

POLICY

LACEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION

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The Road Forward COVID-19 - Health and Safety

1648.11 - THE ROAD FORWARD COVID-19 – HEALTH AND SAFETY (M)

The Board of Education plans to provide full-day, full-time, in-person instruction and operations for the 2021-2022 school year. In June 2021, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) worked collaboratively to develop guidance, The Road Forward – Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year (The Road Forward).

The Road Forward replaces the mandatory anticipated minimum standards outlined in the NJDOE's "The Road Back – Restart and Recovery Plan for Education" (June 2020) and provides a range of recommendations rather than mandatory standards. These recommendations are meant to assist school districts in implementing protocols to reduce risks to students and staff from COVID-19 while still allowing for full-time learning.

The Board considered many factors as they prepared for the 2021-2022 school year, including the level of COVID-19 transmission in the community at large and in the school community, as well as vaccination coverage rates in both the community at large and the school community.

For the purpose of this Policy, "Order" shall mean any Governor of New Jersey Executive Order, New Jersey State Agency mandate, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, New Jersey statute, or administrative code requiring compliance by the school district.

The Board considered the recommendations outlined in The Road Forward to develop health and safety protocols. The Board will consider all recommended Orders and comply with all mandatory Orders when developing health and safety protocols and reviewing them periodically.

The Board considered the recommendations outlined in The Road Forward to develop the school district's COVID-19 protocols in the following areas and included in corresponding Appendices:

A. General Health and Safety Concerns of Students, Staff Members, and Visitors

1. Vaccination – See Appendix A.;



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2. Communication with the Local Health Department – See Appendix B.;
 3. Mask Wearing Protocol – See Appendix C.;
 4. Physical Distancing and Cohorting Protocols – See Appendix D.;
 5. Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette Protocols – See Appendix E.;
 6. Provision of Meals – See Appendix F.; and
 7. Transportation Protocols – See Appendix G.
- B. Cleaning, Disinfection, and Airflow – See Appendix H.
- C. Screening, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff Members – See Appendix I.
- D. Contact Tracing – See Appendix J.
- E. Testing – See Appendix K.
- F. Student and Staff Member Travel – See Appendix L.

The absence of one or more of the recommendations outlined in The Road Forward and/or in the school district's health and safety protocols will not prevent the reopening of the school(s) in the district for full-day in-person operation with all enrolled students and staff members present.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9, schools must be in session for 180 days to receive State Aid. The statute requires that school facilities be provided for at least 180 days during the school year. N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9(b) indicates when a school district is required to close the schools of the district for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive and/or recommendation by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure, days of virtual or remote instruction commensurate with in-person instruction will count toward the school district's 180-day requirement.

The school district may be confronted with the incidence of COVID-19 positive cases among staff and/or students. If the school district is required to exclude a student, group of students, a class, or multiple classes as a result of possible exposure to COVID-19, while the school itself remains open for in-person instruction, the school



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district may offer virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction to the extent possible. In circumstances when the school facilities remain open and in-person instruction continues in those classrooms that are not required to quarantine, those days in session will also count toward the school district's 180-day requirement in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

The school district anticipates updates to The Road Forward and as such this Policy is subject to review by the Superintendent to ensure compliance with Orders that may arise after Board adoption of this Policy. All revisions to Orders affecting this Policy and corresponding Appendices shall be reviewed by the Superintendent with the Board Attorney, School Physician, and Board of Education, if appropriate. The Superintendent may revise the health and safety protocols included in any Appendix as necessary and appropriate. All students, parents, and staff members will be notified of any changes to school district-developed protocols implemented as a result of this Policy, as appropriate.

First Read:



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BYLAWS

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Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations

The Board of Education shall exercise its rule-making power by adopting, revising, and abolishing bylaws, policies, and regulations for the organization and operation of the school district.

"Regulations" for the purpose of this Bylaw are only those regulations that are required to be adopted by the Board.

Adoption, Amendment, and Abolishment

Bylaws, policies, and regulations may be adopted and revised at any meeting of the Board, provided the proposed adoption or revision has been approved by the Board at a previous meeting of the Board.

