

## HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (M)

2422

### **M**

#### **Administrative Guidance**

New NJDOE Regulations require:

- MS Instruction on distribution of sexually explicit images
- 20 minutes of recess for grades K-5
- Students may not have recess suspension more than twice per week suspension must include restorative justice

We will be compliant in the Fall and will be reviewing curriculum documents to make sure that we are compliant with existing requirements.

For Reference, see [Policy 2422](#)

For Track Changes, see [Policy 2422](#)

#### **Strauss Esmay Guidance**

Policy Guide 2422 has been revised to reflect the following changes:

1. “Core Curriculum Content Standards” or “CCCS” has been changed to reflect “New Jersey Student Learning Standards” or “NJSLS.” Strauss Esmay previously addressed this issue in the definition section of the Introduction Bylaw by indicating any place in the Policy and Regulation Manual that references “CCCS” shall mean “NJSLS.” However, references to “CCCS” will be updated to “NJSLS” as individual Policy and Regulation Guides are revised as required by statute or administrative code revisions.
2. Strauss Esmay’s Policy and Regulation Guides do not typically provide details regarding learning standards; however, the health and physical education standards reference many statutory responsibilities for school districts and are listed in this Policy Guide to serve as an additional notice to school districts. The revised Policy Guide removes the details under each statutory requirement as these details are included in the NJSLS and are incorporated by reference. In addition, listing the basic requirements of the statute and removing the details included in the NJSLS avoids having to revise and re-adopt this Policy Guide when the NJSLS are revised in the future.
3. P.L. 2018, Chapter 73 was approved on August 10, 2018 and requires school districts to provide at least twenty minutes of daily recess for students in Kindergarten through fifth grade. This recess time cannot be counted toward the health and physical education requirement of 150 minutes per week. Policy Guide 2422 has also been

revised to incorporate the provisions of this new statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.31. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has indicated guidance will be provided to school districts on meeting the requirements of this new law and the health and physical education requirements. The NJDOE informed districts this requirement is effective for the 2019-2020 school year.

4. There is an additional statutory requirement added to this Policy Guide. N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.33 was passed on August 10, 2018 and requires the Board to include instruction once during middle school on the social, emotional, and legal consequences of distributing and soliciting sexually explicit images through electronic means as part of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education. Strauss Esmay has added this requirement to Policy Guide 2422 as Number 16.

The inclusion of the recess requirements in this Policy Guide along with the other statutory requirements make this Policy Guide mandated.

Policy Guide 2422 is MANDATED

The Board of Education requires all students to participate in a comprehensive, sequential, health and physical education program aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) that emphasizes the natural interdisciplinary connection between wellness and health and physical education. The primary focus of the NJSLS is the development of knowledge and skills that influence healthy behaviors within the context of self, family, school, and the local and global community.

The NJSLS incorporate New Jersey statutes related to health and well-being of students in New Jersey schools. The following statutes incorporated into the NJSLS include, but are not limited to, the following requirements:

1. Accident and Fire Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-2) requires regular courses of instruction in accident and fire prevention.
2. Breast Self-Examination (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5.4) requires offering instruction on breast self-examination for students in grades seven through twelve.
3. Bullying Prevention Programs (N.J.S.A. 18A:37-17) requires the establishment of bullying prevention programs.
4. Cancer Awareness (N.J.S.A. 18A:40-33) requires the development of a school program on cancer awareness by the Commissioner of Education.

5. Dating Violence Education (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.23a) requires instruction regarding dating violence in grades seven through twelve.
6. Domestic Violence Education (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.23) allows instruction on problems related to domestic violence and child abuse.
7. Gang Violence Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.26) requires instruction in gang violence prevention for elementary school students.
8. Health, Safety, and Physical Education (N.J.S.A. 18A:35) requires that all students in grades one through twelve participate in at least two and one-half hours of health, safety, and physical education each school week.
9. Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Controlled Dangerous Substances, and Anabolic Steroids (N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1) requires instructional programs on drugs, alcohol, anabolic steroids, tobacco, and controlled dangerous substances and the development of curriculum guidelines for each grade Kindergarten through twelve.
10. Lyme Disease Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5.1 through 5.3) requires the development of Lyme Disease curriculum guidelines and training to all teaching staff members who instruct students with Lyme Disease.
11. Organ Donation (N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-4.3) requires information relative to organ donation to be given to students in grades nine through twelve.
12. Sexual Assault Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.3) requires the development of a sexual assault prevention education program by the Commissioner of Education for utilization by school districts.
13. Stress Abstinence (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.19 through N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.22), also known as the “AIDS Prevention Act of 1999,” requires sex education programs to stress abstinence.
14. Suicide Prevention (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-111 through 113) requires instruction in suicide prevention in public schools.
15. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/Automated External Defibrillator (AED) (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.28 and 18A:35-4.29) requires public high schools and charter schools to provide instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator to each student prior to graduation.
16. Sexually Explicit Images through Electronic Means (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.32 and 4.33) requires instruction, once during middle school, on the social,

emotional, and legal consequences of distributing and soliciting sexually explicit images through electronic means.

17. Other Statutory or Administrative Codes. The Board will incorporate into its health and physical education curriculum any other requirements of the NJSLS in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.7, any student whose parent presents to the Principal a signed statement that any part of the instruction in health, family life education, or sex education is in conflict with his/her conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result.

The Board of Education must provide two and one-half hours of health, safety, and physical education courses in each school week, or proportionately less when holidays fall within the week. Recess period(s) shall not be used to meet the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5, 7, and 8.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.31, the Board of Education shall provide a daily recess period of at least twenty minutes for students in grades Kindergarten through five. A recess period is not required on a school day in which the day is substantially shortened due to a delayed opening or early dismissal. The recess period shall be outdoors, if feasible. A student shall not be denied recess for any reason, except as a consequence of a violation of the school district's Code of Student Conduct, including a harassment, intimidation, or bullying (HIB) investigation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13 et seq. Students may not be denied recess more than twice per week for a violation of the Code of Student Conduct or HIB investigation and these students shall be provided restorative justice activities during the recess period. Restorative justice activities mean activities designed to improve the socioemotional and behavioral responses of students through the use of more appropriate and less punitive interventions thereby establishing a more supportive and inclusive school culture. The student's recess period should be scheduled in a manner that does not interfere with the implementation of a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). School staff may deny recess for a student on the advice of a medical professional, school nurse, or the provisions of a student's IEP and/or 504 Plan.

A copy of the NJSLS for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education and all related curriculum/course guides and instructional material shall be available for public inspection in each school.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.31; 18A:35-5; 18A:35-7; 18A:35-8

Adopted:



## PRACTICE AND PRE-SEASON HEAT-ACCLIMATION FOR SCHOOL-SPONSORED ATHLETICS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2431.3

### **Administrative Guidance**

This updated policy allows the district the option to comply with the NJSIAA guidelines, with which we are already compliant. The policy also requires our protocols to be reviewed by the district physician.

For Reference, see [Policy 2431.3](#)

For Track Changes, see [Policy 2431.3](#)

### **Strauss Esmay Guidance**

#### P 2431.3 – Practice and Pre-Season Heat-Acclimation for School-Sponsored Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities (Revised)

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) recently published a revised version of their recommended Pre-Season Heat-Acclimation Guidelines for school districts with the purpose of minimizing injury and enhancing the player's health, performance, and well-being. The New Jersey Department of Education August 2018 Broadcast recommends districts apply these guidelines for all school-sponsored athletic programs and extra-curricular activities during warm weather. Policy Guide 2431.3 has been revised to include two options. The first option authorizes the Superintendent of Schools or designee to develop and approve a practice and pre-season heat-acclimation procedure and to ensure its implementation for *all* school-sponsored athletic programs and extra-curricular activities during warm weather and does not include detailed procedures in the Policy Guide. The second option requires implementation of the NJSIAA recommended procedures for *all* school-sponsored athletic programs and extra-curricular activities during warm weather months. Both options extend these procedures to *all* school-sponsored athletic programs and extra-curricular activities during warm weather which also explains the revision to the Policy title. Regardless of the option selected, this Policy Guide and any practice and pre-season heat-acclimation procedures should be reviewed by administrative and athletic department staff members. In addition, the Policy Guide requires the school physician to review the pre-season and heat-acclimation procedures and this Policy prior to Board approval. Implementing pre-season heat-acclimation procedures for students is not required by any statute or administrative code, but this Policy Guide is highly recommended for school districts with school-sponsored activities occurring during the warm weather months. This revised Policy Guide should replace a district's current Policy 2431.3.

Policy Guide 2431.3 is RECOMMENDED

### **Proposed Policy Language**

The Board of Education adopts this Policy as a measure to protect the safety, health, and welfare of students participating in school-sponsored athletic programs and extra-curricular activities. The Board believes practice and pre-season heat-acclimation guidelines for students will minimize injury and enhance a student's health, performance, and well-being.

Therefore, the Board of Education requires the implementation of the practice and pre-season heat-acclimation procedures as recommended by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) for students participating in all school-sponsored athletic programs and extra-curricular activities during warm weather months. The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall ensure the implementation of the Practice and Pre-Season Heat-Acclimation Procedures.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee may reduce practice times or adjust other provisions that would reduce a student's exertion if weather and/or temperature warrant such action.

This Policy and the school district's practice and pre-season heat-acclimation procedure shall be approved by the school district's physician prior to implementation.

Adopted:

## **P 2610 – Educational Program Evaluation (M) (Revised)**

### **Administrative Guidance**

New regulations require multiple measures of student achievement. We are already compliant with this change.

