

POLICY

LACEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

BYLAWS

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REMOTE PUBLIC BOARD MEETINGS DURING A DECLARED EMERGENCY

0164.6 REMOTE PUBLIC BOARD MEETINGS DURING A DECLARED EMERGENCY

A. Purpose – N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1

1. The purpose of N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 et seq. and Bylaw 0164.6 is to ensure a Board of Education or Board of Trustees of a charter school can conduct official public business in an open and transparent manner whenever a declared emergency requires a local public body to conduct a public meeting without physical attendance by members of the public.
2. Nothing in N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 et seq. prevents a local public body from holding a remote public meeting under such other circumstances as may be permitted by the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq.

B. Definitions – N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.2

For the purpose of this Bylaw and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.2, the following words and terms have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Adequate notice" shall have the same definition as at N.J.S.A. 10:4-8; however, for the purpose of N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 et seq., and to the extent not otherwise set forth at N.J.S.A. 10:4-8, the notice transmitted to at least two newspapers for publication may occur through electronic mail or other electronic means that is accepted or requested by the newspaper.

"Annual notice" means a schedule of regular meetings of the public body to be held in the succeeding year noticed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8 and 10:4-18. For the purpose of N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 et seq., the annual notice may be transmitted through electronic mail to newspapers and persons requesting an annual notice pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-18. If the declared emergency prevents the local public body from mailing an annual notice to individuals requesting notice pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-18, it shall be mailed to individuals for whom the local public body does not have an electronic mail account as soon as practicable.



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"Board" or "Board of Education" means a Board of Education or a Board of Trustees of a charter school as defined as a "local public body" or "public body" as per N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.2.

"Declared emergency" means a public health emergency, pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act, P.L. 2005, c. 222 (N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq.), or a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L. 1942, c. 251 (N.J.S.A. App.A.9-33 et seq.), or both, or a state of local disaster emergency that has been declared by the Governor and is in effect.

"Electronic notice" means advance notice available to the public via electronic transmission 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 shall accurately state whether formal action may or may not be taken at such meeting.

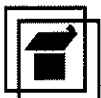
"Internet" means the international computer network of both Federal and non-Federal interoperable packet switched data networks.

"Live streaming" means the live audio and video transmission of a remote public meeting over the Internet.

"Local public body" means any "public body," as that term is defined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-8, with territorial jurisdiction equal to or less than a county. This term shall include Boards of Education, counties, municipalities, boards and commissions created by one or more counties or municipalities, and any authorities subject to N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-1 et seq., including fire districts and other special districts, along with joint meetings or regional service agencies as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:65-3.

"Public business" means and includes all matters which relate in any way, directly or indirectly, to the performance of the public body's functions or the conduct of its business.

"Public meeting" means and includes any gathering whether corporeal or by means of communication equipment which is attended by, or open to, all of the members of a public body, held with the intent, on the part of the members of the body present, to discuss or act as a unit upon the specific public business of that body. Meeting does not mean or include any such gathering (1) attended by less than an effective majority of the



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members of a public body, or (2) attended by or open to all the members of three or more similar public bodies at a convention or similar gathering.

"Remote public meeting" means a public meeting that is conducted by any means of electronic communication equipment permitted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 et seq.

C. Circumstances Under Which a Board of Education May Hold a Remote Public Meeting During a Declared Emergency for Conducting Public Business – N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.3

1. In addition to any circumstances under which public meetings held by means of communication equipment may be authorized pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq., the Board may hold a remote public meeting to conduct public business during a declared emergency if the emergency reasonably prevents the Board from safely conducting public business at a physical location with members of the public present.
2. If, during a declared emergency, the Board holds a physical meeting in a location where, pursuant to State and/or Federal guidelines meant to mitigate the risk of a contagious infection, the declared emergency necessitates capacity restrictions reducing the number of individuals that can be present in the meeting room to an amount below that reasonably expected for the public meeting by the Board, the Board must either hold the public meeting at another location with adequate capacity for the reasonably expected attendance by the public or hold the public meeting as both an in-person meeting and a remote public meeting.
 - a. As set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.4(c), no in-person meeting shall proceed if the room capacity does not permit any member of the public to attend.
3. Nothing in N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.3 shall be interpreted to prevent the Board from broadcasting the audio and/or video of, or taking remote public comment during, a public meeting that the public can physically attend without being subject to public health-related capacity restrictions.



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D. Minimum Technological and Procedural Requirements for Remote Public Meetings Necessitated by a Declared Emergency – N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.4

1. If a declared emergency requires the Board to hold a remote public meeting to conduct public business, the Board shall use an electronic communications technology that is routinely used in academic, business, and professional settings, and can be accessed by the public at no cost.
 - a. Participant capacity on the selected platform should be consistent with the reasonable expectation of the public body for public meetings of the type being held and shall not be limited to fewer than fifty public participants (beyond those persons required to conduct business at the meeting).
2. Remote public meetings may be held by means including, but not limited to, audio-only teleconferencing, electronic communications platforms with video and audio, and Internet-accessible technology, such as live-streaming.
 - a. If an electronic communications platform or Internet-accessible technology is being utilized for a remote public meeting, a telephonic conference line shall also be provided to allow members of the public to dial-in by telephone to listen and provide public comment as otherwise required by law.
 - b. The Board shall require members of the public to state, prior to providing public comment, whether they wish to speak and to identify themselves prior to speaking.
3. The Board shall provide the public with similar access to a remote public meeting as members of the Board, staff of the Board, and any individuals seeking one or more approvals from the Board.