Bylaws, policies, or regulations may be abolished at any meeting of the Board without the proposed abolishing of the proposed bylaw, policy, or regulation being approved by the Board at a previous meeting of the Board.

The Board shall at its organization meeting or annually at a meeting of the Board and by a majority vote of those present and voting, readopt existing bylaws, policies, and regulations without prior notice.

The Board may, under emergency circumstances, suspend the operation of a bylaw, policy, or regulation and adopt, revise, or abolish a bylaw, policy, or regulation without prior notice. The emergency adoption, revision, or abolishment of a bylaw, policy, or regulation shall terminate at the next meeting of the Board or at such earlier date as may be specified by the Board unless further acted upon by the Board in accordance with this Bylaw.

The adoption, revision, abolishment, or suspension of a bylaw, policy, or regulation shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board. Any bylaw, policy, or regulation or part of a bylaw, policy, or regulation that is superseded by a term in a negotiated agreement or by a subsequently adopted bylaw, policy, or regulation shall no longer be in force and effect as a bylaw, policy, or regulation and shall be abolished by the Board in accordance with this Bylaw.

Promulgation and Distribution

The manual of bylaws, policies, and regulations shall be maintained. A copy of the manual of bylaws, policies, and regulations shall be available and accessible to each Board member, the Superintendent, the School Business Administrator/Board



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Secretary, the Board Attorney, each Building Principal, and other individuals designated by the Superintendent.

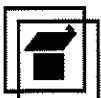
The Superintendent shall institute a plan for the orderly promulgation of policies to staff members who are affected by them and shall provide staff members with access to an up-to-date manual of Board bylaws, policies, and regulations.

The manual of bylaws, policies, and regulations shall be considered a public record open to inspection in the office of the Superintendent. The manual retained by the Superintendent shall be considered the master copy of the manual.

Consideration of Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations

Bylaws, policies, and regulations will be considered for adoption by the Board in accordance with the following procedure:

1. A recommendation for a new or revised bylaw, policy, or regulation shall be recommended to the Board and/or Superintendent;
2. A recommendation for a new or revised bylaw, policy, or regulation may be referred, at the discretion of the Board President and as appropriate to the subject, to the Superintendent, a Board committee, or a public advisory committee for study and formulation of a recommendation to the Board. Any study of a new or revised recommended bylaw, policy, or regulation will consider whether the matter is adequately addressed in existing Board bylaw, policy, or regulation;
3. If a recommendation for a new or revised bylaw, policy, or regulation results from referral for study, a proposed draft will be referred to the Superintendent and at the discretion of the Board President and as appropriate to the subject, to a Board committee;
4. All proposed new and revised bylaws, policies, and regulations shall be submitted to the Superintendent. The Superintendent or designee will review all new and revised draft bylaws, policies, and regulations prior to the Board receiving a draft of new or revised bylaws, policies, or regulations for Board consideration;
5. The proposed draft bylaw, policy, or regulation approved by the Board on first reading will be submitted for adoption at a succeeding meeting of the Board. Revisions in the draft may be made at any meeting prior to



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adoption by a simple majority vote of the Board. A revision at any succeeding meeting that alters the substantive meaning of the draft will constitute a new first reading, and the draft must be presented for adoption at a succeeding Board meeting. A change that is merely editorial may be followed by a vote to adopt the new or revised bylaw, policy, or regulation on second reading.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

Adopted: November 21, 2005

Revised:



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Career and Technical Education

The Board of Education believes a program(s) of career and technical education is important to the educational development of its students. The New Jersey system of career and technical education has as its purpose to:

1. Support developmental career education designed to provide students opportunities to enhance career awareness, exploration, preparation, and decision-making skills necessary for success in the workplace;
2. Provide secondary and postsecondary students with career and technical education programs and programs of study in Department-recognized Career Clusters in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:19-1.1(a)2.;
3. Support a comprehensive K-12 career education and counseling system; and
4. Support the workforce development system by helping to ensure quality postsecondary educational opportunities for adult students.

