with appropriate staff members, and the nature of the prize or award is approved by the Superintendent or designee.

N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4

United States Department of Education - Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

Cross reference: Policy Guide Nos. 5440, 5830

Adopted: September 8, 2026