For Reference, see [Policy 2610](#)

For Track Changes, see [Policy 2610](#)

### **Strauss Esmay Guidance**

Policy Guide 2610 has been revised to provide additional details regarding the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) requirement that districts monitor the progress of students and measure the effectiveness of programs, initiatives, and strategies. NJQSAC Operations Indicator #4 on the new District Performance Review (DPR) requires a school district to use multiple (more than two) sources of data to monitor student achievement and to evaluate the effectiveness of programs, initiatives, and strategies. Current Policy Guides 2220, 2428.1, 2610, and 2622 and Policy and Regulation Guides 2624 indicate student progress will be monitored and the educational program will be evaluated in multiple ways to meet the requirements of the DPR Operations Indicator #4, but these Guides do not specifically include the phrase “the use of multiple sources of data” which is also not included in any statute or administrative code. Policy Guide 2610 has been revised to explicitly reference “the use of multiple sources of data” for monitoring student progress and evaluating the educational program. This Policy Guide is mandated.

Policy Guide 2610 is MANDATED

### **Proposed Policy Language**

#### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM EVALUATION (M)**

2610

#### **M**

The Board of Education directs the Superintendent to develop and implement a systematic plan for the continuous evaluation of the educational program against the educational goals established by this Board. The Superintendent shall employ such tests and methods that will ensure decision making is data driven and a variety of sources of data are used to analyze and monitor student achievement and progress, as well as evaluate school programs. Wherever possible, the assessment program shall follow evaluation procedures set forth in the course guides.



The Superintendent shall maintain a calendar of assessment activities and shall make periodic evaluation reports to the Board that evaluate the progress of students and the effectiveness of staff members. The Superintendent shall use multiple (more than two) sources of data to monitor student achievement and the progress of students. The Superintendent shall also use multiple (more than two) sources of data to evaluate the effectiveness of programs, initiatives, and strategies.

The Board will annually make available to the public the collective progress of students toward the goals of the district. The Board will annually, prior to the end of the school year and in conjunction with appropriate members of the administrative staff, conduct a review of the educational progress of the district, assess district and student needs, and establish long range and short range objectives for the educational program. The Board's annual report will be submitted to the Commissioner of Education as required.

The Superintendent shall annually recommend improvements in the educational program based on the Board's evaluation of the district's program. The Board reserves the right to employ experts from outside the school district to serve in the evaluation process.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-11

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:19-2.6 [**vocational districts**]

Adopted:

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## **P 5756 – Transgender Students (M) (Revised)**

### **Administrative Guidance**

The new regulations require specific procedures with which we have been mostly compliant. Appropriate staff will be trained regarding these changes.

For Reference, see [Policy 5756](#)

### **Strauss Esmay Guidance**

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-41 was approved in July 2017 and requires the development and distribution of guidelines concerning transgender students by the Commissioner of Education. The new law required the guidelines to include, but not be limited to, information and guidance for New Jersey's public schools. The Commissioner established a working group that assisted in developing the guidelines that were recently released in October 2018. The October 2018 Transgender Student Guidance for School Districts (Guidance) includes seven sections: Definitions/Terms; Student-Centered Approach; Safe and Supportive Environment; Confidentiality and Privacy; School Records; Activities; and Use of Facilities. The Guidance also provides a document "Transgender Guidance Resources: 2018" that includes resources and professional development opportunities for school and district staff. Strauss Esmay developed Policy Guide 5756 that aligns with the Guidance to replace a district's existing Policy Guide 5756. Any use of the terms "shall," "should," "will," and "may" in the Policy Guide aligns verbatim with the Guidance document. It is recommended any revisions to the terms "shall," "should," "will," and "may", as they appear in the Guidance and Policy Guide 5756 be reviewed by the Board Attorney. Below are a few important issues in the Guidance and Policy Guide 5756:

1. The school district shall accept a student's asserted gender identity and parental consent is not required.
2. In the event a parent objects to the minor student's name change request, the Superintendent or designee should consult the Board Attorney regarding the minor student's civil rights and protections under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination.
3. The Principal or designee, during an initial meeting with a student, should also discuss with the student, and any other individuals at the student's request,



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the risks associated with the student's transgender status being inadvertently disclosed.

4. Due to a specific and compelling need, such as the health and safety of a student or an incident of a bias-related crime, a school district may be obligated to disclose a student's status. In this event, the Principal or designee should inform the student the school or school district intends to disclose the student's transgender status for the student's protection and well-being. Prior to disclosure, the student should be given the opportunity to personally disclose the information.

5. If a student has expressed a preference to be called by a name other than their birth name, permanent student records containing the student's birth name should be kept in a separate, confidential file. This file should only be shared with appropriate school staff members after consultation with a student. A separate file containing records bearing the student's chosen name may also be kept.

6. With respect to gender-segregated classes or athletic activities, including intramural and interscholastic athletics, all students must be allowed to participate in a manner consistent with their gender identity.

7. All students are entitled to have access to restrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities in accordance with their gender identity to allow for involvement in various school programs and activities. Non-transgender students should also be afforded the option to use a private facility, such as a unisex facility or the nurse's restroom, should the student feel uncomfortable.

Policy Guide 5756 is mandated and should replace an existing Policy Guide 5756 if the Board previously adopted a transgender Policy for students.

Policy Guide 5756 is MANDATED

### **Proposed Policy Language**

#### 5756 TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment for all students. The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (NJLAD), N.J.S.A. 10:5-12(11)(f), generally makes it unlawful for schools to subject individuals to differential treatment based on gender identity or expression. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972



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(“Title IX”) specifically prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in Federally-funded education programs and activities [20 U.S.C. § 1681(a)].

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-41 directs the Commissioner of Education to establish guidelines outlined in this Policy to provide direction for schools in addressing common issues concerning the needs of transgender students, and to assist schools in establishing policies and procedures that ensure a supportive and nondiscriminatory environment for transgender students.

### Definitions/Terms

A safe and supportive environment within a school begins with understanding and respect. The Board believes students, teachers, and administrators should be provided with common terminology associated with gender identity. The terms listed below are commonly used by advocacy and human rights groups, however students may prefer other terms to describe their gender identity, appearance, or behavior. It is recommended school personnel discuss with the student the terminology and pronouns each student has chosen.

“Gender identity” means a person’s internal, deeply held sense of gender. All people have a gender identity, not just transgender people. For transgender people, the individual’s internal gender identity is not the same as the gender assigned at birth.

“Gender expression” means external manifestations of gender, expressed through a person’s name, pronouns, clothing, haircut, behavior, voice, and/or body characteristics. Society identifies these cues as masculine and feminine, although what is considered masculine or feminine changes over time and varies by culture.

“Assigned sex at birth (ASAB)” refers to the biological sex designation recorded on a person’s birth certificate upon the initial issuance of that certificate, should such a record be provided at birth.

“Gender assigned at birth” refers to the gender a child is assigned at birth or assumed to be, based on their biological sex assigned at birth.

“Sexual orientation” describes a person’s enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to another person. Gender identity and sexual orientation are not the same. A transgender person may be straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or asexual. For example, a person who transitions from male to female and is attracted solely to men may identify as a straight woman.



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“Transgender” is a term for an individual whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from those typically associated with the sex and gender assigned at birth.

“Transition” is the process by which a transgender person recognizes that their authentic gender identity is not the same as the gender assigned at birth, and develops a more affirming gender expression that feels authentic. Some individuals socially transition, for example, through dress, use of names and/or pronouns. Some individuals may undergo physical transition, which might include hormone treatments and surgery. School district personnel should avoid the phrase “sex change,” as it is an inaccurate description of the transition process; the process is more accurately described as “gender-confirming.”

“LGBTQ” is an acronym for “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning.”

“Gender nonconforming” describes a person whose gender expression does not conform to the gender expectations of their family or community. Gender nonconformity is not necessarily an indication that a youth is transgender; many non-transgender youth do not conform to stereotypical expectations.

“Gender expansive, Gender diverse, Gender fluid, Gender non-binary, A gender, Gender queer” are terms that convey a wider, more flexible range of gender identity and/or expression than typically associated with the binary gender system. For example, students who identify as gender queer or gender fluid might not identify as boys or girls; for these students, the non-binary gender identity functions as the student’s gender identity.

“Cisgender” refers to individuals whose gender identity, expression, or behavior conforms with those typically associated with their sex assigned at birth.

### Student-Centered Approach

The school district shall accept a student’s asserted gender identity; parental consent is not required. A student need not meet any threshold diagnosis or treatment requirements to have his or her gender identity recognized and respected by the school district, school, or school staff members. In addition, a legal or court-ordered name change is not required. There is no affirmative duty for any school district staff member to notify a student’s parent of the student’s gender identity or expression.



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There may be instances where a parent of a minor student disagrees with the student regarding the name and pronoun to be used at school and in the student's education records. In the event a parent objects to the minor student's name change request, the Superintendent or designee should consult the Board Attorney regarding the minor student's civil rights and protections under the NJLAD. School staff members should continue to refer to the student in accordance with the student's chosen name and pronoun at school and may consider providing resource information regarding family counseling and support services outside of the school district.

School districts should be mindful of disputes between minor students and parents concerning the student's gender identity or expression. Many support resources are available through advocacy groups and resources from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families and New Jersey Department of Education's "Child Abuse, Neglect, and Missing Children" webpage.

The Principal or designee should have an open, but confidential discussion with the student to ascertain the student's preference on matters such as chosen name, chosen pronoun to use, and parental communications. A transgender student shall be addressed at school by the name and pronoun chosen by the student, regardless of whether a legal name change or change in official school records has occurred. The school shall issue school documentation for a transgender student, such as student identification cards, in the name chosen by the student. A transgender student shall be allowed to dress in accordance with the student's gender identity.

The Principal or designee should also discuss with the student, and any other individuals at the student's request, the risks associated with the student's transgender status being inadvertently disclosed. For example, the Principal or designee should inform the student the transgender status may be revealed due to other students' discussions at home. The Principal or designee should work with the transgender student to ensure awareness of activities and events that may inadvertently disclose the transgender student's status.