All students participating in career and technical education programs within this district or in shared-time career and technical programs are considered to be regularly enrolled in the schools of this district and are subject to the policies and rules of this Board. The district shall establish admission requirements that include equity and access for all populations, including special populations and special education students. No student shall be denied admission or participation in any career and technical education programs due to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, socioeconomic status, or disability.

Students may be permitted to enroll in programs of vocational instruction offered by a county vocational school district outside the county only as required in the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:19-2.3(a)2.

The district will comply with the general program requirements for career and technical education as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:19-3.1. Students participating in part-time school and part-time employment career and technical programs will not be exploited, illegally employed, or employed under conditions that fail to safeguard the student's health and interest. These students shall receive wages commensurate with wages paid to other employees for similar work and shall be protected by provisions of the Worker's Compensation Act and any other acts of the State pertaining to such training and



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employment. The school district will comply with all safety and health standards contained in N.J.A.C. 6A:19-6.1 for career and technical education programs, programs of study, and structured learning experiences.

Career and technical education programs offered by the school district shall comply with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:54 and N.J.A.C. 6A:19.

The Superintendent shall seek and utilize all available Federal, State, and private sources of revenue for the financial support of career and technical education programs in the district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.2; 18A:38-15; 18A:54
N.J.A.C. 6A:19

Adopted: November 21, 2005
Revised:



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TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

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Assignment of Additional Duties

The professional responsibilities of teaching staff members include such extra duties as may be assigned by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee will, in accordance with the Board of Education's managerial prerogative, assign teaching staff members extra duties that are in accordance with applicable law and any collective bargaining agreement.

All aspects of assignment to, retention in, dismissal from, and any terms and conditions of employment concerning extra-curricular activities shall be deemed mandatory subjects for collective negotiations in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:13A-23.

Performance in any extra duties may be considered in a teaching staff member's evaluation.

N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4
N.J.S.A. 34:13A-23

Adopted: November 21, 2005
Revised:



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Bridge Year Pilot Program

The New Jersey Commissioner of Education has established a three-year "Bridge Year Pilot Program," under which each school district with a high school shall offer students in the graduating classes of 2021 and 2022 the opportunity to pursue a Bridge Year during the year immediately following their senior year of high school, in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 2020 c.41. The purpose of the Bridge Year Pilot Program shall be to provide participating students an additional year to address learning loss and missed opportunities in extracurricular activities, including spring sports programs, as a result of the public health state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the purpose of this Policy, "host high school" means the high school that a student, who pursues a Bridge Year pursuant to the provisions of P.L. 2020 c.41, attended as a junior in high school.

Under the Bridge Year Pilot Program, each high school in a school district shall designate a school staff member as a Bridge Year Liaison to serve as the school's central point of contact for students interested in pursuing a Bridge Year and for students participating in a Bridge Year. Nothing in P.L. 2020 c.41 shall be construed to require a school district to hire an individual to serve as a Bridge Year Liaison.

To be eligible to participate in the Bridge Year Pilot Program, a student shall be nineteen years of age or younger and shall not turn twenty years of age at any time during the Bridge Year, except that a classified student shall be eligible to participate if the student will turn twenty years of age during the Bridge Year due to services provided pursuant to the student's individualized education program. To participate in the Bridge Year Pilot Program, eligible students must notify their host high school's Bridge Year Liaison by February 15 of their senior year.

The Bridge Year Liaison shall develop, in consultation with Bridge Year students, an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) for each student. To ensure ample time to plan for the implementation of services outlined in the ILP, each Bridge Year student's ILP shall be completed by May 15, but no later than June 1 of the student's senior year.

During the fall semester of the student's Bridge Year, the student shall take between nine and twelve credits at the host high school, the county college that serves the county of the host high school, or a combination thereof. During the spring semester of the student's Bridge Year, the student shall take between nine and twelve credits at the county college that serves the county of the host high school. During either semester of the Bridge Year, a student may also take up to three credits offered by a four-year institution of higher education at any high school in the State or at any other location to



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Bridge Year Pilot Program

fulfill the student's credit requirement. At the conclusion of each semester of the Bridge Year, the host high school shall update the student's high school transcript to reflect any high school credits earned during the Bridge Year.