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- a. If a remote public meeting is held by audio and video, the public shall also have the opportunity to participate in the meeting in both audio and video capacities.
 - b. The Board meeting held in-person shall not prohibit members of the public from attending in-person.
4. Any remote public meeting where sworn testimony is being taken shall be broadcast by video, as well as by audio.
 - a. All individuals giving sworn testimony at a remote public meeting shall appear by video in addition to audio.
5. Any presentations or documents that would otherwise be viewed or made available to members of the public physically attending the Board meeting shall be made visible on a video broadcast of the remote public meeting or made available on the Internet website or webpage of the entity governed by the Board, or the Internet website or webpage of the entity responsible for appointing the members of the Board.
 - a. If a document would be made available to individual members of the public in hard copy while physically attending the meeting, the document shall be made available in advance of the meeting for download through an internet link appearing either on the meeting notice, or near the posting of the meeting notice, both on the website and at the building where the meeting would otherwise be held.
 - b. If the Board does not have its own website, such documents shall be available upon request ahead of the meeting and provided through an official social media account if one exists.
6. The Board holding a remote public meeting shall allow members of the public to make public comment by audio, or by audio and video, if the remote public meeting is held over both audio and video, during the meeting.



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- a. The Board shall impose a reasonable time limit, where permitted by law, of five minutes on individual public comments and the same limits shall be placed on the reading of written comments. Each comment shall be read from the beginning, until the time limit is reached. The Board may pass over duplicate written comments; however, each duplicate comment shall be noted for the record with the content summarized. If the Board elects to summarize duplicative comments, the Board must not summarize certain duplicative comments while reading other duplicative comments individually.
7. The electronic communications technology used for a remote public meeting must have a function that allows the Board to mute the audio of all members of the public, as well as allow members of the public to mute themselves.
 - a. Any electronic communications platform or Internet-accessible technology used for a remote public meeting shall also allow the Board to regulate participation by individual members of the public.
 - b. A telephonic audio conference call line must have a queueing or similar function for regulating public comment.
8. Subject to D.5. and D.6. above, the Board shall adopt, by resolution, standard procedures and requirements for public comment made during a remote public meeting, as well as for public comments submitted in writing ahead of the remote public meeting.
 - a. Such procedures and requirements shall include standards of conduct to be followed by members of the public when making comment.
 - b. The procedures and requirements for making public comment, along with an explanation of the audio muting function of the electronic communications platform being used, shall be announced at the beginning of the remote public meeting.



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- c. Regulation of conduct by members of the public on a remote public meeting shall be consistent with law and practices followed if a member of the public disrupts an in-person meeting. The following procedures shall be incorporated:
 - (1) The Board shall facilitate a dialogue with the commenter to the extent permitted by the electronic communications technology;
 - (2) If a member of the public becomes disruptive during a remote public meeting, including during any period for public comment, the member of the Board charged with running the remote public meeting shall mute or continue muting, or direct appropriate staff to mute or continue muting, the disruptive member of the public and warn that continued disruption may result in being prevented from speaking during the remote public meeting or removed from the remote public meeting.
 - (a) Disruptive conduct includes sustained inappropriate behaviors, such as, but not necessarily limited to, shouting, interruption, and use of profanity.
 - (3) A member of the public who continues to act in a disruptive manner after receiving an initial warning may be muted while other members of the public are allowed to proceed with their questions or comments.
 - (a) If time permits, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public have been given the opportunity to make their comment. Should the person remain disruptive, the individual may be muted or kept on mute for the remainder of the remote public



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meeting, or removed from the remote public meeting.

9. Electronic communications platforms and Internet-accessible technologies used for remote public meetings shall be hosted on FedRAMP Moderate Impact Level Authorized dedicated servers or in a FedRAMP Moderate Impact Level Authorized Cloud, unless the host of the dedicated servers or cloud provides annual evidence of satisfactory cybersecurity internal controls through a SOC2 audit report.
 - a. When using cloud services, the technology vendor shall check provider credentials and contracts to ensure FedRAMP Moderate Impact compliance unless annual evidence of satisfactory internal controls is provided through a SOC2 audit report.
- E. Notice of Remote Public Meetings; Statement in Minutes – N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.5
 1. Adequate notice of a remote public meeting must include, in addition to the content required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8, clear and concise instructions for accessing the remote public meeting, the means for making public comment, and where relevant documents, if any, will be made available.
 2. In addition to adequate notice, the Board shall also provide electronic notice of a remote public meeting, except as may be permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-9.3 and E.3. below.
 - a. The electronic notice shall contain the content required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8 and 10:4-9.1 and E.1. above, and shall be posted on the Internet website or webpage of Board and/or school district, or the entity responsible for appointing the members of the Board.
 - (1) If the Board does not have a website, electronic notice shall be provided on an official social media platform of the Board; however, electronic notice is not required if the Board does not have an internet presence.



