

POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

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Board of Education Website Accessibility

June 22

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1511 BOARD OF EDUCATION WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

It is the goal of the Board of Education that the information on the school district's internet websites are accessible to individuals with disabilities in compliance with the requirements of Federal law (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and that statute's implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and that statute's implementing regulations at 28 C.F.R. Part 35) and New Jersey law (N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1).

A. Federal Law – American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

1. For the purposes of the Federal law - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and that statute's implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and that statute's implementing regulations at 28 C.F.R. Part 35 and this Policy, "school district website" includes, but is not limited to, the internet home page, all subordinate pages, school or school district department pages, intranet pages and sites, and includes online content and functionality, developed by, maintained by, or offered through a third-party vendor or by using open sources.
2. The accessibility of online content and functionality will be measured according to the most up-to-date version of the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and the Web Accessibility Initiative Accessible Rich Internet Application Suite (WAI-ARIA) 1.0 for web content (benchmarks for measuring accessibility).
3. By conforming to the benchmarks for measuring accessibility set forth above, the Board of Education will ensure that people with disabilities have an opportunity equal to that of their nondisabled peers to access the information on the district's website.



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4. To ensure the district's website conforms with the above benchmarks for measuring accessibility the Superintendent of Schools will designate a school staff member to act as the Website Accessibility Coordinator. The Coordinator will:
 - a. Ensure that in-house staff and contractors responsible for webpages and webpage content development are properly trained on the Board of Education's website accessibility policy and procedures;
 - b. Ensure that all new, newly added, and modified online content and functionality is accessible to people with disabilities as measured by conformance to the above benchmarks by, among other things:
 - (1) Checking the hypertext markup language (HTML) of all new webpages on the website to make sure that accessible elements are used, including "alt" tags, long descriptions, and captions, as needed;
 - (2) Ensuring that webpages are designed in a manner that allows them to be displayed using a visitor's own settings for color and fonts, and can be navigated with a keyboard;
 - (3) If images are used, including photos, graphics, scanned images, or image maps, making sure to include text equivalents for them, using "alt" tags and/or long descriptions for each and ensuring the text equivalents convey the meaningful information presented visually by the image;
 - (4) If online forms and tables are used, making those elements accessible;



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- (5) Ensuring that videos appearing on the website include appropriately synchronized audio description and captions;
 - (6) Ensuring when posting new documents on the website, the documents shall be provided in HTML or another text-based format (even if they are provided in another format, such as portable document format (PDF)). If documents are provided in both formats, provide both formats at the same time so people with disabilities have the same degree of access as others;
 - (7) Periodically enlisting people with a variety of disabilities to test the Board of Education's webpages for accessibility and ease of use and use this information to increase the Board's website accessibility;
 - (8) Periodically coordinating the audit of existing content and functionality of the website to identify online content or functionality that is inaccessible to persons with disabilities; and
 - (9) Developing and carrying out a corrective action plan, when necessary, for making the district's existing web content accessible.
- c. Ensure that alternative means are available for people with disabilities to access information, programs, and services that are normally provided on the Board's website.



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B. New Jersey Law – N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1

1. For the purpose of New Jersey law – N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1 and this Policy, “internet website or web service” includes any webpage, website, web service, online curriculum, or online third party or open educational resource product that is made available to enrolled students or the public by the school district.
2. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1, no school district shall make available to the enrolled students of the district or school or to the public an Internet website or web service unless the Internet website or web service complies with the most up-to-date version of the World Wide Web Consortium’s (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) if the Guidelines are approved by the Commissioner of Education, or any other applicable guidelines or requirements as may be designed or approved by the Commissioner of Education.
3. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1.a. and b., the school district is required to submit a statement of assurance attesting to compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1 as required by the Commissioner of Education.

This Policy establishes minimum standards for the accessibility of web-based information and services considered necessary to meet the district’s goals and ensure compliance with applicable Federal and State laws.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

34 C.F.R. Part 104; 28 C.F.R. Part 35

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35.1

Adopted: November 20, 2017



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Every Student Succeeds Act

Jun 22

2415 EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 that provides Federal funds to help all New Jersey's school children achieve. The purpose of the ESSA is to ensure all students have equitable access to high-quality educational resources and opportunities and to close educational achievement gaps. The Board of Education elects to augment the instructional program of students by projects supported by Federal funds allocated under the ESSA and the district will comply with the requirements of all the programs authorized by the ESSA.

The district may be eligible for several grant programs funded through the ESSA, including, but not limited to, Title I through Title VII. Many of the Titles of the ESSA have several parts and subparts that provide a funding source for specific purposes.