### Safe and Supportive Environment

The Board developed and adopted this Policy to ensure that its schools provide a safe and supportive learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment for transgender students, including students going through a gender transition. Gender-based policies, rules, and practices can have the effect of marginalizing, stigmatizing, and excluding students, whether they are gender nonconforming or not.



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The Superintendent or designee shall review and update existing policies and procedures, including those regarding classroom activities, school ceremonies, school photographs, and dress codes, to verify transgender students are not excluded. In addition, the school district shall take the following steps to establish and maintain a nondiscriminatory environment for all students, including transgender and transitioning students:

- The school district must comply with N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7, which prohibit harassment, intimidation, and bullying. The Board is required to develop, adopt, and implement a Policy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7 that prohibits harassment, intimidation, or bullying on school property, at a school-sponsored function, or on a school bus. If harassment, intimidation, or bullying based on gender identity creates a hostile environment, the school must take prompt and effective steps to end the harassment, intimidation, or bullying, prevent its recurrence, and, as appropriate, remedy its effects.
- The Superintendent or designee should ensure training is provided to school staff members on sensitivity and respect towards transgender students.
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) concepts should be incorporated into school culture and curricula.
- The school district may seek a variety of professionals, including counselors and school psychologists, to provide emotional supports for all students who demonstrate a need. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure school counselors are knowledgeable regarding issues and concerns relevant to transgender students, students facing other gender identity issues, or students who may be transitioning.
- Student dress codes should not be enforced more strictly for transgender and gender nonconforming students than for other students.
- The school district shall honor and recognize a student's asserted gender identity, and shall not require any documentation or evidence in any form, including diagnosis, treatment, or legal name change.



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- A school's obligation to ensure nondiscrimination on the basis of gender identity requires schools to provide transgender students equal access to educational programs and activities, even in circumstances in which other students, parents, or community members raise objections or concerns.

## Confidentiality and Privacy

School staff members may not disclose information that may reveal a student's transgender status except as allowed by law. The Principal or designee is advised to work with the student to create an appropriate confidentiality plan regarding the student's transgender or transitioning status.

The school district shall keep confidential a current, new, or prospective student's transgender status. Schools should address the student using a chosen name and the student's birth name should be kept confidential by school and school staff members.

Due to a specific and compelling need, such as the health and safety of a student or an incident of bias-related crime, the school district may be obligated to disclose a student's status. In this event, the Principal or designee should inform the student the school or school district intends to disclose the student's transgender status for the student's protection and well-being. Prior to disclosure, the student should be given the opportunity to personally disclose that information. The school district should make every effort to ensure any disclosure is made in a way that reduces or eliminates the risk of re-disclosure and protects the transgender student from further harassment. Those measures may include the facilitation of counseling for the student and the student's family to facilitate the family's acceptance and support of the student's transgender status.

During a harassment, intimidation, or bullying investigation the school district is obligated to develop a procedure to report, verbally and in writing, an act of harassment, intimidation, and bullying committed by an adult or youth against a student, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7(a)2viii. In this instance, the Principal or designee should inform the student of the school's obligation to report the findings of the harassment, intimidation, and bullying investigation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(d), which permits the parents of the students who are parties to the investigation to receive information about the investigation in accordance with Federal and State law and regulation. Under harassment, intimidation, and bullying legal requirements, parents are entitled to know the nature of the investigation; whether the district found evidence of harassment, intimidation, or





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bullying; or whether disciplinary action was imposed or services provided to address the incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

The Principal or designee shall take into account the circumstances of the incident when providing notification to parents of all students involved in the reported harassment, intimidation, or bullying incident and when conveying the nature of the incident, including the actual or perceived protected category motivating the alleged offense, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7(a)2viii(2).

Disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's education record to other school officials within the school district, whom the school district has determined have a legitimate educational interest in the information, may be permissible under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(1)). The school district shall make a concerted effort to ensure school officials obtain access to only those education records in which they have legitimate educational interests.

The school district shall comply with all laws and regulations regarding the confidentiality of student records and student privacy, including the requirements set forth at 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 34 CFR Part 99, Family Educational Rights and Privacy; 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, Protection of Pupil Rights; 34 CFR Part 98, Student Rights in Research, Experimental Programs, and Testing; P.L. 104-191, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; 45 CFR Part 160, General Administrative Requirements; 20 U.S.C. § 7917, Transfer of school disciplinary records; 42 CFR Part 2, Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records; N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-7.1, Confidentiality of certain information provided by pupils, exceptions; N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.2, Confidentiality of student alcohol and other drug information; N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19, Pupil Records, creation, maintenance and retention, security and access, regulations, nonliability; N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-60, Disclosure of juvenile information, penalties for disclosure; N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7, Student Records; N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.9, Student records; as well as all other existing Federal and State laws and rules pertaining to student records and confidentiality.

## School Records

If a student has expressed a preference to be called by a name other than their birth name, permanent student records containing the student's birth name should be kept in a separate, confidential file. This file should only be shared with appropriate school staff members after consultation with a student. A separate file containing records bearing the student's chosen name may also be kept. If the



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student has previously been known at school or in school records by a birth name, the Principal or designee should direct school staff members to use the student's chosen name and not the student's birth name.

To ensure consistency among teachers, school administrators, substitute teachers, and other school staff members, every effort should be made to immediately update student education records (for example, attendance records, transcripts, Individualized Education Programs (IEP), etc.) with the student's chosen name and gender pronouns, consistent with the student's gender identity and expression, and not circulate records with the student's birth name, unless directed by the student.

- The school district shall report to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) through NJ SMART a student's name or gender based upon that student's chosen name and corresponding gender identity. Changing the name or gender identity from what was reported in previous years will not affect the reliability of the data reported.
- If the school district changes a student's name or gender identity, it must also maintain locally a separate record reflecting the student's legal name and sex assigned at birth until receipt of documentation of a legal change of name or gender.

### Activities

With respect to gender-segregated classes or athletic activities, including intramural and interscholastic athletics, all students must be allowed to participate in a manner consistent with their gender identity.

The school district shall:

- Provide transgender students with the same opportunities to participate in physical education as other students in accordance with their gender identity;
- Permit a transgender student to participate in gender-segregated school activities in accordance with the student's gender identity;
- Permit and support the formation of student clubs or programs regarding issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) youth; and



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- Offer support in the creation of peer led educational groups.

### Use of Facilities

All students are entitled to have access to restrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities in accordance with their gender identity to allow for involvement in various school programs and activities.

In all cases, the Principal or designee must work with the student and school staff members so all parties are aware of facility policies and understand the student may access the restroom, locker room, and changing facility that corresponds to the student's gender identity. While some transgender students will want this arrangement, others may be uncomfortable with it. Transgender students who are uncomfortable using a sex-segregated restroom should be provided with a safe and adequate alternative, such as a single "unisex" restroom or the nurse's restroom. Similarly, some transgender students may be uncomfortable using the changing facilities that correspond to the student's gender identity. Non-transgender students should also be afforded the option to use a private facility, such as a unisex facility or the nurse's restroom, should they feel uncomfortable.

- The school district shall allow a transgender student to use a restroom or locker room based on the student's gender identity.
- Reasonable alternative arrangements shall be made if needed to ensure a student's safety and comfort. This direction for accommodations should come from the student.

The Superintendent or designee will make available to school staff members a variety of resources regarding professional development opportunities as sourced by the NJDOE as well as developmentally appropriate information for students regarding LGBTQ issues.

The Board adopts this Policy to help school and district administrators take steps to create an inclusive environment in which transgender and gender nonconforming students feel safe and supported, and to ensure each school provides equal educational opportunities for all students, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-41; 18A:37-15



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N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1 et seq.; N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7  
New Jersey Department of Education – October 2018  
Transgender Student Guidance for School Districts

Adopted:



**P 5330.04 – Administering an Opioid Antidote (M) (Revised)**

**R 5330.04 – Administering an Opioid Antidote (M) (New)**

**Administrative Guidance**

**This is a NEW Policy and Regulation**

Our nursing staff is reviewing this policy to develop a compliance plan and recommendations regarding using the plan for school-sponsored events and in schools other than the High School.

**Strauss Esmay Guidance**

**P 5330.04 – Administering an Opioid Antidote (M) (Revised)**

**R 5330.04 – Administering an Opioid Antidote (M) (New)**

P.L. 2018, Chapter 106 – N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.23 through 12.27 was recently approved requiring schools with grades nine through twelve to obtain an opioid antidote under a standing order. The new law requires an opioid antidote to be accessible in the school building during regular school hours and during school-sponsored functions that take place in the school or on school grounds adjacent to the school building at any time. The Board may, in its discretion, make an opioid antidote accessible during school-sponsored functions that take place off school grounds.

The updated Policy Guide has a few key provisions:

1. The requirement to acquire an opioid antidote and administer it in an emergency situation is now mandated for all schools with grades nine through twelve and optional for all other schools;
2. The school district shall require training through the specified appropriate entity or entities for the school nurse and designated staff members who volunteer to administer the opioid antidote;
3. A person that was administered an opioid antidote must be transported to the hospital by emergency services personnel after the administration, even if the individual's symptoms appear to be resolved; and

4. The school nurse and designated trained staff members who volunteer to administer the opioid antidote shall not be held liable for any good faith act or omission when administering an opioid antidote.

A school district with a school with grades nine through twelve is required to have a school nurse or staff member trained to administer an opioid antidote promptly available on site at the school during regular hours and at all school-sponsored functions that take place in the school or on school grounds adjacent to the school building at any time. This requirement will be challenging for school districts.

The new law is effective December 1, 2018 and requires the NJDOE to establish guidelines, which have not yet been published. Strauss Esmay was hoping to review the NJDOE Guidance prior to developing a Policy and Regulation Guide before the effective date. Unfortunately, the Guidance is not yet available and our office recognizes school districts need a Policy and Regulation Guide. These Guides may need to be revised when the NJDOE Guidance is published. This Policy Guide should replace a district's existing Policy 5330.04, if previously adopted by the Board. The Regulation Guide is new. Policy and Regulation Guides 5330.04 are mandated.