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- (2) Unless otherwise prohibited by the declared emergency, the content of the electronic notice shall also be posted on the main access door of the building where the public would routinely attend public meetings of the Board in-person. The notice must be viewable from the outside.
3. If during a declared emergency the Board elects to issue electronic notice of a remote public meeting in lieu of, rather than in addition to, adequate public notice, as permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-9.3, the Board shall limit public business discussed or effectuated at the meeting to matters:
 - a. Necessary for the continuing operation of government and which relate to the emergency declaration connected with the declared emergency; or
 - b. Requiring decision during the remote public meeting due to imminent time constraints.
4. Nothing in N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.5 prohibits the Board from holding a remote public meeting, notwithstanding the failure to provide adequate notice and electronic notice where permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-9.
5. If the Board expects to conduct remote public meetings for a series of regularly scheduled meetings advertised in its annual notice, the annual notice shall be revised at least seven days prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting, indicating which meeting(s) will be held as a remote public meeting and shall contain clear and concise instructions for accessing those remote public meetings, the means for making public comment, and where relevant documents, if any, will be made available.
 - a. In addition to the means of notice transmission required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-18, the revised annual notice shall be posted on the Internet website or webpage of the Board and/or school district, or the entity responsible for appointing the members of the Board.



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- b. If the Board does not have its own website, the revised notice shall be provided on an official social media platform unless the Board does not have an Internet presence.
 - c. Unless otherwise prohibited by the declared emergency, the content of the electronic notice shall also be posted on the door of the main public entrance to the building where the public would routinely attend public meetings held by the Board.
 - (1) Notice must also be posted on the door for any designated and clearly delineated handicap accessible entrance. These notices must be viewable from the outside.
- 6. If a previously scheduled Board meeting was to allow public attendance without a public health-related restriction as to capacity, but the Board intends to hold the same meeting as a remote public meeting due to a declared emergency and the change is not reflected in a revised annual notice issued pursuant to E.5. above, the Board shall issue adequate and electronic notice for said meeting pursuant to E.1. and E.2. above as if the meeting were not included in the annual notice.
- 7. At the commencement of every remote public meeting of the Board, the person presiding shall announce publicly, and shall cause to be entered in the minutes of the meeting, an accurate statement to the effect that:
 - a. Both adequate and electronic notice of the meeting has been provided, specifying the time, place, and manner in which such notice was provided;
 - b. Only electronic notice of the meeting has been provided, specifying the time, place, and manner in which such notice was provided, and that discussion and effectuation of public business shall be limited to only those matters:



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- (1) Necessary for the continuing operation of government and that relate to the applicable emergency declaration; or
 - (2) Requiring decision during the remote public meeting due to imminent time constraints; or
- c. That adequate notice and electronic notice was not provided, in which case such announcement shall state:
 - (1) The reason(s) why the matter(s) discussed are of such urgency and importance, as contemplated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-9(b)(1), and the nature of the substantial harm to the public interest likely to result from a delay in the holding of the meeting;
 - (2) That the remote public meeting will be limited to discussion of, and acting with respect to, such matters of urgency and importance;
 - (3) The time, place, and manner in which notice of the meeting was provided; and
 - (4) Either that the need for such meeting could not reasonably have been foreseen at a time when adequate notice and/or electronic notice could have been provided, in which event, such announcement shall specify the reason why such need could not reasonably have been foreseen; or that such need could reasonably have been foreseen at a time when adequate notice and/or electronic notice could have been provided, but such notice was not provided, in which event the announcement shall specify the reason why adequate notice and/or electronic notice was not provided.
- 8. Where the Board is required by law to provide a meeting agenda, or otherwise provides a meeting agenda by practice at its regularly scheduled meetings, prior to the commencement of the



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remote public meeting, the Board shall also make a copy of the agenda available to the public for download through an Internet link appearing either on the meeting notice, or near the posting of the meeting notice on the website.

- a. The notice shall also be posted at the building where the meeting would otherwise be held prior to the commencement of the remote public meeting.

F. Executive or Closed Session During Remote Public Meetings

1. A Board entering into an executive or closed session shall ensure that audio or video of the session cannot be accessed, except by those individuals that are participating in the session.
 - a. A separate non-public conference line or e-platform session may be employed for this purpose.
2. The secretary of the Board should take roll call with each individual affirmatively identifying themselves prior to commencing the closed session.
3. If a closed session is held through a telephonic conference call a separate call-in line should be made available to ensure confidentiality.
4. For closed sessions during remote public meetings held through video conferencing, audio recording should be muted and video recording blocked by a graphic labeled "Executive Session".
5. As with in-person meetings, the Board shall have read into the record the reason(s) for entering into executive session.