In the event that a student initially decides to pursue a Bridge Year in the fall semester, but does not continue the Bridge Year in the spring semester, the student's host high school shall release all final transcripts and other records as necessary and as may be requested. A student who decides not to continue the Bridge Year in the spring semester shall not be eligible to participate in a spring sports program or extracurricular activities pursuant to P.L. 2020 c.41.

The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B -1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of P.L. 2020 c.41.

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority shall promulgate regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B -1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of subsection d. of section 2 of this Act.

P.L. 2020 c.41

First Read: August 19, 2021



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Bridge Year Pilot Program

All public school districts, including charter and renaissance schools, that enroll high school students must offer all eligible students the opportunity to participate in the Bridge Year Pilot Program (P.L. 2020 c.41).

To participate in the Bridge Year Pilot Program, eligible students must notify their host high school's Bridge Year Liaison of their intent to participate by February 15 of their senior year.

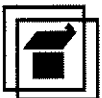
A. Bridge Year Liaison

1. To facilitate compliance with the requirements of the Bridge Year Pilot Program, each public high school in a school district shall designate a school staff member as a Bridge Year Liaison.
2. The school's Bridge Year Liaison shall serve as the school's point of contact for students interested in participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program, facilitate planning of the Bridge Year students' academic services, and regularly communicate with the respective county college regarding students' academic progress.
3. Bridge Year Liaisons shall develop, in consultation with Bridge Year students, an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) for each student.
4. The Bridge Year Liaison:
 - a. Shall collect and report attendance in accordance with the school district's policy for those students participating in classes not at the host high school consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6. Attendance for classes at the host high school shall be collected and recorded in the normal course;
 - b. Must receive reports from the institution of higher education that a Bridge Year student attends at least quarterly. The reports must demonstrate, in a manner specified by the student's ILP, the student's academic progress and performance; and
 - c. Shall ensure that at the conclusion of each semester of the Bridge Year, the student's high school transcript reflects any high school and college credits earned during the Bridge Year in accordance with Policy and Regulation 5460.02.



B. Student Eligibility

1. To be eligible to participate in Bridge Year Pilot Program, a student must:
 - a. Be in the graduating classes of 2021 or 2022;
 - b. Meet all applicable high school graduation requirements by the end of their senior year of high school;
 - c. Be nineteen years old or younger during the entirety of the Bridge Year; a student that would turn twenty years old before the end of their Bridge Year is not eligible to participate;
 - (1) A student with disabilities is eligible to participate if the student will turn twenty years old during the Bridge Year due to services provided under the student's individualized education program (IEP); and
 - d. Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 during the Bridge Year.
2. Students with disabilities who receive special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) must be granted the opportunity to participate in a school district's Bridge Year Pilot Program in accordance with Federal and State special education requirements.
 - a. Regarding the Bridge Year's age requirements in B.1.c. above, school districts that have students with disabilities who have satisfied their State and local graduation requirements, but may need an extra year of services, and will not turn twenty-one years old before June 30, may receive services for another year as determined by the student's IEP team, which includes the student and the student's parent(s).
 - b. The school district's Bridge Year Liaison should collaborate with the student's IEP team as the services provided to students with disabilities should be focused on transition services. Services shall be delivered via the IEP.



C. Academics

1. Individual Learning Plans (ILP)

- a. Each Bridge Year student's academic and co-curricular goals for the Bridge Year shall be defined in an ILP. A student's ILP shall detail the activities and strategies for accomplishing these goals, including, but not limited to, counseling, academic support, coursework, and co-curricular or athletic participation. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) developed an ILP template for school districts, which will be available on the NJDOE's webpage.

- (1) In developing a student's ILP, a school district should utilize the considerations outlined in Bridge Year Pilot Program (P.L. 2020 c.41) Implementation Guidance.