Policy Guide 5330.04 is **MANDATED**  
Regulation Guide 5330.04 is  
**MANDATED**

### **Proposed Policy Language**

#### **5330.04 ADMINISTERING AN OPIOID ANTIDOTE**

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.24.a requires schools to adopt a Policy for the emergency administration of an opioid antidote to a student, staff member, or other person who is experiencing an opioid overdose.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.24.a.(1) requires schools with any of the grades nine through twelve to comply with the provisions of the law.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.24 requires a school to obtain a standing order for opioid antidotes pursuant to the "Overdose Prevention Act" - N.J.S.A. 24:6J-1 et seq. The school shall

maintain a supply of opioid antidotes under the standing order in a secure, but unlocked and easily accessible location. The opioid antidotes shall be accessible in the school during regular school hours and during school-sponsored functions that take place in the school or on school grounds adjacent to the school building.

The school nurse and a designated employee who volunteers to administer an opioid antidote pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.24.c. are required to be trained for the administration of an opioid antidote in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.25.b. The school nurse or a designated employee who volunteers to administer an opioid antidote shall be promptly available on site at the school during regular school hours and during school-sponsored functions that take place in the school or on school grounds adjacent to the school building at any time.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.24 permits the school nurse or a designated trained employee to administer an opioid antidote to any person whom the nurse or the trained designated employee who in good faith believes is experiencing an opioid overdose.

An overdose victim shall be transported to a hospital emergency room by emergency medical responders after the administration of an opioid antidote, even if the person's symptoms appear to have resolved.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 24:6J-4.a.(1)(f), a prescriber or other health care practitioner, as appropriate, may prescribe or dispense an opioid antidote directly or through a standing order to a school, school district, or school nurse. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 24:6J-4.a.(2)(c), whenever the law expressly authorizes or requires a school or school district to obtain a standing order for opioid antidotes, the school nurse(s) employed or engaged by the school or school district shall be presumed by the prescribing or dispensing health care practitioner to be capable of administering the opioid antidote, consistent with the express statutory requirement.

Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 24:6J-4.a.(3)(b) to the contrary, if the law expressly authorizes or requires a school, school district, or school nurse to administer or dispense opioid antidotes pursuant to a standing order under N.J.S.A. 24:6J-4 et seq., the standing order issued shall be deemed to grant the authority specified by the law, even if such authority is not specifically indicated on the face of the standing order.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.26, no school employee, including a school nurse or any other officer or agent of a Board of Education or charter school, or a prescriber of opioid antidotes for a school through a standing order, shall be

held liable for any good faith act or omission consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.23 et seq. Good faith shall not include willful misconduct, gross negligence, or recklessness.

Any school, school district, school nurse, school employee, or any other officer or agent of a Board of Education or charter school who administers or permits the administration of an opioid antidote in good faith in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.24 and pursuant to a standing order issued under N.J.S.A. 24:6J-4 shall not, as a result of any acts or omissions, be subject to any criminal or civil liability or any disciplinary action for administering, or permitting the administration of, the opioid antidote in accordance with N.J.S.A. 24:6J-1 et seq.

Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or institutional or organizational directive to the contrary, any person or entity authorized to administer an opioid antidote pursuant to N.J.S.A. 24:6J-4, may administer to an overdose victim, with full immunity: a single dose of any type of opioid antidote that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use in the treatment of opioid overdoses; and up to three doses of an opioid antidote that is administered through an intranasal application, or through an intramuscular auto-injector, as may be necessary to revive the overdose victim. Prior consultation with, or approval by, a third-party physician or other medical personnel shall not be required before an authorized person or entity may administer up to three doses of an opioid antidote, as provided in N.J.S.A. 24:6J-4, to the same overdose victim.

A school district may enter into a shared services arrangement with another school district for the provision of opioid antidotes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.27 if the arrangement will result in cost savings for the districts.

This Policy and Regulation 5330.04 shall be reviewed and approved by the school physician prior to Board adoption and whenever this Policy is revised. This Policy shall be made available to school staff members, parents, and students in handbooks, on the school district's website, or through any other appropriate means of publication.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.23; 18A:40-12.24; 18A:40-12.25;  
18A:40-12.26; 18A:40-12.27 N.J.S.A. 24:6J-1 et seq.

Adopted:



**Proposed Regulation  
Language**

**R 5330.04 ADMINISTERING AN OPIOID ANTIDOTE**

**A. Definitions**

1. “Opioid antidote” means any drug, regardless of dosage amount or method of administration, which has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of an opioid overdose. “Opioid antidote” includes, but is not limited to, naloxone hydrochloride, in any dosage amount, which is administered through nasal spray or any other FDA-approved means or methods.
2. “Opioid overdose” means an acute condition including, but not limited to, extreme physical illness, decreased level of consciousness, respiratory depression, coma, or death resulting from the consumption or use of an opioid drug or another substance with which an opioid drug was combined, and that a layperson would reasonably believe to require medical assistance.
3. “School-sponsored function” means any activity, event, or program occurring on or off school grounds, whether during or outside of regular school hours, that is organized or supported by the school.

**B. Acquisition, Maintenance, Accessibility, and Documentation of an Opioid Antidote**

1. The school nurse in each school that includes any of the grades designated by the Board in Policy 5330.04 shall obtain a standing order for opioid antidotes pursuant to the “Overdose Prevention Act” – N.J.S.A. 24:6J-1 et seq.
2. The school nurse shall be responsible to:
  - a. Maintain a supply of opioid antidotes that have been prescribed under a standing order in a safe and secure, unlocked and easily accessible location in the school:

1. The opioid antidotes shall be accessible in the school during regular school hours and during school-sponsored functions that take place in the school or on school grounds adjacent to the school building.

- b. Document the administration of an opioid antidote on a student's health record;

- c. Monitor the on-site inventory and replacement of the opioid antidote supply; and

- d. Plan for the disposal of administered opioid antidote and expired opioid antidote.

3. Opioid antidotes shall be maintained by a school pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.24.b.(1) in quantities and types deemed adequate by the Board, in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and the Department of Human Services.

#### C. Authorization and Training for Administering an Opioid Antidote

1. The school nurse shall have the primary responsibility for the emergency administration of an opioid antidote.

2. However, the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent shall designate additional employees who volunteer to administer an opioid antidote in the event that a person experiences an opioid overdose when the nurse is not physically present at the scene.

3. The school nurse and designated employees shall only be authorized to administer opioid antidotes after receiving the training required under N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.25.b.

- a. Each school nurse and each employee designated to administer an opioid antidote pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.24.c.(1) shall receive training on standardized protocols for the administration of an opioid

antidote to a person who experiences an opioid overdose. The training shall include the overdose prevention information described in the “Overdose Prevention Act” – N.J.S.A. 24:6J-5. The school district will provide training by an appropriate entity or entities as specified by the NJDOE’s guidelines. A school nurse shall not be solely responsible to train the employees designated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.24.c.

4. In the event a licensed athletic trainer volunteers to administer an opioid antidote pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.23 through 12.27, it shall not constitute a violation of the “Athletic Training Licensure Act” – N.J.S.A. 45:9-37.35 et seq.

#### D. Administration of an Opioid Antidote

1. The school nurse or a trained employee designated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.24.c.(1) shall be authorized to administer an opioid antidote to any person whom the nurse or trained employee in good faith believes is experiencing an opioid overdose.

a. The school nurse or a trained employee designated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.24.c.(1) shall be promptly available on site at the school during regular school hours and during school-sponsored functions that take place in the school or on school grounds adjacent to the school building at any time.

b. Upon receiving a report or observing a possible opioid overdose in the school or at a school-sponsored function that takes place in a school or on school grounds adjacent to the school building at any time, the Principal or designee or any staff member present will immediately call the school nurse, if present, or a designated staff member who volunteered and was trained to administer an opioid antidote, and emergency medical responders.

2. A staff member shall keep the individual who may be experiencing an opioid overdose comfortable until emergency medical responders arrive on the scene.

3. An overdose victim shall be transported to a hospital emergency room by emergency medical responders after the administration of an opioid antidote, even if the person’s symptoms appear to have resolved.

4. The Principal or designee shall notify the Superintendent or designee whenever an opioid antidote is

administered.

5. The Principal or designee shall notify, as soon as practical, the parent of any student or a family member or other contact person for a staff member who may be experiencing an opioid overdose or has been administered an opioid antidote.

#### E. Use of Controlled Dangerous Substances

1. Any student or staff member who is found to be under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance shall be subject to the provisions of any applicable statutes and administrative codes and Board Policies and Regulations prohibiting the use of a controlled dangerous substance.

Issued

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**P 7440 – School District Security (M) (Revised)**  
**R 7440 – School District Security (M) (Revised)**

**Administrative Guidance**

This policy memorializes the designation of school security specialist, with which we are compliant. We are reviewing the entirety of this policy with our safety and security team.

For Reference, see [Policy 7440](#) and [Regulation 7440](#)

For Track Changes, see [Policy 7440](#) and [Regulation 7440](#)

**Strauss Esmay Guidance**

**P 7440 – School District Security (M) (Revised)**  
**R 7440 – School District Security (M) (Revised)**

Recent amendments to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3 were approved permitting the Superintendent of Schools to designate a school employee with expertise in school safety and security as the School Safety Specialist for the school district with supervision and oversight responsibilities for all school safety and security personnel and school safety policies/procedures in the school district. The statute still permits the Superintendent to designate a school administrator as the School Safety Specialist. The School Safety Specialist shall also serve as the school district liaison with law enforcement. Policy and Regulation Guides 7440 were revised to permit the Superintendent to designate a “school employee with expertise in school safety and security” along with the current language permitting the Superintendent to designate a school administrator as the School Safety Specialist. The revised Policy and Regulation Guides 7440 should replace the district’s current Policy and Regulation Guides 7440. Policy and Regulation Guides 7440 are mandated.