Application Procedure

The district will submit an annual ESSA Consolidated Formula Subgrant Application to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). The school district's application shall include all information required by the NJDOE and the ESSA for the district to be considered for funding under the ESSA.

Covered Programs

Formula grants under the ESSA are non-competitive grants that school districts are eligible for based on the make-up of their student bodies. These formula grants for each Title are committed to different purposes and may be used to support different activities and programs.

Title I

The largest Federal program supporting elementary and secondary education is Title I. The ESSA strengthens Title I requirements for the State's assessments, accountability system, and support for school improvement. The law also requires minimum qualifications for teachers and paraprofessionals in Title I programs.



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Every Student Succeeds Act

The school district must use the best available measure for identifying children from low-income families to: identify eligible school attendance areas, determine the ranking of each area, and determine allocations as identified in the Title I guidelines and regulations.

The school district will offer Title I services to eligible children enrolled in private elementary and secondary schools. The services and benefits will be equitable in comparison to services and benefits for participating public school children.

The school district will provide the New Jersey Department of Education assurances it will provide the maximum coordination between the Title I program, the regular school program, and services provided by other programs for specialized populations. The Title I program will consider the special needs of homeless children, migrant children, children with disabilities and limited English Language Learner (ELL) children. Title I funds will be reserved so that migrant children who are otherwise eligible to receive Title I services, even if they arrive during the school year, are served.

Type of Title I Program

The school district will offer a Target Assistance Title I program.

— School-wide Program

High-poverty schools (a school with at least 40% poverty or any school below 40% poverty with a waiver issued by the New Jersey Department of Education) are eligible to adopt school-wide programs to raise the achievement of low-achieving students by improving instruction throughout the entire school, thus using Title I funds to serve all children in the school. A school-wide program must be established in accordance with the Title I guidelines and regulations and the New Jersey Department of Education.

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Every Student Succeeds Act

X Target Assistance Program

Schools that are not eligible for (or do not choose to operate) school-wide Title I programs must use Title I funds to provide targeted services to low-achieving students. A Target Assistance program must be established in accordance with the Title I guidelines and regulations and the New Jersey Department of Education.

New Jersey Department of Education Accountability System

The district will comply with the accountability system established by the New Jersey Department of Education and outlined in the New Jersey State Plan and approved by the United States Department of Education.

Fiscal Responsibility

The district will comply with the requirements as outlined in Policy 2415.02 Title I – Fiscal Responsibilities in accordance with the NJDOE and the ESSA.

Staff

The district will comply with the staff certification requirements of the ESSA and the NJDOE. In addition, the district will ensure all paraprofessionals meet the requirements as established by the ESSA and as outlined in Policy 4125 – Employment of Support Staff Members.

Parent and Family Engagement

The district will comply with the requirements as outlined in Policy 2415.04 – Title I – District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement and Policy 2415.50 – Title I – School Parent and Family Engagement as applicable in accordance with the NJDOE and the ESSA.

Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) applies to school districts that receive Federal funding from the United States Department of Education. The district will comply with the requirements as outlined in Policy 2415.05 - Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations in accordance with the PPRA.

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Unsafe School Choice Option

In the event there is a school in the district designated as Persistently Dangerous in accordance with the Victims of Violent Criminal Offenses as outlined in the ESSA, the district will comply with the requirements of Policy 2415.06 – Unsafe School Choice Option in accordance with the NJDOE and the ESSA.

Property

Property acquired through Title I funds for use in public or private schools will be acquired in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law, will be held in title by the Board of Education, and will not be used for other purposes so long as it is required in the Title I program. Property no longer required for Title I purposes will be used for other, similarly funded projects or disposed of in accordance with State and Federal guidelines.

Capital Expenses

The Superintendent will assure the district abides by New Jersey's Public Contracts Law; consults appropriate private school officials prior to making any decisions regarding capital expenses; ensure funds that are received to cover capital expenses provide equitable Title I services to private school students; ensure accounts for any capital funding is separately maintained; and assure lease purchase agreements are consistent with applicable statute and administrative code.

Post-Award Requirements

The school district will maintain all project records for five years following the completion of the activity for which the funds were used. The school district will prepare and submit all reports as required by the State Department of Education in a timely manner.

Supplement, Not Supplant

Grant funds provided under Federal programs, including the ESEA of 1965 as amended by the ESSA, shall supplement, not supplant the funds that would, in the absence of such Federal funds, be made available from State and local sources for the education of students participating in programs assisted under the ESEA of 1965 as amended by the ESSA.