- b. To ensure ample time to plan for the implementation of services outlined in the ILP, each Bridge Year student's ILP shall be completed by May 15, but no later than June 1 of the student's senior year.

2. Academic and Course Requirements

- a. Students participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program shall meet the following academic and course requirements:

- (1) During the fall semester, students shall take between nine and twelve credits at the host high school, county college in the county in which the host high school is located, or a combination thereof;
 - (2) During the spring semester, students shall take between nine and twelve credits at the county college in the county in which the host high school is located;
 - (3) During either semester, students may take up to three credits offered by a four-year institution of higher education at any high school in the State or any other



location to fulfill the student's credit requirements described in C.2.a.(1) and (2) above;

- (4) Students who pursue a Bridge Year and participate in a spring sport sanctioned by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) shall enroll in less than twelve college credits, or otherwise be enrolled in a number of college credits as to not be considered a full-time college student, in each of the fall and spring semesters during the student's Bridge Year;
 - (5) During the Bridge Year, students do not need to participate in health, safety, and physical education as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5, 7, and 8 (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1.vi); and
 - (6) A Bridge Year student shall be considered a non-matriculated student of the respective county college.
- b. School districts that do not operate on the basis of fall and spring semesters should meet the spirit of the academic and course requirements outlined in C.2.a. above and ensure that Bridge Year students meet their total credit requirements for the entirety of the Bridge Year Pilot Program.
3. Graduation
- a. As stated in B.1.b. above, all students must meet all applicable high school graduation requirements by the end of their senior year of high school before participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program.
 - b. The Bridge Year student may participate in the graduation ceremony at the end of his or her senior year or the end of his or her Bridge Year.
 - c. The student's diploma will be withheld and formal matriculation from high school will be deferred until completion of the Bridge Year Pilot Program.



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(1) Participating students are only held to the graduation requirements of their senior year and are not required to meet the graduation requirements of their Bridge Year in order to receive their high school diploma.

(a) For example, 12th graders in the graduating class of 2021 – whose Bridge Year would take place during the 2021-2022 school year – will be held only to the graduation requirements applicable to the class of 2021, as modified pursuant to Executive Order 214 by the Governor of New Jersey, and not to the graduation requirements for the class of 2022.

d. At the conclusion of each semester of the Bridge Year Pilot Program, the host high school shall update the student's high school transcript to reflect any high school credits earned during the Bridge Year.

e. If a student decides to pursue a Bridge Year in the fall semester, but does not continue the Bridge Year in the spring semester, the student's host high school shall release all final transcripts and other records as necessary and as may be requested.

D. Data Reporting

1. NJ SMART

a. The NJDOE will add a new field in the NJ SMART SID Management to indicate whether 12th graders are planning to participate in the Bridge Year Pilot Program in the following year (beginning in the 2020-2021 school year) or whether a 12th grader is currently participating in a Bridge Year Pilot Program (beginning in the 2021-2022 school year).

b. School districts will be required to begin entering this information for all 12th graders beginning with the June 2021 snapshot.

2. School and District Accountability



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Bridge Year Pilot Program

a. Students participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program will continue to be included in the accountability calculations for both Every Student Succeeds Act school accountability and New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) district accountability during their Bridge Year.

(1) This would include graduation rate and chronic absenteeism calculations for both school and district accountability.

(2) Students participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program will not count as graduates for graduation rate calculations until they receive a diploma at the end of the Bridge Year.

E. Athletic Requirements

1. Students participating in the Bridge Year Pilot Program are eligible to participate in NJSIAA sanctioned sports at their host high school – and only at their host high school – during the spring season of their Bridge Year.

a. Bridge Year students are not eligible to participate in fall or winter sports during their Bridge Year.

2. Students must meet the eligibility requirements outlined by the NJSIAA.

3. A student who decides not to continue their Bridge Year in the spring semester shall not be eligible to participate in a spring sports program or extracurricular activities.

4. Bridge Year students participating in spring athletics are subject to the athletic code of conduct, and any other applicable codes, rules, or school district policies as other students participating in the spring sport.

First Read: August 19, 2021