N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 et seq.

First Read:



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SUSPENSION (M)

5610 SUSPENSION (M)

The Board of Education recognizes that even the temporary exclusion of a student from the educational program of this district is a severe sanction and one that cannot be imposed without due process.

Any student who is guilty of continued and willful disobedience, or of open defiance of the authority of any teacher or person having authority over him, or of the habitual use of profanity or of obscene language, or who shall cut, deface or otherwise injure any school property, shall be liable to punishment and to suspension or expulsion from school. Conduct which shall constitute good cause for suspension or expulsion of a student guilty of such conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the conduct as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2 and the school district's Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation in accordance with the N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1 et seq.

For the purposes of this Policy, "suspension" means the temporary removal of a student from the regular instructional program.

For the purposes of this Policy, "short term suspension" means a suspension for one, but not more than ten consecutive school days and "long term suspension" means a suspension for more than ten consecutive school days.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-4, a student may be suspended only by the Principal, who shall report any suspension to the Superintendent as soon as possible. The Superintendent shall report the suspension to the Board at its next regular meeting. The suspended student may be reinstated by the Principal or by the Superintendent prior to the second regular meeting of the Board following the suspension, unless the Board reinstates the student at the first regular meeting. No student suspended for reasons of assault upon a person in authority may be reinstated before the Board has held a hearing, within thirty calendar days of the suspension, to consider that student's expulsion from school. At its second regular meeting after the suspension and thereafter, the Board alone may reinstate the student or continue the suspension.



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In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2a, a student in Kindergarten through grade two shall not receive an out-of-school suspension, except when the suspension is based on conduct that is of a violent or sexual nature that endangers others. Students in preschool shall not receive an out-of-school suspension except as provided pursuant to the "Zero Tolerance for Guns Act," N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.

The district shall implement an early detection and prevention program to identify students in preschool through grade two who are experiencing behavioral or disciplinary problems and provide behavioral supports for these students which may include, but not be limited to, remediation of problem behaviors, positive reinforcements, supportive interventions, and referral services. An early detection program may be incorporated into the intervention and referral services required to be established in each school pursuant to State Board of Education regulations.

In each instance of a short-term suspension, the student will be provided oral or written notice of the charges and an informal hearing conducted by the Principal or designee in accordance with the procedures outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2. To the extent the student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the educational process, the student may be immediately removed from the student's educational program and the informal hearing shall be held as soon as practical after the suspension.

In each instance of a long-term suspension, the district shall assure the rights of the student pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3.

The district will comply with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2 and 7.3, in addition to all the procedural protections set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:14, for each student with a disability who is subject to a short-term or long-term suspension.

In each instance of a short- or long-term suspension, the district shall provide academic instruction, either in school or out of school, that addresses the New Jersey Student Learning Standards pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1 et seq., which may include a public education program provided in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9 or 10. These services shall be provided within five school days of the suspension. Educational services provided to a student with a disability shall be provided consistent with the student's Individualized Education Program, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14.



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In the event a student has experienced multiple suspensions or may be subject to a proposed expulsion from school, the Principal shall convene a meeting, as soon as practicable, between the student and a school psychologist, a school counselor, a school social worker, a student assistance coordinator, or a member of the school's intervention and referral services team in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c.

Student records are subject to challenge by parents and adult students in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.7 and Policy and Regulation 8330. The name of a disciplined student will not appear in the agenda or minutes of a public meeting or in any public record of this district; any such student will be designated by code.

N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1; 18A:37-2 et seq.; 18A:37-4; 18A:37-5
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20g vocational districts
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2; 6A:16-7.3; 6A:32-7.7; 6A:14-2.8

Adopted: December 15, 2014
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Revised:



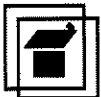
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A. Short-Term Suspensions

1. In each instance of a short-term suspension, the Principal or designee, shall assure the rights of a student suspended for one, but not more than ten consecutive school days by providing for the following:
 - a. As soon as practicable, oral or written notice of charges to the student.
 - (1) When charges are denied, an explanation of the evidence forming the basis of the charges also shall be provided.
 - b. Prior to the suspension, an informal hearing during which the student is given the opportunity to present his or her version of the events regarding his or her actions leading to the short-term suspension and is provided notice of the school district's actions taken pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(c)2 and 5.
 - (1) The informal hearing shall be conducted by a school administrator or designee;
 - (2) To the extent that a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the educational process, the student may be immediately removed from the student's educational program and the informal hearing shall be held as soon as practical after the suspension;
 - (3) The informal hearing should take place even when a school staff member has witnessed the conduct forming the basis of the charge; and
 - (4) The informal hearing and the notice given may take place at the same time.
 - c. Oral or written notification to the student's parent of the student's removal from the student's educational program prior to the end of the school day on which the Principal decides to suspend the student. The notification shall include an explanation of:

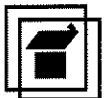


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- (1) The specific charges;
 - (2) The facts on which the charges are based;
 - (3) The provision(s) of the code of student conduct the student is accused of violating;
 - (4) The student's due process rights, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(c)3 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2; and
 - (5) The terms and conditions of the suspension.
- d. Appropriate supervision of the student while waiting for the student's parent to remove the student from school during the school day; and
- e. Academic instruction, either in school or out of school, that addresses the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.
 - (1) The student's academic instruction shall be provided within five school days of the suspension.
 - (2) At the completion of a short-term suspension, the Board of Education shall return a general education student to the general education program for which he or she was suspended.
 - (3) The academic instruction provided to a student with a disability shall be provided consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:14.
2. The Principal suspending the student shall immediately report the suspension to the Superintendent, who shall report it to the Board of Education at its next regular meeting, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-4.
3. An appeal of the Board's decision affecting the general education student's educational program shall be made to the Commissioner, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.4 and N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.3 through 1.17.



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4. For a student with a disability, the provisions set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2 shall be provided in addition to all procedural protections set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

B. Long-Term Suspensions

1. In each instance of a long-term suspension, the Principal or designee shall assure the rights of a student suspended for more than ten consecutive school days by providing the following:
 - a. Notification to the student of the charges prior to the student's removal from school;
 - b. Prior to the suspension, an informal hearing during which the student is given the opportunity to present his or her version of events regarding his or her actions leading to the long-term suspension and is provided notice of the school district's actions taken pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(c)2 and 5;
 - c. Immediate notification to the student's parent of the student's removal from school;
 - d. Appropriate supervision of the student while waiting for the student's parent to remove the student from school during the school day;
 - e. Written notification to the parent by the Superintendent or designee within two school days of the initiation of the suspension, stating:
 - (1) The specific charges;
 - (2) The facts on which the charges are based;
 - (3) The student's due process rights, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(c)3 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3; and
 - (4) Further engagement by the student in conduct warranting expulsion, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, shall amount to a knowing and voluntary waiver of the student's right to a



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free public education, in the event that a decision to expel the student is made by the Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4.

- (a) The Board shall request from the parent and student written acknowledgement of the notification provided pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3(a)5.iv subsequent to the removal of the student from his or her educational program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3.
- f. A list of witnesses and their statements or affidavits, if any, no later than five days prior to the formal hearing, pursuant to j. below;
- g. For a student with a disability, a manifestation determination, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.8 and the Federal regulations;
- h. Information on the student's right to secure an attorney and legal resources available in the community identified pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(c)7;
- i. Either in- or out-of-school educational services that are comparable to those provided in the public schools for students of similar grades and attainments, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25, which may include a public education program provided in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9 or 10.
 - (1) The student's educational services shall be provided within five school days of the suspension.
 - (2) The Board shall make decisions regarding the appropriate educational program and support services for the suspended general education student based on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and the following considerations:
 - (a) A behavioral assessment or evaluation including, but not limited to, a referral to the Child Study Team, as appropriate;



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- (b) The results of relevant testing, assessments, or evaluations of the student;
 - (c) The student's academic, health, and behavioral records;
 - (d) The recommendation of the Superintendent, Principal, or other relevant school or community resource;
 - (e) Considerations of parental input; or
 - (f) Consultation with the Intervention and Referral Services Team, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.
- (3) Educational services provided to a student with a disability shall be provided consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:14.
- j. A formal hearing before the Board that shall, at a minimum:
 - (1) Be conducted by the Board or delegated by the Board to a Board committee, a school administrator, or an impartial hearing officer for the purpose of determining facts or making recommendations.
 - (a) Before taking final action, the Board as a whole shall receive and consider either a transcript or detailed report on the hearing.
 - (2) Include the opportunity for the student to:
 - (a) Confront and cross-examine witnesses, if there is a question of fact; and
 - (b) Present his or her own defense, and produce oral testimony or written supporting affidavits.



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- (3) Take place no later than thirty calendar days following the day the student is suspended from the general education program; and
 - (4) Result in the Board's decision that shall be based, at a minimum, on the preponderance of competent and credible evidence.
- k. A written statement to the student's parent regarding the Board's decision within five school days after the close of the hearing. The statement shall include at a minimum:
 - (1) The charges considered;
 - (2) A summary of the documentary or testimonial evidence from both the student and the administration that was brought before the Board at the hearing;
 - (3) Factual findings relative to each charge and the Board's determination of each charge;
 - (4) Identification of the educational services to be provided to the student, pursuant to i. above;
 - (5) The terms and conditions of the suspension; and
 - (6) The right to appeal to the Commissioner of Education the Board's decision regarding the student's general education program, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.4 and N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.3 through 1.17.
- l. If at any time it is found that the student did not commit the offense, the student shall be immediately returned to the program from which he or she was removed; and
- m. At the completion of a long-term suspension, the Board shall return the general education student to the general education program.