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Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee will evaluate the ESSA programs as required by the United States and the New Jersey Departments of Education.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Adopted: September 16, 2013

Revised: August 19, 2021



POLICY

LACEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SCHOOL SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS

2432 SCHOOL SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS

The Board of Education permits and encourages the preparation and distribution of school sponsored publications under staff direction in order that pupils learn the rights and responsibilities of the press in a free society.

No school sponsored publication may contain materials that:

1. Are grossly prejudicial to an ethnic, national, religious, or racial group or to either gender;
2. Libel any person or persons;
3. Infringe rights of privacy protected by law or regulation;
4. Seek to establish the supremacy of a particular religious denomination, sect, or point of view over any other;
5. Advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material that constitutes a direct and substantial danger to the health of pupils;
6. Contain obscenity or material otherwise deemed to be harmful to impressionable pupils;
7. Incite violence, advocate the use of force, or urge the violation of law or school regulations;
8. Advertise goods or services for the benefit of profit-making organizations;
9. Solicit funds for non-school organizations when such solicitations have not been approved by the Board;
10. Promote, favor or oppose any candidate for election to the Board or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or question submitted at any school election; or
11. Except as may be required for literary purposes, do not conform to acceptable standards of grammar, clear expression, and responsible research.



Issues on which opposing points of view have been responsibly promoted may be introduced in a school sponsored publication provided that all proponents are given an equal opportunity to present their views.

In order to ascertain that school sponsored publications do not violate the standards established by this policy, the Board requires that each publication be submitted to the Principal for review in advance of its distribution. A publication that contains material in violation of this policy may not be distributed.

Where the Principal cannot show, within two school days, that the publication violates the prohibitions of this policy, the publication must be released for distribution. The Principal's determination, if any, that the publication violates this policy must be supported by references to specific material in the publication. Material cannot be censored merely because it is personally offensive to the reviewer or may tend to embarrass the Board. Pupils must be offered the opportunity to modify or delete any material that violates this policy.

The Board requires that the distribution of school publications take place only at the places and during the times established by regulation in order that the instructional program is not disrupted.

N.J.S.A. 2C:34-3
N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4

Adopted: 21 November 2005



REGULATION

LACEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SCHOOL SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS

R 2432 SCHOOL SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS

A. Objectives

The program of school sponsored publications is intended to:

1. Disseminate news to those who are actively interested in the school -- pupils, teachers, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), administrators, alumni/ae, and other members of the school community;
2. Provide a means for the expression of thought;
3. Foster a wholesome school spirit and support the best traditions of the school;
4. Promote and encourage other school sponsored activities;
5. Provide training and experience in journalism, graphics, photography, and creative writing;
6. Create an appreciation for the best forms of journalism both in and out of school;
7. Record the history of the school;
8. Assist the district's public information program; and
9. Teach pupils the rights and responsibilities of the press in a free society.

B. Guidelines

1. Excellence in writing will be sought, and the ethics of responsible journalism will determine what will be printed. All facts printed will be based on careful research.
2. Pupils will have a right to their views and attitudes on all issues with the proviso that the tenor of articles and stories submitted will not violate the prohibitions of paragraph C.
3. Constructive criticism is encouraged.



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4. A by-line will accompany every printed article or story.

C. Prohibited Material

No school sponsored publication may contain materials that:

1. Are grossly prejudicial to an ethnic, national, religious, or racial group or to either gender;
2. Libel any person or persons;
3. Infringe rights of privacy protected by law or regulation;
4. Seek to establish the supremacy of a particular religious denomination, sect, or point of view over any other;
5. Advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material that constitutes a direct and substantial danger to the health of pupils;
6. Contain obscenity or material otherwise deemed to be harmful to impressionable pupils;
7. Incite violence, advocate the use of force, or urge the violation of law or school regulations;
8. Advertise goods or services for the benefit of profit making organizations;
9. Solicit funds for nonschool organizations when such solicitations have not been approved by the Board;
10. Promote, favor, or oppose any candidate for election to the Board or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or question submitted at any school election; or
11. Except as may be required for literary purposes, do not conform to acceptable standards of grammar, clear expression, and responsible research.

D. Review Procedures



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1. To ensure compliance with these rules, all material intended for publication in a school sponsored publication will be reviewed by the advisor.
2. The author of material found unacceptable for publication in a school sponsored publication pursuant to paragraph D1 may appeal that decision to the Principal.
3. The Principal will promptly convene a committee comprised of the advisors of the school newspaper, yearbook, and literary magazine and the president of each class.
4. The committee will review the appeal, including the material and the advisor's specific reason for rejecting the material, and will render an advisory opinion to the Principal.
5. The Principal will decide whether or not the material may be published and will deliver his/her decision to the appellant within two school days of the receipt of the appeal.
6. If the Principal denies publication, the author may appeal that decision to the Superintendent and any adverse decision of the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board of Education. At each level, a decision will be made within three school days of the receipt of the appeal.