Policy Guide 7440 is MANDATED  
Regulation Guide 7440 is MANDATED

**Proposed Policy & Regulation Language**

SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY (M)

7440

**M**

The Board of Education believes the buildings and facilities of the school district represent a substantial community investment. The Board directs the development and

implementation of a plan for school district security to protect the school community's investment in the school buildings and facilities.

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

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

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

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

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

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.1; 18A:17-43.2; 18A:17-43.3

Adopted:  
SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY (M)

R 7440

**M**

A. Definitions

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

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

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

B. Access to School Buildings and School Grounds

1. Access to school buildings and grounds during the school day will be permitted to all students enrolled in the school, all authorized school staff members, and visitors pursuant to Policy and Regulation 9150.
2. Access to school buildings and grounds before and after the school day will be permitted to:
  - a. Members of the Board of Education;
  - b. Administrative and supervisory staff members, teaching staff members, and support staff members assigned to a school building or grounds in the performance of their duties;
  - c. Other school staff members in the performance of their professional responsibilities;
  - d. Students involved in interscholastic athletics, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities, and authorized spectators;

- e. Members of organizations granted the use of school premises pursuant to Policy and Regulation 7510;
  - f. Police officers, fire fighters, health inspectors, and other agents of Federal, State, and local government in the performance of their official duties;
  - g. Members of the public present to attend a public Board of Education or public school-related function; and
  - h. Others authorized by the Superintendent or designee and/or by Board Policy.
- 3. All visitors to a school building during a school day will be required to register their presence in the school and comply with the provisions of Policy and Regulation 9150. The school's registration and sign-in procedures may include the use of a school visitor management system requiring the visitor to present acceptable identification to access the school building.
  - 4. Signs will be conspicuously posted to inform visitors of the requirement to register their presence into the building.

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

- 1. School staff members will be provided access to a school building using the school's key control system as follows:
  - a. Teaching staff members and support staff members will be provided access using the school's key control system to the school building and to other facilities on school grounds to which they require access for the performance of their professional duties.
    - (1) The Building Principal will determine the school staff members who shall be provided access to facilities within the school building and on school grounds.
    - (2) The Superintendent or designee will determine the district administrators, supervisors, and other staff members who shall be provided access to facilities within the school building and on school grounds.
- 2. School staff members provided access to a school building or other facilities on school grounds shall be responsible for ensuring their key control system authorization is not shared with another individual without



prior approval of the Principal or designee for school staff members, or the Superintendent or designee for district staff members. Staff members are prohibited from permitting their key control system authorization to be used by another person unless prior approval is obtained from the Principal or designee at the building level and Superintendent or designee at the district level or in the event of an emergency.

3. A staff member's loss of a key, card, or any other device authorizing the staff member access to a school building or a facility on school grounds must be immediately reported to the Principal or Superintendent or designee. The staff member who loses a key, card, or any such access device may be responsible for the replacement cost.

#### D. Staff Member Responsibilities

1. Staff members should not bring to school valuable personal items that cannot be in the staff member's personal possession at all times. The Board of Education is not responsible for a staff member's personal possession in the event the item is lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged, or destroyed.
2. In the event a staff member observes a student has a valuable item in school, the staff member will report it to the Principal or designee. A valuable item may include, but is not limited to, an unusually large amount of money, expensive jewelry or electronic equipment, or any item that is determined by the Principal or designee to be valuable to a student based on the student's age.
  - a. The Principal or designee may contact the student's parent and request the parent come to school to retrieve the valuable item;
  - b. The Principal or designee may secure the valuable item and return it to the student at the end of the school day and inform the student and the parent not to bring the valuable item to school in the future; or
  - c. The Principal or designee will permit the student to maintain the valuable item and inform the student and the parent not to bring the valuable item to school in the future.
  - d. The Board of Education is not responsible for a student's personal possession in the event the item is lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged, or destroyed when in the possession of the student.

3. Teaching staff members shall close classroom windows and shut and lock classroom doors when leaving at the end of the school day; shut and lock classroom doors during the school day when the room is not going to be in use after their assignment, and report immediately to the Principal or designee any evidence of tampering or theft.
4. Custodians shall, at the end of the work day, conduct a security check of the building to make certain that all windows are closed and all office, classroom, and building doors are shut and locked, except as such doors may be required to be open for persons with access.
5. Office personnel shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the security of all school and district records and documents against unauthorized access, deterioration, and destruction.

E. School Safety Specialist

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

F. Summoning Law Enforcement Authorities

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

Issued:



## **P 4219 – Commercial Driver’s License Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use Testing (M) (Revised)**

### **Administrative Guidance**

For Reference, see [Policy 4219](#)

For Track Changes, see [Policy 4219](#)

### **Strauss Esmay Guidance**

P 4219 – Commercial Driver’s License Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use Testing (M) (Revised)

Policy Guide 4219 Commercial Driver’s License Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use Testing has been updated to reflect changes in the Federal regulations. Strauss Esmay has removed the table of prohibited substances and unacceptable levels for testing results and replaced it with a citation to the Federal regulations where the most current table can be found. Strauss Esmay decided to remove the table because it has frequent, unannounced changes and we did not want a district to have a policy adopted that is not in compliance with the Federal regulations. Commercial driver’s license (CDL) drug testing companies are aware of the prohibited substances to be tested and the unacceptable levels for testing results. The Policy Guide is also revised to reflect the change in the Federal agency governing the regulations outlined in this Policy Guide from the Federal Highway Administration to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Finally, the section of the Policy Guide titled “Split Specimen Tests” has been revised as the Federal regulations place these procedural responsibilities on the laboratory conducting the tests and not the school district. There are also additional revisions throughout the Policy Guide that reflect changes in the Federal regulations. This Policy Guide is mandated for school districts that have employees serving in positions that require a CDL or a school district that uses contracted transportation services that require the use of a CDL.

Policy Guide 4219 is MANDATED

### **Proposed Policy Language**

COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AND  
ALCOHOL USE TESTING

4219

**M**

The Board of Education is committed to a safe, efficient, alcohol and drug-free workplace that protects the district's students as well as the health and safety of its employees and the general public. The Board requires all employees of the Board performing any safety-sensitive function to be free of drugs and alcohol and will test those employees who operate a commercial motor vehicle in accordance with 49 CFR 382 et seq. and 49 CFR 40 et seq. For the purpose of this Policy "employee" means a person required to have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) in the performance of their job responsibilities. Safety-sensitive functions as defined by 49 CFR 382.107 means any time from the time an employee begins to work or is required to be in readiness to work until the time the employee is relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work. Safety-sensitive functions shall include:

1. All time at the terminal, facility, other property, or on any public property, waiting to be dispatched, unless relieved from duty;
2. All time inspecting equipment as required by Federal law or otherwise inspecting, servicing, or conditioning any commercial motor vehicle, at any time;
3. All time spent at the driving controls of a commercial motor vehicle in operation;
4. All time, other than driving time, in or upon the commercial motor vehicle except time spent resting in an area defined as a sleeping berth;
5. All time loading or unloading a vehicle, supervising, or assisting in the loading or unloading, attending a vehicle being loaded or unloaded, remaining in readiness to operate the vehicle, or in giving or receiving receipts for shipments loaded and unloaded; and
6. All time repairing, obtaining assistance, or remaining in attendance upon a disabled vehicle.

The Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 requires all operators of commercial motor vehicles subject to the CDL requirements to be tested for controlled substances and alcohol. Federal regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation require that any employee using a CDL be required to submit to alcohol and controlled substance testing in accordance with 49 CFR 40.

The Board designates the Business Administrator as the Designated Employer Representative (DER) of the Board of Education. The Board may contract with a service agent to provide the testing services as required by Federal law. In the event the Board contracts with a service provider for transportation, the Board designee will ensure all transportation contractors comply with the drug and alcohol testing requirements of Policy 4219 pursuant to 49 CFR 382 et seq. and 49 CFR 40 et seq.

No employee at any work site will possess, manufacture, use, sell, or distribute any quantity of any controlled substance, lawful or unlawful, which in sufficient quantity could result in impaired performance, with the exception of substances administered by or under the instructions of a physician. No employee shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four hours after using alcohol and the district will not permit an employee that used alcohol within four hours of performing safety-sensitive functions to perform such functions if the district has actual knowledge of the use, in accordance with 49 CFR 392.5.

## Violations

Any violation of this Policy may result in discipline, up to and including termination.

## Prohibited Substances

The presence of any of the controlled substances, listed in 49 CFR 40.87, in the body, as evidenced by the results of the initial screening and subsequent confirmatory analysis provided in this Policy, is prohibited for any employee assigned to a classification covered by this Policy. All cutoff concentrations shall be in accordance with 49 CFR 40.87. All test results shall be measured against the cutoff concentrations outlined in 49 CFR 40.87.

## Testing Procedures

All testing for controlled substances will be conducted in accordance with 49 CFR 40, Subparts A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and I. The district will only test for drugs or classes of drugs in accordance with 49 CFR 40.85. Testing for alcohol will be conducted in accordance with 49 CFR 40, Subparts J, K, L, M and N.

## Definitions

“Alcohol use” means the drinking or swallowing of any beverage, liquid mixture or preparation (including medication), containing alcohol.

“Aliquot” means a fractional part of a specimen used for testing. It is taken as a sample representing the whole specimen.

“Confirmatory drug test” means a second analytical procedure performed on an aliquot of the original specimen to identify and quantify the presence of a specific drug or drug metabolite.

“Confirmed drug test” means a confirmation test result received by a Medical Review Officer (MRO) from a laboratory.

“Controlled substances” means those substances identified in 49 CFR 40.85.

“CCF” means the Federal Drug Testing Custody and Control Form.