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2. An appeal of the Board's decision regarding the general education student's program shall be made to the Commissioner of Education, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.4 and N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.3 through 1.17.
3. Suspension of a general education student shall not be continued beyond the Board's second regularly scheduled meeting following the suspension, unless the Board so determines, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-5.
 - a. The Board shall determine whether to continue the suspension, pursuant to B.1. above, based on the following criteria:
 - (1) The nature and severity of the offense;
 - (2) The Board's removal decision;
 - (3) The results of relevant testing, assessments, or evaluations of the student; and
 - (4) The recommendation of the Superintendent, after considering input from the Principal or Director of the alternative education program or home or other in-school or out-of-school instruction program in which the student has been placed.
 - b. The Board shall develop and adopt policies and procedures providing for action on the continuation of student suspensions in the event of cancellation of the first or second regular Board meeting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-4 and 5. In this unlikely event, a special committee of the Board, which will include the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, will be appointed by the Board President to make a decision on the continuation of the suspension. The committee's decision will be implemented subject to ratification of the committee's decision at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.
4. When the Board votes to continue a general education student's suspension, it shall review the case, in consultation with the Superintendent, at each subsequent Board meeting for the purpose of determining:



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- a. The status of the student's suspension;
 - b. The appropriateness of the suspended student's current educational program; and
 - c. Whether the suspended student's current placement, pursuant to i. above, should continue or whether the student should return to the general education program.
5. When the Board votes to continue a general education student's suspension, it shall make, in consultation with the Superintendent, the final determination on:
 - a. When the student is prepared to return to the general education program;
 - b. Whether the student will remain in an alternative education program or receive home or other in-school or out-of-school instruction, based on the criteria set forth in B.3.a.(1) through (4) above; or
 - c. Whether to initiate expulsion proceedings in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4, and Policy 5620.
6. The Board shall provide a general education student suspended under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3 with an appropriate educational program or services, based on the criteria set forth under B.1.i.(2) above, until the student graduates from high school or reaches the age of twenty, whichever comes first.
 - a. The educational program shall be consistent with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.2 and 10.2 and 6A:14-2 and 4.3, whichever is applicable; or
 - b. The educational services provided, either in-school or out-of-school, shall be comparable to those provided in the public schools for students of similar grades and attainments, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25.



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7. For a student with a disability who receives a long-term suspension, the Board shall proceed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14 in determining or changing the student's educational placement to an interim or alternate educational setting.
 - a. All procedural protections set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3 shall be afforded to a student with a disability who is subjected to a long-term suspension.
 - b. All decisions concerning the student's educational program or placement shall be made by the student's Individualized Education Program team.
 - c. The provisions of B.2. through B.6. above shall not apply to students with disabilities.

C. Meeting with Student - Multiple Suspensions or Possible Expulsion

1. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c, in the event a student has experienced multiple suspensions or may be subject to a proposed expulsion from school, the Principal shall convene a meeting, as soon as practicable, between the student and a school psychologist, a school counselor, a school social worker, a student assistance coordinator, or a member of the school's intervention and referral services team.
 - a. The Principal may convene such a meeting, if after the student has been suspended for the first time, the Principal upon evaluation deems such a meeting appropriate.
 - b. The purpose of the meeting shall be to identify any behavior or health difficulties experienced by the student and, where appropriate, to provide supportive interventions or referrals to school or community resources that may assist the student in addressing the identified difficulties.
2. The requirements of C.1. above shall not apply when a student's immediate removal or suspension from the school's regular education program is required pursuant to:



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- a. The provisions of the "Zero Tolerance for Guns Act," (N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.);
 - b. N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.1 – Assault by Pupil Upon Teacher, etc.; Suspension; Expulsion Proceedings;
 - c. N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.2 – Offense by Pupil Involving Assault, Removal from Schools Regular Education Program; or
 - d. In any other instance in which the safety and security of other students or school staff requires the student's immediate removal from school.
3. In the instances provided in C.2.a. through d. above, the meeting required in C.1. above shall take place as soon as practicable following the student's removal from the school's regular education program.
 4. The provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c and C. of this Regulation shall be construed in a manner consistent with the "Individuals with Disabilities Act," 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.

Adopted: December 15, 2014
Revised: November 20, 2017
Revised:



POLICY

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Students
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EXPULSION (M)

5620 EXPULSION

The Board of Education recognizes that expulsion from this district is the most severe sanction that can be imposed upon a student.

The Board may expel a general education student from school, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, only after the Board has provided the following:

1. The procedural due process rights set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(c) 3 and 7.3, and as outlined in Policy and Regulation 5610, subsequent to a long-term suspension pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3; and
2. An appropriate educational program or service, based on the criteria set forth under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3(f) and as outlined in Regulation 5610.
 - a. The educational program or service shall be consistent with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.2 - Program Criteria; N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.2 - Home or Out-of-School Instruction for General Education Students; N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.1 et seq. - Special Education, Procedural Safeguards; and N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.3 - Special Education, Program Options, whichever are applicable; or
 - b. The educational services provided, either in school or out-of-school, shall be comparable to those provided in the public schools for students of similar grades and attainments, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25.