E. Faculty Duties

Faculty advisors to school sponsored publications shall:

1. Serve in a liaison capacity between the staff of the publication and the faculty and administration;
2. Instruct members of the publication staff in proper journalistic techniques and standards;
3. Offer editorial advice and suggestion when necessary;
4. Interpret the publication guidelines set forth in paragraph C;



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LACEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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5. Review material intended for publication; and
 6. Proofread each publication before it is printed and distributed.
- F. Distribution
1. Distribution of school publications will be limited to those times and places that best serve the purpose of reaching the designated audience without disturbing normal school building activities.
 2. Any materials discarded or not distributed must be retrieved or retained to avoid litter.

Issued: November 21, 2005



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5513 CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Board of Education believes the schools district should help students learn to respect property and instill feelings of pride in their school. The Board requires each student in the district to responsibly care for school property and the school supplies and equipment entrusted to the student by the school district.

Students who cause damage to or lose school property may be subject to disciplinary measures. The Board authorizes the imposition of a fine for the loss, damage, or destruction of a textbook and reserves the right to withhold a report card or diploma from any student whose payment of a fine is in arrears.

A student who demonstrates chronic and/or serious disregard for property may be referred to the Child Study Team.

The Superintendent shall develop rules for the safekeeping and accounting of textbooks and prepare a schedule of fines for lost, damaged, and destroyed textbooks.

N.J.S.A. 18A:34-2; 18A:37-3
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-20.6

Adopted: November 21, 2005
Revised: June 15, 2020



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R 5513 CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

A. Teaching Staff Member Responsibilities

1. Teaching staff members will impress upon all students the importance of the proper care of school property and instruct students in the proper use of school facilities, equipment, instructional materials, and textbooks.
2. Teaching staff members will keep an accurate inventory of textbooks and other materials in their classrooms.

B. General Rules Governing the Use of School Property

1. Students shall not deface the school building, furnishings, or equipment in any manner.
2. Students shall not use school furnishings or equipment for purposes other than those for which the furnishing or equipment was designed and intended.
3. Students will care for school textbooks in accordance with D. below.

C. Distribution and Collection of Textbooks and Materials

1. Textbooks will be identified as the property of the Board of Education.
2. A label shall be affixed to each textbook and will include:
 - a. The name of the Board of Education and
 - b. The name of the school.



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3. The following information will also be entered on the label **or** documented in another manner each time the book is issued to a student:
 - a. The name of the student to whom the book is issued,
 - b. The date on which the book is issued to the student,
 - c. The condition of the book when it is issued, and
 - d. The condition of the book when it is returned.
4. Each classroom teacher will keep a permanent record of the textbooks used in their classroom. The record will include all the information listed in C.2. and C.3. above.
5. A lost textbook must be promptly reported to the teaching staff member who issued the book. A replacement textbook will be issued to the student as soon as possible.
6. Textbooks will be collected and inspected before the end of the school year or marking period, as appropriate. Once inspected, a textbook will be returned to inventory until it is again distributed to a student.
7. Students must remove covers, loose papers, and markings before returning any textbook.
8. Fines may be assessed for lost and damaged textbooks in accordance with a schedule as approved by the Superintendent or designee.



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D. Care of Textbooks by Students

1. Students shall take care not to lose or misplace a textbook or expose a textbook to conditions or circumstances likely to destroy, damage, or degrade it.
2. All textbooks that will be taken home by students must be protected with an appropriate cover to be supplied by the student.
3. Students should not:
 - a. Use pens, pencils, or other implements to mark a place in a textbook;
 - b. Use a textbook to file bulky papers and notes;
 - c. Write in textbooks; or
 - d. Soil textbooks beyond normal use.

E. Fines and Penalties

1. The teaching staff member will inspect each textbook returned and may assess a fine for lost or damaged books. The teacher will prepare a report to be submitted to the Principal or designee that includes:
 - a. The name and number of the textbook damaged or lost;
 - b. The name of the student that lost or damaged a textbook;
 - c. The loss or extent of damage to the textbook; and
 - d. The amount of the fine assessed, if any.
2. In setting fines the teaching staff member may take into account verified extenuating circumstances.



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Care of School Property

3. Teaching staff members will not collect fines. Textbook fines shall be submitted to the Principal or designee.
4. A student who finds their lost textbook, after being assessed and paying a fine, will be reimbursed any fine paid for the lost textbook but may be assessed a fine for any damage done to the book.
5. The Board of Education may withhold a diploma, transcript, or report card until the fine has been paid.