“Designated Employer Representative (DER)” is an employee of the district authorized to take immediate action(s) to remove employees from safety-sensitive duties, or cause employees to be removed from these covered duties, and to make required decisions in the testing and evaluation processes. The DER shall receive test results and other communications for the employer consistent with the requirements of this Policy and 49 CFR 40. Service agents cannot act as a DER.

“FMCSA” means Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

“Initial drug test (also known as a “Screening drug test”)” means the test used to differentiate a negative specimen from one that requires further testing for drugs or drug metabolites.

“Initial specimen validity test” means the first test used to determine if a urine specimen is adulterated, diluted, substituted, or invalid.

“Medical Review Officer (MRO)” is a licensed physician responsible for receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by the district’s drug testing program and evaluating medical explanations for certain drug test results.

“Possess” includes, but is not limited to, either in or on the driver’s person, personal effects, motor vehicle, or areas substantially entrusted to the control of the driver.

“Service agent” is any person or entity, other than an employee of the Board, who provides services specified under 49 CFR 40 to the Board.

“Substance Abuse Professional (SAP)” is a person who evaluates employees who have violated a Federal or State drug and alcohol regulation and makes recommendations concerning education, treatment, follow-up testing, and aftercare. An individual permitted to act as a SAP must possess the credentials as outlined in 49 CFR 40.281.

“Work Site” means any motor vehicle, office, building, yard, or other location at which the driver is to perform work or any other school district property or at any school district event.

## Categories of Testing

For the purpose of this Policy, the occurrence of the following circumstances/instances shall require an employee to submit to a controlled substance and alcohol screening:

1. Pre-Employment Testing



An individual who has applied for and has been selected to operate a Board vehicle shall, before beginning employment with the Board, submit to a controlled substance screening in conjunction with any required physical examination as per Policy 4160. Such screening shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Policy and 49 CFR 40. No individual receiving a positive confirmed test result will be employed by the Board.

An employer is not required to administer a controlled substances test required by 49 CFR 382.301(a) if:

- a. The employee has participated in a controlled substances testing program that met the requirements of 49 CFR 382 et seq. within the previous thirty days; and
- b. The employee while participating in that program either:
  - (1) Was tested for controlled substances within the past six months (from the date of application with the employer); or
  - (2) Participated in the random controlled substances testing program for the previous twelve months (from the date of application with the employer.)
- c. The DER must ensure that no prior employer, to the DER's knowledge, has records of a violation of a controlled substances testing program within the previous six months.

If an individual is so exempted, the DER shall contact the controlled substances testing programs in which the individual participated and shall obtain and retain from the testing program(s) the following information in accordance with 49 CFR 382.301(c):

- a. Name and address of the program;
- b. Verification of the individual's participation;
- c. Verification that the program conforms to Federal guidelines;
- d. Verification the individual qualified under the law and did not refuse to be tested for controlled substances;
- e. The date the individual was last tested for controlled substances; and

- f. The results of any tests taken within the previous six months and any other violations.

An employee who has applied for and has been selected to operate a Board vehicle or any existing employee transferring into a new position requiring the employee to operate a Board vehicle, shall submit a written consent authorizing the Board to obtain the following information from other employers who have employed the employee during any period during the two years before the date of the employee's application or transfer into the new position. The written consent from the employee will permit the DER to obtain the following information from previous Division of Transportation (DOT)-regulated employers:

- a. Alcohol tests with a result of 0.04 or higher alcohol concentration;
- b. Verified positive drug tests;
- c. Refusals to be tested (including verified adulterated or substituted drug test results);
- d. Other violations of DOT agency drug and alcohol testing regulations; and
- e. With respect to any employee who violated a DOT drug and alcohol regulation, documentation of the employee's successful completion of DOT return-to-duty requirements (including follow-up tests). If this information is not available from the previous employer, the DER must seek to obtain this information from the employee.

The DER will obtain and review this information before the employee first performs safety-sensitive functions. If this is not feasible, the DER will not permit the employee to perform safety-sensitive functions after thirty days from the date the employee first performed safety-sensitive functions, unless the DER has obtained or made and documented a good faith effort to obtain this information.

## 2. Random Testing

Every employee shall submit to random alcohol and controlled substance testing on an unannounced and random basis resulting from the selection by a random generation methodology in accordance with 49 CFR 383.305(i). Random testing will be spread reasonably throughout any given calendar year.

The minimum annual percentage rate for random alcohol testing shall be ten percent of the average number of driver positions. The minimum annual percentage rate for random controlled substances testing shall be twenty-five percent of the average number of driver positions. The minimum annual percentage rates may be adjusted as determined by the FMCSA Administrator in accordance with 49 CFR 382.305.

Employees shall only be random tested when performing safety-sensitive functions or immediately prior to or immediately following the performance of safety-sensitive functions.

### 3. Post-Accident Testing

The involvement by an employee in a motor vehicle collision while operating a Board vehicle when such accident results in property damage or personal injury, may trigger a post-accident drug and alcohol test.

As soon as practical following an occurrence, the DER will require post-accident alcohol screening for each of the surviving drivers:

- a. Who was performing safety-sensitive functions with respect to a vehicle, if the accident involves the loss of human life; or
- b. Who receives a citation within eight hours of the occurrence under State or local law for a moving traffic violation arising from the accident, if the accident involved:
  - (1) Bodily injury to any person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or
  - (2) One or more motor vehicles incurring disabling damage as a result of the accident, requiring the motor vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle.
- c. If the alcohol test is not administered within two hours following the accident, the DER will prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons the test was not promptly administered. If the alcohol test is not administered within eight hours following the accident, the DER shall cease attempts to administer the alcohol test and shall prepare and maintain the same record. Records shall be submitted to the FMCSA upon request.

As soon as possible following an occurrence, the district will require post-accident controlled substance screening for each of the surviving drivers:

- a. Who was performing safety-sensitive functions with respect to a vehicle, if the accident involves the loss of human life; or
- b. Who receives a citation within thirty-two hours of the occurrence under State or local law for a moving traffic violation arising from the accident, if the accident involved:
  - (1) Bodily injury to any person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or
  - (2) One or more motor vehicles incurring disabling damage as a result of the accident, requiring the motor vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle.
- c. If the controlled substance test is not administered within thirty-two hours following the accident, the DER shall cease attempts to administer the controlled substance test and shall prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons the test was not promptly administered. Records shall be submitted to the FMCSA upon request.

An employee who is subject to post-accident testing shall remain readily available for such testing or may be deemed by the employer to have refused to submit for testing. (An employee who is injured in an accident and requires medical care, shall submit to post-accident drug and controlled substance testing by the medical care facility providing the treatment or a designee of the Board if the facility is unable to provide the testing.) Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the employee from leaving the scene of the accident for the period required to obtain necessary assistance or to obtain emergency medical care.

#### 4. Reasonable Suspicion Testing

The DER shall require an employee to submit to an alcohol and/or controlled substance test when the employee is observed by a supervisor or school official who is trained in accordance with 49 CFR 382.603 and causes the observer to have reasonable suspicion to believe the employee has violated 49 CFR 382 et seq. Reasonable suspicion must exist to require the employee to undergo a test and must be based on specific,

contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the appearance, behavior, speech or body odors of the employee. The observations may include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances.

Reasonable suspicion alcohol testing is authorized only if the required observations are made during, just preceding, or just after the period of the work day the employee is required to be in compliance with the testing requirements of 49 CFR 382 et seq.

Reasonable suspicion testing may be required of an employee while the employee is performing, just before the employee will perform, or just after the employee has ceased performing safety-sensitive functions.

If the alcohol test is not administered within two hours following the determination a reasonable suspicion test is required, the DER will prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons the test was not promptly administered. If the alcohol test is not administered within eight hours following the determination, the DER shall cease attempts to administer the alcohol test and shall state in the record the reasons for not administering the test.

No employee shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while the employee is under the influence of or impaired by alcohol, as shown by the behavioral, speech, and performance indicators of alcohol misuse. The employee will also not be able to perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions until an alcohol test is administered and the employee's concentration measures less than 0.02 or twenty-four hours have elapsed following the determination that reasonable suspicion existed to require an alcohol test.

A written record of the observations leading to a reasonable suspicion test shall be made and signed by the supervisor and/or school official that made the observations. This record shall be made within twenty-four hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the test are released, whichever is earlier.

## 5. Return to Duty Testing

The district is not required to return an employee to a safety-sensitive position upon receipt of a confirmed drug and/or alcohol test.

The DER may recommend to the Superintendent of Schools the employee's employment be terminated depending on the circumstances.

The DER shall ensure that before an employee returns to duty requiring the performance of a safety-sensitive function, the employee shall undergo a return to duty alcohol test indicating a breath alcohol concentration of less than 0.02 and a controlled substances test with a result indicating a verified negative result for controlled substances use as required in 49 CFR 40.305.

Employees permitted to return to duty are required to take return-to-duty tests and shall be evaluated by a SAP. These employees must participate in an assistance program prescribed by the SAP and as required in 49 CFR 40 Subpart O.

The SAP will determine a written follow-up testing plan for any employee who has been permitted to return to work and has successfully complied with the SAP's recommendations for education and/or treatment. Such employees are subject to a minimum of six unannounced, follow-up drug screenings and alcohol tests over the following twelve months. The testing shall not exceed forty-eight additional months. Alcohol follow-up testing shall be performed only when the employee is performing safety-sensitive functions or immediately prior to performing or immediately after performing safety-sensitive functions. All follow-up testing will be completed in accordance with 49 CFR 40.307. The SAP will comply with all reporting requirements of 49 CFR 40.311.

The Board shall make the ultimate determination to return or not return an employee to a safety-sensitive position subject to any collective bargaining agreements, if any, or other legal requirements.