An appeal of the Board's decision regarding the cessation of the student's general education program shall be made to the Commissioner of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.3 through 1.17. The Board shall continue to provide an appropriate educational program or service in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4(a)2 until a final determination has been made on the appeal of the Board's action to expel a student.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2a, a student in Kindergarten through grade two shall not be expelled from school, except as provided pursuant to the "Zero Tolerance for Guns Act," N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq. Students in preschool shall not be expelled, except as provided pursuant to the "Zero Tolerance for Guns Act," N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.



The district shall implement an early detection and prevention program to: identify students in preschool through grade two who are experiencing behavioral or disciplinary problems; and provide behavioral supports for these students which may include, but not be limited to, remediation of problem behaviors, positive reinforcements, supportive interventions, and referral services. An early detection program may be incorporated into the intervention and referral services required to be established in each school pursuant to State Board of Education regulations.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c, in the event a student may be subject to a proposed expulsion from school, the Principal shall convene a meeting, as soon as practicable, between the student and a school psychologist, a school counselor, a school social worker, a student assistance coordinator, or a member of the school's intervention and referral services team. The purpose of the meeting shall be to identify any behavior or health difficulties experienced by the student and, where appropriate, to provide supportive interventions or referrals to school or community resources that may assist the student in addressing the identified difficulties.

The requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c shall not apply when a student's immediate removal or suspension from the school's regular education program is required pursuant to: the provisions of the "Zero Tolerance for Guns Act," (N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.); N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.1 – Assault by Pupil Upon Teacher, etc; Suspension; Expulsion Proceedings; N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.2 – Offense by Pupil Involving Assault, Removal from Schools Regular Education Program; or in any other instance in which the safety and security of other students or school staff requires the student's immediate removal from school. In these instances, the meeting required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c shall take place as soon as practicable following the student's removal from the school's regular education program.

The provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c shall be construed in a manner consistent with the "Individuals with Disabilities Act," 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.

A student with a disability shall only be expelled from his or her current program in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14 et seq. An expulsion of a student with a disability from a receiving school shall be handled in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36A-9; 18A:37-2 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4; 6A:14 et seq.

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PERSONNEL RECORDS

8320 PERSONNEL RECORDS

The Board of Education believes that the orderly operation of the school district requires the retention of all records bearing upon an employee's qualifications for employment and employment history.

The Board requires that sufficient records be compiled and maintained to demonstrate an employee's qualifications for the position assigned; compliance with Federal, State, and local benefit programs; conformity to district rules; the proper conduct of evaluations; and the employee's entitlement, as appropriate, to tenure and seniority.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the custody and maintenance of personnel records. A single, central file of documents shall be maintained; temporary, subsidiary records will be permitted for ease in data gathering only. An employee's personnel file shall be maintained for six years following his/her termination of district service, provided the employment history record card is maintained a minimum of eighty years.

A Board of Education and private agencies that provide educational services by means of public funds shall make employee records and information available for public access pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10, the Open Public Records Act, but in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-120.(d) and 121.(d), and as provided in Policy and Regulation 8320 - Section H.

Personnel records may be inspected by school administrators to the extent that such inspection is required in the performance of the inspector's duties.

Board members may have access to confidential information in the personnel files of only those employees recommended for or subjected to an employment action requiring a vote of the Board or where access to the information is essential for the performance of the Board member's duties. Board member access to personnel files is limited to the relevant portion of the file and is available only through the Superintendent. Board members may freely inspect employment applications filed by candidates for district positions.

An employee may inspect his/her personnel file provided that the employee requests such access in writing, reviews the record in the presence of the administrator designated to maintain the file, makes no alteration or addition to



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the file nor removes any material from it, and signs a log attached to the file indicating the date on which it was inspected.

An employee may appeal to the Superintendent the inclusion or exclusion of records or for appropriate administrative review of the accuracy of any record in his/her personnel file.

The Superintendent shall prepare rules enumerating the records to be maintained for each employee of this district, including, as a minimum and as appropriate to the position, the completed application form, employment contract(s), a copy of the employee's qualifying certification, transcripts, report of an employment physical examination, oath of allegiance, criminal background check, income tax forms, retirement registration, hospitalization forms, annuity forms, rate of compensation, attendance record, assignments to positions, completed evaluations, reports of disciplinary incidents, records of special awards or distinctions, and reports of annual or special physical and mental examinations.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-14.2; 18A:40-19; 18A:66-32

N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-4.3

Adopted: November 21, 2005

Revised:



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A. Content of Record

1. A personnel file shall be assembled and maintained for each person employed by this district. Each file shall contain the original or copies, as appropriate, of the following documents regarding the employee:
 - a. The employee's current correct name, address, telephone number, and birthdate;
 - b. Application form, including transcripts of all academic work, records of prior military service, and other supporting documents;
 - c. Annual employment contract and/or annual salary notice, signed by the employee;
 - d. Certificates and/or licenses required for employment;
 - e. Documentation of fulfillment of requirements for any change in salary classification;
 - f. Income tax forms;
 - g. Retirement registration;
 - h. Hospitalization forms;
 - i. Annuity forms;
 - j. Rate of compensation;
 - k. Attendance record, including the starting and ending dates of all leaves of absence, whether the leave was paid or unpaid, and the purpose for which such leaves were granted;
 - l. Assignment to positions, including position title and building to which assigned;
 - m. Completed evaluations;



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- n. Reports of disciplinary incidents;
 - o. Records of special awards, commendations, or distinctions;
 - p. Oath of allegiance;
 - q. Reports of routine physical examinations; and
 - r. Reports of physical and mental examinations required for cause.
- 2. No information will be placed in an employees' file that does not pertain to the employee's position in this district and the performance of the employee's duties.
 - 3. The content of personnel files will be reviewed annually and material no longer required will be destroyed.
- B. Custodian of Personnel Records
- 1. The Superintendent is custodian of all personnel records.
 - 2. Personnel records shall be maintained in the office of the Superintendent, who shall be records manager responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the files and for supervising access to the files.
- C. Notice of Content of Files
- 1. Each employee shall be informed of the content of his/her personnel file.
 - 2. Each employee will be notified of the inclusion in his/her file of any document that was not received from the employee or at the direction of the employee.
 - a. No evaluation form will be placed in a personnel file until it has been reviewed and signed by the employee.
 - b. No copy of a memorandum or letter sent by an administrator or other school official to an employee will be placed in the employee's file unless the original and copy include the notation "cc: Personnel File" or other clear indication of the author's intention to place the memorandum or letter in the employee's file.



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- c. No report or letter or memorandum from any source, other than documents referred to in paragraph C2b above, may be placed in an employee's file until a copy of the same has been delivered to the employee.

D. Employee Access to Personnel Records

1. Each employee shall be granted access to his/her personnel file in accordance with these regulations, except as may have been negotiated with the employee's majority representative.
2. Written request for access shall be submitted to the Superintendent's Office. Except in unusual circumstances, access shall be granted only during the regular working hours of the office in which the file is kept.
3. The employee shall review the record in the presence of the Superintendent or his/her designee and, at the employee's request, a representative of the employee.
4. No alteration or addition or deletion may be made to the file, except that the employee may append to any document in the file his/her comment on that document.
5. The employee may hand copy any portion of his/her file and may receive photocopies of records on payment of the copying fees established for copies of public records.

E. Appeal of Content of the File

1. The employee may appeal to the Superintendent the exclusion or inclusion of any portion of his/her personnel file or the accuracy of any information in the file.
2. An appeal must be made in writing on a form available in the office of the Superintendent.
3. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal as soon as possible, but not later than three (3) working days from the time the written appeal is submitted. The Superintendent's decision shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the employee and the records manager responsible for the employee's file.



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4. Except as may be otherwise provided by contract negotiated with the employee's majority representative, the appellant may appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Board; a decision of the Board may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education.

F. Access by Board Members and School Officials

1. Personnel files may be inspected by school officials only as required in the discharge of their professional or statutory duties and to the extent required in the discharge of those duties.
2. Personnel files may be inspected by Board members when such inspection relates to the Superintendent's recommendation of a candidate for employment, promotion, transfer, dismissal, or discipline.
3. Much of the information included in an employee's file is confidential; access to the employee's file for professional reasons necessarily imposes on the person reviewing the file the duty to respect the confidentiality of the record.

G. Public Access to Employee Records and Information

1. A Board of Education and private agencies that provide educational services by means of public funds shall make employee records and information available for public access, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10, the Open Public Records Act, but in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-120(d) and 121.(d) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-4.3 and as outlined in this Regulation.
2. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 47:1A-10, notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. or any other law to the contrary, the personnel or pension records of any individual in the possession of a public agency, including but not limited to, records relating to any grievance filed by or against an individual, shall not be considered a government record and shall not be made available for public access, except that:
 - a. An individual's name, title, position, salary, payroll record, length of service, date of separation and the reason therefore, and the amount and type of any pension received shall be a government record;
 - b. Personnel or pension records of any individual shall be accessible when required to be disclosed by another law, when disclosure is essential to the performance of official duties of a person duly authorized by the State of



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New Jersey or the United States, or when authorized by an individual in interest; and

- c. Data contained in information which disclose conformity with specific experiential, educational, or medical qualification required for government employment or for receipt of a public pension, but not including any detailed medical or psychological information, shall be a government record.
3. Information related to the evaluation of a particular employee shall be maintained by the school district, be confidential, and not be accessible to the public pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq., as amended and supplemented, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-120.d and 18A:6-121.d.

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