Adopted: November 21, 2005

Revised: June 15, 2020



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5722 STUDENT JOURNALISM

The Board of Education believes it is important to afford students the opportunity to exercise their creativity, passion, and constitutionally-protected freedom of speech. However, the Board also believes this opportunity must be balanced between ensuring students have the right to speak freely while also preserving the ability of district staff to maintain the safe and orderly operation of the school district. The Board adopts this Policy granting students the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-44 and N.J.S.A. 18A:36-45.

For the purpose of this Policy, the following terms shall mean:

“Prior restraint” means a school official informing a student journalist(s) the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of school-sponsored media, subject to the restrictions listed in N.J.S.A. 18A:36-45.b., N.J.S.A. 18A:36-45.c., and the provisions of this Policy, cannot be published in school-sponsored media or a school official takes any action to prevent a student from doing so.

“Prior review” means a school official reviewing school sponsored media before it is published, broadcast by a student journalist at school or distributed, or generally made available to members of the student body.

“School official” means the Principal or designee or an administrative staff member designated by the Superintendent.

“School-sponsored media” means any material that is prepared, substantially written, published, or broadcast by a student journalist at school, distributed or generally made available to members of the student body, and prepared under the direction of a student media advisor. School-sponsored media does not include media intended for distribution or transmission solely in the classroom in which the media is produced.

“Student journalist” means a student who gathers, compiles, writes, edits, photographs, records, or prepares information for dissemination in school-sponsored media.



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Student Journalism

“Student media advisor” means an individual employed, appointed, or designated by the district to supervise or provide instruction relating to school-sponsored media.

Student journalists have the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press in school-sponsored media, regardless of whether the media is supported financially by the district or by use of school district facilities, or produced in conjunction with a class in which the student is enrolled. Subject to 1. through 5. below, student journalists are responsible for determining the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of school-sponsored media. N.J.S.A. 18A:36-45.b. and this Policy shall not be construed to prevent student media advisors from teaching professional standards of English and journalism to student journalists.

This Policy does not authorize or protect expression by a student that:

1. Is libelous or slanderous;
2. Constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy;
3. Is profane or obscene;
4. Violates Federal or State law; or
5. So incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of an unlawful act, the violation of school district policies, or the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

The district shall not authorize any prior restraint of any school-sponsored media except for the types of expression prohibited under N.J.S.A. 18A:36-45.c. and as listed in 1. through 5. above.

A school official may implement a procedure for prior review of school-sponsored media. Any prior review of school-sponsored media required by the school official shall be communicated to the student journalist by the school official and be conducted within three school days after submission to the



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school official by the student journalist. If the school official cannot show the school-sponsored media is prohibited under N.J.S.A. 18A:36-45.c. and 1. through 5. above, within the three school days, the student journalist may release the school-sponsored media.

When a school official determines the restraint of student expression is necessary, the school official shall simultaneously identify at least one of the five prohibitions listed in 1. through 5. above under N.J.S.A. 18A:36-45.c. and in this Policy under which the limitation of student expression is appropriate. This determination shall be provided to the student journalist in writing by the school official that made the determination.

A student journalist may appeal, to the Superintendent or designee, a determination by a school official that the restraint of student expression is necessary. An appeal must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent or designee within five school days of the written determination being communicated to the student journalist. The appeal must include a copy of the written determination and the reasons why the student journalist believes the limitation is not appropriate. The Superintendent or designee may, but is not required to, provide the student journalist an opportunity to present their written appeal in person. The Superintendent or designee will make a determination on the appeal within five school days of receiving the written appeal from the student journalist. The student journalist may appeal a decision of the Superintendent or designee to the Board of Education in writing. The Board of Education will make a decision on the appeal at the first Regular Board Meeting after receiving the written appeal or within ten school days after receiving the written appeal.

A student journalist that violates a provision of this Policy may be subject to appropriate discipline.

The school district shall not sanction a student operating as an independent journalist.

A staff member shall not be dismissed, suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, or otherwise retaliated against solely for acting to protect a student engaged in the conduct authorized under N.J.S.A. 18A:36-44 and N.J.S.A. 18A:36-45 and this Policy, or refusing to infringe upon conduct that is protected by this Policy, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, or paragraph 6 of Article I of the New Jersey Constitution.



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Student Journalism

The Superintendent or designee shall determine reasonable provisions for the time, place, and manner of student expression for the purposes of school-sponsored media.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-44; 18A:36-45

Adopted:



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OPERATIONS

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Emergency and Crisis Situations

Apr 22

8420 EMERGENCY AND CRISIS SITUATIONS

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide for the safety and security in each school building in the district. The district will develop and implement comprehensive written plans, procedures, and mechanisms to provide for the protection of health, safety, security, and welfare of the school population; the prevention of, intervention in, response to and recovery from emergency and crisis situations; the establishment and maintenance of a climate of civility; and support services for staff, students, and their families.