#### Medical Review Officer (MRO) Notifications

The Board shall employ or contract with a MRO who is a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.) and shall designate the MRO as the individual responsible for receiving laboratory results generated by the testing program. The MRO shall have knowledge of controlled substances abuse disorders and have appropriate medical training to interpret and evaluate the employee's confirmed drug test results together with his/her medical history and other biomedical data. The MRO will perform all functions and responsibilities as required in 49 CFR 40.121.

#### Employer Notification

The MRO may report controlled substances test results to the DER by any means of communication; however, a signed, written notification must be forwarded within three business days of the completion of the MRO's evaluation. The MRO must report all drug test results to the employer. The MRO may use a signed or stamped and dated legible

photocopy of Copy 2 of the CCF to report test results or a written report that must include, at a minimum, the information required in 49 CFR 40.163.

### Split Specimen Tests

Split specimen testing will be conducted in accordance with 49 CFR 40 Subpart H. The MRO will notify the Superintendent of Schools or designee if split specimen testing is requested by the employee.

### Designated Collection Facility

The Board shall designate the facility to be used for the collection of the specimen; provided, however, that the designated facility shall possess all required licenses and permits. The collection site will take place in a facility meeting the requirements of 49 CFR 40 Subpart D. The DER will ensure the collection site meets the security requirements of 49 CFR 40.43.

### Designated Screening Laboratory

The Board shall designate the laboratory to which collected fluid samples will be forwarded for drug/alcohol screening. Drug testing laboratories must be certified by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the National Laboratory Certification Program (NLCP) for all testing required under 49 CFR 40. The laboratory will perform all responsibilities as required in accordance with 49 CFR 40 Subpart F.

### Specimens

The normal screening methodology for controlled substances shall be urinalysis, collected by a trained representative of the Board with appropriate documentation at a site designated and approved by the Board. The presence of alcohol will be determined by an Alcohol Screening Device (ASD) or an Evidential Breath Testing Device administered by an individual certified in accordance with 49 CFR 40.211 and 49 CFR 40.213.

### Refusal to Submit

An employee will be deemed as refusing to take a drug test as described in 49 CFR 40.191. As per 49 CFR 40.191, an employee refuses to take a drug test if he/she:

1. Fails to appear for any test (except a pre-employment test) within a reasonable time, as determined by the DER, consistent with applicable DOT agency regulations, after being directed to do so by the DER;
2. Fails to remain at the testing site until the testing process is complete. An employee who leaves the testing site before the testing process

commences for a pre-employment test is not deemed to have refused to test;

3. Fails to provide a urine specimen for any drug test required by this Policy. An employee who does not provide a urine specimen because he or she has left the testing site before the testing process commences for a pre-employment test is not deemed to have refused to test;
4. Fails to permit the observation or monitoring of providing a specimen in the case of a directly observed or monitored collection in a drug test;
5. Fails to provide a sufficient amount of urine when directed, and it has been determined, through a required medical evaluation, that there was no adequate medical explanation for the failure;
6. Fails or declines to take an additional drug test the DER or collector has directed the employee to take;
7. Fails to undergo a medical examination or evaluation, as directed by the MRO as part of the verification process, or as directed by the DER under 49 CFR 40.193(d). In the case of a pre-employment drug test, the employee is deemed to have refused to test on this basis only if the pre-employment test is conducted following a contingent offer of employment;
8. Fails to cooperate with any part of the testing process (e.g., refuses to empty pockets when so directed by the collector, behaves in a confrontational way that disrupts the collection process, fails to wash hands after being directed to do so by the collector);
9. Fails to follow the collection observer(s) instructions of which could be used to interfere with the collection process;
10. Possesses or wears a prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process; or
11. Admits to the collector or MRO he/she has adulterated or substituted the specimen.

If the MRO reports the employee had a verified adulterated or substituted test result, the result will be deemed refusal to take a drug test.

If an employee refuses to participate in a part of the testing process, the collector or MRO, must terminate the portion of the testing process, document the refusal on the CCF (including in the case of the collector, printing the employee's name on Copy 2 of the



CCF), immediately notify the DER by any means (e.g., telephone or secure fax machine) that ensures that the refusal notification is immediately received. A referral physician (e.g., physician evaluating a “shy bladder” condition or a claim of a legitimate medical explanation in a validity testing situation) must notify the MRO, who in turn will notify the DER. In addition, the collector must note the refusal in the “Remarks” line (Step 2), and sign and date the CCF. The MRO must note the refusal by checking the “Refused to Test” box (Step 6) on Copy 2 of the CCF, and add the reason on the “Remarks” line. The MRO must then sign and date the CCF. When the employee refuses to take a non-DOT test or to sign a non-DOT form, the employee has not refused to take a DOT test. There are no consequences under DOT agency regulations for refusing to take a non-DOT test.

### Record of Negative Screening

An employee required to submit to an alcohol and/or controlled substance screening as provided in this Policy and whose screening results are negative may, at their option, have their personnel file documented to reflect the negative result.

### Prescription Drugs

All bus drivers shall notify the DER of the use of any prescription drugs. The Board may require certification from the prescribing physician that the use of the prescription drug will not have an adverse affect on the driver’s ability to properly perform safety-sensitive functions.

### Consequences to Employees Engaging in Prohibited Conduct

An employee whose screening produces a positive result for a prohibited substance who is permitted to return to work:

1. Shall not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions;
2. Shall be advised by the DER of resources available to them in evaluating and resolving problems associated with the misuse of alcohol or the use of controlled substances;
3. Shall be evaluated by a SAP who shall determine what assistance, if any, is needed to resolve problems with alcohol or controlled substance use;
4. Undergo, before returning to duty, a return to duty alcohol test indicating a breath level of less than 0.02 if the conduct involved alcohol or a controlled substance test with a verified negative result;
5. If assistance was required, the employee must be evaluated by a SAP to determine that the employee has followed the rehabilitation program prescribed;

6. Be subject to unannounced follow-up alcohol and/or controlled substance abuse testing; and
7. Be subject to the disciplinary Policy and Regulations of the Board.

#### Return-to-Work Agreement

An employee who has been permitted to return to work and who fails to comply with any of the terms of a Return to Work Agreement, if provided at the employer's discretion, shall be subject to disciplinary action which may include termination.

#### Maintenance and Retention of Records

The DER shall maintain and retain all records as required by Federal regulation. Records shall include at least the following:

1. Records Related to the Collection Process
  - a. Collection logbooks (if used);
  - b. Documents related to the random selection process;
  - c. Calibration documentation for Evidential Breath Testing Devices (EBT's);
  - d. Documentation of Breath Alcohol Technician (BAT) training;
  - e. Documentation of reasoning for reasonable suspicion testing;
  - f. Documentation of reasoning for post-accident testing;
  - g. Documents verifying a medical explanation for the inability to provide adequate breath or urine for testing; and
  - h. Consolidated annual calendar year summaries.
2. Records Related to the Employee's Test Results
  - a. Employer's copy of the alcohol test form, including results;
  - b. Employer's copy of the controlled substance test chain of custody and control form;
  - c. Documents sent to the employer by the MRO;

- d. Documentation of any employee's refusal to submit to a required alcohol or controlled substance test; and
  - e. Documents provided by an employee to dispute results of test.
- 3. Documentation of any Other Violations of Controlled Substance Use or Alcohol Misuse Policies
- 4. Records Related to Evaluations and Training
  - a. Records pertaining to the SAP's determination of an employee's need for assistance;
  - b. Records concerning an employee's compliance with the SAP's recommendations, and records related to education and training;
  - c. Materials on drug and alcohol awareness, including a copy of the employer's policy on drug use and alcohol misuse;
  - d. Documentation of compliance with the requirement to provide employees with educational material, including an employee's signed receipt of materials;
  - e. Documentation of supervisor training; and
  - f. Certification that training conducted under this Policy complies with all requirements of the Policy.
- 5. Records Related to Drug Testing
  - a. Agreements with collection site facilities, laboratories, MROs, and consortia;
  - b. Names and positions of officials and their role in the employer's alcohol and controlled substance testing program;
  - c. Monthly statistical summaries of urinalysis; and
  - d. The employer's drug testing policy and procedures.
- 6. Required Period of Retention

Document to be maintained	Period required to be maintained
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Alcohol test results indicating a breath alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater	5 Years
Verified positive controlled substance test results	5 Years
Documentation of refusals to submit to required alcohol or controlled substance tests	5 Years
Calibration documentation	5 Years
Records related to the administration of the alcohol and controlled substances testing program, including records of all driver violations	5 Years
Driver evaluations and referrals	5 Years
A copy of each annual calendar year summary	5 Years
Records obtained from previous employers concerning alcohol and drug testing	3 Years
Records related to the alcohol and controlled substances collection process (except calibration of evidential breath testing devices)	2 Years
Records related to negative and canceled controlled substance test results	1 Year
Alcohol test results indicating a breath alcohol concentration less than 0.02	1 Year
Records related to the education and training of breath alcohol technicians, screening test technicians, supervisors, and drivers shall be maintained by the employer while the individual performs the functions which require the training and for two years after ceasing to perform those functions	Indefinite time period

Other specific types of records shall be maintained in accordance with 49 CFR 382.401.

7. Location of Records

All required records shall be maintained in accordance with Policy 8320. Records shall be made available for inspection at the Board Offices within two business days after a request has been made by an authorized representative of the FMCSA.

8. Annual Calendar Year Summary

The DER shall prepare and maintain an annual calendar year summary of the results of its alcohol and substance abuse testing programs. The summary shall be completed no later than March 15 of each year covering the previous calendar year. The DER upon request of the FMCSA will provide the annual summary to that agency in the required format.