“School security drill” means an exercise, other than a fire drill, to practice procedures that respond to an emergency situation including, but not limited to, a bomb threat, non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation and that is similar in duration to a fire drill.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall consult with law enforcement agencies, health and social services provider agencies, emergency management planners, and school and community resources, as appropriate, in the development of the school district’s plans, procedures, and mechanisms for school safety and security. The plans, procedures, and mechanisms shall be consistent with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 and the format and content established by the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force, pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-64 et seq., and the Commissioner of Education and shall be reviewed annually, and updated as appropriate.

A copy of the school district’s school safety and security plan shall be disseminated to all school district employees. New employees shall receive a copy of the school district’s safety and security plan, as appropriate, within sixty days of the effective date of their employment. All employees shall be notified in writing, as appropriate, regarding updates and changes to the school safety and security plan.

The school district shall develop and provide an in-service training program for all school district employees to enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to safety and security concerns, including emergencies and crises, consistent with the school district’s plans, procedures, and mechanisms for school safety and security and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1. New employees



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shall receive this in-service training, as appropriate, within sixty days of the effective date of their employment. This in-service training program shall be reviewed annually and updated, as appropriate.

The Board shall ensure individuals employed in the district in a substitute capacity are provided with information and training on the district's practices and procedures on school safety and security including instruction on school security drills, evacuation procedures, and emergency response protocols in the district and the school building where the individuals are employed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-7.

Every Principal of a school of two or more rooms, or of a school of one room, when located above the first story of a building, shall have at least one fire drill and one school security drill each month within the school hours, including any summer months during which the school is open for instructional programs, and shall require all teachers of all schools, whether occupying buildings of one or more stories, to keep all doors and exits of their respective rooms and buildings unlocked during the school hours, except during an emergency lockdown or an emergency lockdown drill. Where school buildings have been provided with fire escapes, they shall be used by a part or all of the students performing every fire drill. An actual fire or school security emergency that occurs at a school during the month and that includes activities which are the equivalent of a drill shall be considered a drill for the purposes of meeting the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1.

Every school in the district shall conduct a school security drill within the first fifteen days of the beginning of the school year. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the school district shall ensure that a school security drill that occurs when students are present:

1. Includes clear, developmentally and age-appropriate messaging to students and staff at the conclusion of the drill that the event is a drill and that no current danger exists;
2. Does not expose students to content or imaging that is not developmentally or age-appropriate;
3. Is paired with trauma-informed approaches to address any student inquiries or concerns which may arise as a result of a school security drill;



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4. Does not include the use of fake blood, real or prop firearms, or the simulations of gun shots, explosions, or other sounds or visuals that may induce panic or traumatic response from a student or school district employee;
5. Does not require a student to role play as a victim, but may include first aid training in which students participate; and
6. Is accessible to students with disabilities and mental health conditions, and provides all necessary accommodations for these students.

The Principal or designee shall provide written notification to the parent of a student enrolled in the school following completion of a school security drill, which notice shall be provided to the parent by no later than the end of the school day on which the school security drill is conducted.

The Principal or designee will provide local law enforcement or other emergency responders, as appropriate, with a friendly notification at least forty-eight hours prior to holding a school security drill. A law enforcement officer shall be present at a minimum of one school security drill in each school year in order to make recommendations on any improvements or changes to school security drill procedures that the officer may deem advisable in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1. The school district may permit emergency personnel access to the buildings and grounds of its schools for school security drills that are scheduled outside of school hours and during such times as students are not present.

The school district shall review and update its school security drill procedures using a process that coincides with the review of the school safety and security plan developed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 and collects input from emergency personnel; parents of students enrolled in the school district; teachers and staff employed in the district; mental health professionals; and student government representatives from multiple grade levels.

The school district shall annually track data on such measures and information as required by the Commissioner of Education, and shall report the data to the Commissioner.



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Such drills and in-service training programs shall be conducted in accordance with a building security drill guide and training materials that educate school employees on proper evacuation and lockdown procedures in a variety of emergency situations on school grounds in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1.

The school district will be required to annually submit a security drill statement of assurance to the New Jersey Department of Education by June 30 of each school year. Each school in the district will be required to complete a security drill record form as required by the New Jersey Department of Education.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-3

N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1; 18A:41-2; 18A:41-6; 18A:41-7; 18A:41-7a.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1

Adopted: March 21, 2011

Revised: February 18, 2021

Revised: December 16, 2021



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9320 COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Board of Education recognizes that keeping students and staff safe and helping children understand and respect the law is best served by a close and cooperative relationship with local law enforcement.

The Board adopts this Policy and Regulation 9320 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1. to ensure cooperation between school staff and law enforcement authorities in all matters relating to the unlawful possession, distribution and disposition of controlled dangerous substances, including anabolic steroids, as defined in N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2, drug paraphernalia as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:36-1, alcoholic beverages; firearms, as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1.f.; and other deadly weapons as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1.r.

The Board adopts Policy and Regulation 9320 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1. to ensure cooperation between school district staff and law enforcement authorities in all matters relating to the planning and conduct of law enforcement activities and operations occurring on school grounds, including arrest procedures, undercover school operations, and mandatory reporting the offenses listed in the Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (MOA).

The Superintendent or designee shall institute a program of such communication and cooperation with law enforcement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1.

This Policy and Regulation 9320 shall be submitted for review and approval to the Executive County Superintendent in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(a)2.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually review the MOA as adopted by the Board to ensure this Policy and Regulation 9320 are in accordance with the requirements outlined therein.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1.; 6A:16-6.2; 6A:16-6.4.

Adopted: November 21, 2005



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R 9320 COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

- A. Policy 9320 and this Regulation shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2, the Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (MOA), and shall be:
 1. Developed, implemented, and revised, as necessary, in consultation with the county prosecutor and other law enforcement officials as may be designated by the county prosecutor;
 2. Reviewed and approved by the Executive County Superintendent;
 3. Made available annually to all school district staff, students, and parents;
 4. Consistent with reporting, notification, and examination procedures of students suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and other drugs pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3; and
 5. Consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7, as appropriate.
- B. The school district's policies and procedures for cooperation with law enforcement agencies shall include the following components:
 1. The Superintendent has designated school district staff as liaisons to law enforcement agencies in accordance with the MOA. The MOA includes a description of the liaisons' roles and responsibilities;
 2. Specific procedures for and responsibilities of school district staff in summoning appropriate law enforcement authorities onto school grounds, for the purpose of conducting law enforcement investigations, searches, seizures, or arrests shall be in accordance with the MOA;



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3. Specific procedures and responsibilities of school district staff for notifying parents in instances of law enforcement interviews involving their children shall be consistent with the MOA and the following:
 - a. School officials shall not notify the student's parent(s) in instances of suspected child abuse or neglect;
 - b. School officials shall notify the student's parent(s) when the student is the target of the law enforcement investigation; and
 - c. In all other instances, school authorities shall permit law enforcement authorities to determine whether or when a student's parent should be contacted;
4. Specific procedures for and responsibilities of school district staff in cooperating with arrests made by law enforcement authorities on school grounds shall be in accordance with the MOA;
5. Specific procedures for and responsibilities of school district staff in initiating or conducting searches and seizures of students, their property, and their personal effects shall be in accordance with the MOA and the following:
 - a. All searches and seizures conducted by school district staff shall comply with the standards prescribed by the United States Supreme Court in *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325 (1985).
 - b. Questions concerning searches conducted by school officials shall be directed to the appropriate county prosecutor.
 - c. School officials may request that law enforcement authorities assume responsibility for conducting a search or seizure.



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- d. No school district staff member shall impede a law enforcement officer engaged in a lawful search, seizure, or arrest whether pursuant to a warrant or otherwise.
 - e. School district staff shall permit law enforcement authorities, upon their arrival, to assume responsibility for conducting a search or seizure.
 - f. All inspections of lockers, desks, or other objects or personal property on school grounds involving the use of law enforcement drug-detection canines may be undertaken with only the express permission of the county prosecutor or the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice or the Director's designee in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety.
 - g. Questions concerning the legality of a contemplated or ongoing search, seizure, or arrest conducted by a law enforcement officer on school grounds shall be directed to the county prosecutor or in the case of a search, seizure, or arrest undertaken by the Division of Criminal Justice's designee in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, to the assigned Assistant Attorney General;
6. The procedures for and responsibilities of school district staff, with regard to interviews of students suspected of possessing or distributing a controlled dangerous substance; including anabolic steroids, drug paraphernalia; or a firearm or other deadly weapon shall be in accordance with Policy and Regulation 5530 and the MOA;
7. Procedures for planning, approving, and conducting undercover school operations shall be in accordance with the MOA and the following:
- a. The Superintendent and Principal shall cooperate with law enforcement authorities in the planning and conduct of undercover school operations. The Superintendent shall approve undercover operations without prior notification to the Board of Education.



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- b. All information concerning requests to undertake an undercover school operation, information supplied by law enforcement authorities to justify the need for and explain a proposed undercover school operation, and all other information concerning an ongoing undercover school operation, including the identity of any undercover officer placed in a school, shall be kept strictly confidential by the Superintendent and Principal.
 - c. The Superintendent and Principal shall not divulge information concerning an undercover school operation to any person without the prior express approval of the county prosecutor or designee.
 - d. The Superintendent, Principal, or any other school district staff or Board member who may have been informed regarding the existence of the undercover school operation shall immediately communicate to the county prosecutor or designee if they subsequently learn of information that suggests the undercover officer's true identity has been revealed, the undercover officer's identity or status as a bona fide member of the school community has been questioned, or the integrity of the undercover school operation has been in any other way compromised;
8. The procedures for and responsibilities of school district staff concerning the safe and proper handling of a seized controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, drug paraphernalia, or a firearm or other deadly weapon, and the prompt delivery of the items to appropriate law enforcement authorities shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2, Policy and Regulation 5530, and the MOA;
9. The procedures for and responsibilities of school district staff in notifying authorities of a suspected violation of laws prohibiting the possession; sale or other distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids; drug paraphernalia; or a firearm or other deadly weapon shall be in accordance with Policy and Regulation 5530 and the MOA;



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10. Provisions for requesting uniformed police attendance at extracurricular school events shall be in accordance with the MOA;
11. Provisions for notifying parents as soon as possible whenever a student is arrested for violating a law prohibiting the possession; sale or other distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids; drug paraphernalia; or a firearm or other deadly weapon shall be in accordance with Policy and Regulation 5530;
12. Provisions for in-service training of school district staff concerning policies and procedures established in this subchapter, and the exchange of information regarding the practices of the school district and law enforcement agencies shall be in accordance with the MOA;
13. A MOA with appropriate law enforcement authorities in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6, Policy 9320, and this Regulation;
14. An annual process for the Superintendent and appropriate law enforcement officials to discuss the implementation and need for revising the MOA, and to review the effectiveness of policies and procedures implemented pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2 and the MOA;
15. Provisions for contacting the Chief Executive Officer of the involved law enforcement agency, county prosecutor, and/or Division of Criminal Justice, as necessary, to resolve disputes concerning law enforcement activities occurring on school grounds shall be in accordance with the MOA; and
16. Provisions for directing inquiries or complaints received by school district staff regarding interviews, investigations, arrests, or other operations conducted by sworn law enforcement officers to the appropriate law enforcement agency shall be in accordance with the MOA.



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C. Mandatory Reporting

1. There are seven offenses that must be reported to law enforcement if they qualify as mandatory reports, as set forth and explained in further detail in the MOA. These mandatory reports include:
 - a. Whenever any school district staff has reason to believe a student is in possession of a controlled dangerous substance or related paraphernalia, or is involved or implicated in distribution activities regarding controlled dangerous substances, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3;
 - b. Whenever any school district staff in the course of their employment develops reason to believe that a firearm or other dangerous weapon has unlawfully been possessed on or off school grounds, a weapon was used in an assault against a student or other school personnel, or that any student or other person has committed an offense with, or while in possession of, a firearm, whether or not such offense was committed on school grounds or during school operating hours, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.5, 5.6(d)4 and 6.3(b);
 - c. Whenever any school district staff in the course of their employment develops reason to believe that anyone has threatened, is planning, or otherwise intends to cause death, serious bodily injury, or significant bodily injury to another person under circumstances in which a reasonable person would believe that the person genuinely intends at some time in the future to commit the violent act or to carry out the threat, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(c) through (e);
 - d. Whenever any school district staff in the course of their employment develops reason to believe that a crime involving sexual penetration or criminal sexual contact has been committed on school grounds, or by or against a student during school operating hours or during school-related functions or activities, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(d);



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- e. Whenever any school district staff in the course of their employment develops reason to believe that an assault upon a teacher, administrator, other school Board employee, or district Board of Education member has been committed, with or without a weapon, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.7(d)5;
 - f. Whenever any school district staff in the course of their employment develops reason to believe a “bias-related act” has been committed or is about to be committed on or off school grounds, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(e); and
 - g. Whenever any school employee in the course of their employment develops reason to believe a student is potentially missing, abused, or neglected, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1(a)3i. through iii.
- D. Nothing in the policies and procedures required under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6 and Policy 9320 and this Regulation shall be construed to prohibit school district staff from disclosing information, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.2 and 7.5(f), if necessary, to protect the immediate health or safety of a student or other persons.
- E. The Superintendent or designee shall annually review Policy 9320 and this Regulation as adopted by the Board to ensure each are in accordance with the requirements outlined in the MOA.

Adopted: November 21, 2005