9. Employee Information Program

The Board will provide an employee information program. The DER will be responsible for implementing the program and shall ensure that each employee receives information in the manner specified below:

- a. By receiving a copy of this Policy and any subsequent revisions.
- b. The DER will provide written notice to employees of the following information:
  - (1) The identity of the person designated by the employer to answer employee questions about the materials;
  - (2) Which employees are subject to the alcohol misuse and controlled substance requirements;
  - (3) Explanation of what constitutes a safety-sensitive function, so as to make clear what period of the workday the employee is required to be in compliance;
  - (4) Specific information concerning employee conduct that is prohibited;

- (5) The circumstances under which an employee will be tested for alcohol and/or controlled substances;
- (6) The procedures that will be used to test for the presence of alcohol and controlled substances;
- (7) The requirement that an employee submit to alcohol and controlled substance tests;
- (8) An explanation of what constitutes a refusal to submit to an alcohol or controlled substance test;
- (9) The consequences for employees found to have violated the prohibitions of this Policy, including the immediate removal of the employee from safety-sensitive functions;
- (10) The consequences for employees found to have an alcohol concentration level of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04; and
- (11) Information concerning the effects of alcohol and controlled substances use on an individual's health, work, and personal life. Signs and symptoms of an alcohol or controlled substances problem, and available methods of intervening when an alcohol or a control substances problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to any employee assistance program and/or referral to management.

Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991

49 CFR 40 et seq.

49 CFR 382 et seq.

49 CFR 395.2

Adopted:

**0141.1 – Board Member and Term – Sending District (Revised)**  
**0141.2 – Board Member and Term – Receiving District (Revised)**

**Administrative Guidance**

Voting rights of sending district representatives have been expanded. We are already compliant with the expansion of these rights.

**For current policy, see [Policy 0141.2](#)**

**Strauss Esmay Guidance**

P.L. 2017, c. 140 was passed and has amended N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.1 broadening the voting rights of representatives of sending districts who are eligible for membership on a receiving district Board of Education. The new law indicates a sending district representative would also be eligible to vote on any matter directly involving the sending district students or programs and services utilized by them; approval of the annual receiving district budget; any collectively negotiated agreement involving employees who provide services utilized by sending district students; any individual employee contracts not covered by a collectively negotiated agreement, if those employees provide or oversee programs or services utilized by sending district students; and any matter concerning governance of the receiving Board, including, but not limited to, the selection of the Board President and Vice President, approval of Board Bylaws, and the employment of professionals or consultants such as attorneys, architects, engineers, or others who provide services to the receiving district Board of Education. Strauss Esmay revised Bylaw Guide 0141.1 and Bylaw Guide 0141.2 adding these new voting rights as part of Number 4 in each of the Bylaw Guides. In addition, the option regarding Exception Districts has been replaced with a summary paragraph as this exception only applies to one school district in the State. These Guides are only recommended for school districts in a sending-receiving relationship.

Bylaw Guide 0141.1 is **RECOMMENDED**

Bylaw Guide 0141.2 is **RECOMMENDED**

**Proposed Policy Language**

**BOARD MEMBER AND TERM - RECEIVING DISTRICT**

**0141.2**

The Board of Education shall consist of seven members.

The term of a Board member shall be three years, except that:

1. The term of a member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be from the member's appointment to the organizational meeting following the next annual election, except that;
2. The term of a member appointed to fill a vacancy within sixty days immediately preceding an annual election shall be from the member's appointment to the organizational meeting following the second annual election after his/her appointment, except for Board members of a sending district;
3. Representation on the receiving district Board shall be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2.a.(1) the sending district shall have no representation on the receiving district Board of Education if the students of a sending district comprise less than ten percent of the total enrollment of the students in the grades of the receiving district in which the students of the sending district will be enrolled. If the students of a sending district comprise at least ten percent of the total enrollment of the students in the grades of the receiving district in which the students of the sending district will be enrolled, the sending district shall have one representative on the receiving Board of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2.a.(2).

If the total number of students of two or more sending districts, which do not qualify for representation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2.a.(2), comprise at least fifteen percent of the total enrollment of the students in the grades of the receiving district in which the students of sending districts will be enrolled, shall have collectively two representatives on the receiving district Board of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2.b. The annual designation of the representatives, in the event more than two districts collectively qualify, shall be rotated among the Boards of Education of the sending districts according to a schedule determined by the joint agreement of the Boards in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2.b. The number of representatives designated by the sending districts to be additional members on the receiving district Board of Education shall be limited in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2.c.

A school district which is located in a county of the sixth class according to the latest Federal decennial census, which has an October 1998 resident enrollment greater than 2,400 students, but less than 2,600 students, and which sends its students in grades nine through twelve to a school district in the same county shall have representation on the Board of Education of a receiving school district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.4.

The sending district Board of Education shall designate their representative(s) to serve on the receiving district Board of Education on an annual basis upon notification from the County Superintendent of the appropriate representation on the receiving Board of Education. This designation shall be made by the sending Board of Education at its meeting closest in time to the annual organizational



meeting of the receiving district Board of Education and shall serve a one year term beginning with the organizational meeting of the receiving district Board of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2.d. The sending district representative(s) shall be subject to the rules and procedures of the receiving district Board of Education.

The calculation of percentages required shall be based on the number of students reported as of the last school day prior to October 16 of each prebudget year pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.2.e. and N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.4.b.

4. A sending district representative(s) shall be eligible to vote on the following matters before the receiving district Board of Education:
  - a. Tuition to be charged the sending district by the receiving district and the bill lists or contracts for the purchase, operation or maintenance of facilities, equipment and instructional materials to be used in the education of the students of the sending district;
  - b. New capital construction to be utilized by sending district students;
  - c. Appointment, transfer or removal of teaching staff members providing services to the students of the sending district, including any teaching staff member who is a member of the receiving district's central administrative staff;
  - d. Addition or deletion of curricular and extracurricular programs involving students of the sending district;
  - e. Any matter directly involving the sending district students or programs and services utilized by those students;
  - f. Approval of the annual receiving district budget;
  - g. Any collectively negotiated agreement involving employees who provide services utilized by sending district students;
  - h. Any individual employee contracts not covered by a collectively negotiated agreement, if those employees provide or oversee programs or services utilized by sending district students; and
  - i. Any matter concerning governance of the receiving district Board of Education including, but not limited to, the selection of the Board President or Vice President, approval of Board Bylaws, and the employment of professionals or consultants such as attorneys, architects,

engineers, or others who provide services to the receiving district Board of Education.

5. While the sending district representative shall have limited voting rights in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8.1, in all other respects the representative shall function as a full member of the Board of Education, including participation in the closed session discussions.

N.J.S.A. 18A:12-6; 18A:12-9; 18A:12-11; 18A:12-15; 18A:38-8

N.J.S.A. 18A:13-8 et seq. [**regional districts**]

N.J.S.A. 18A:54-16 et seq. [**vocational districts**]

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-2.1 et seq.

Adopted:

**P 5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)**

**R 5111 – Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) (Revised)**

**Administrative Guidance**

This policy provides some simple updates and accommodates F-1 Visa students. By allowing Visa students on a tuition basis, we will have the option to accept international students and gain revenue.

For Reference, see current [Policy 5111](#) and [Regulation 5111](#)

For Track Changes, see [Policy 5111](#) and [Regulation 5111](#)

**Strauss Esmay Guidance**

Pursuant to a New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) broadcast document titled “Enrollment Considerations for Immigrant Students” dated August 22, 2018, Strauss Esmay has revised Policy and Regulation Guides 5111 - Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students. N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.3 prohibits refusing admittance of any student from public elementary and secondary schools on the basis of immigration/visa status, except for students on F-1 Visas. Strauss Esmay contacted the NJDOE for clarification regarding this administrative code section and was informed the school enrollment eligibility requirements for F-1 Visas are governed by Federal statutes and regulations administered by the U.S. Department of State and/or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Strauss Esmay researched the Federal regulation, 8 CFR 214.2(f)(1)(i)(D), on this subject and the written guidance published by the U.S. Department of State – Bureau of Consular Affairs. The Federal regulations and the guidance clearly indicate school districts may only allow F-1 Visa students to enroll in the district if full tuition is paid. A school district is not required to permit admittance of an F-1 Visa student in accordance with Federal regulation - 8 CFR 214.3. Policy and Regulation Guides 5111 have been revised with an option: to either not admit F-1 Visa students or to admit an F-1 Visa student only if the student pays full tuition. School districts should ensure any registration forms and practices are consistent with the provisions of this Policy and Regulation Guide. Policy and Regulation Guides 5111 are mandated. The revised Regulation Guide is now required to be adopted by the Board.

Policy Guide 5111 is MANDATED

Regulation Guide 5111 is MANDATED

**Proposed Policy Language**

**ELIGIBILITY OF RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT STUDENTS (M)**

**P5111**

**M**

The Board of Education shall admit to its schools, free of charge, persons over five and under twenty years of age, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, or such younger or older student as is otherwise entitled by law to a free public education.

#### Eligibility to Attend School

The Board shall admit students eligible to attend school free of charge that are domiciled within the district as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1.

A child who is domiciled within the school district and resides with a parent or guardian who is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or a member of the reserve component of the armed forces of the United States who is ordered into active military service in a time of war or national emergency shall be permitted to remain enrolled in the school district in which the child is domiciled at the time of the parent or guardian being ordered into active military service, regardless of where the child resides during the period of active duty. Following the return of the child's parent or guardian from active military service, the child's eligibility to remain enrolled in the school district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3.1 shall cease at the end of the current school year unless the child is domiciled in the school district.

The Board shall also admit any student that is kept in the home of a person other than the student's parent or guardian, where the person is domiciled in the school district and is supporting the student without remuneration as if the student were his or her own child in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2. A student is only eligible to attend school in the district pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2 if the student's parent or guardian files, together with documentation to support its validity, a sworn statement that he or she is not capable of supporting or providing care for the student due to family or economic hardship and the student is not residing with the other person solely for the purpose of receiving a free public education. In addition, the person keeping the student must file, if so required by the Board of Education, a sworn statement that he or she: is domiciled within the school district; is supporting the child without remuneration and intends to do so for a time longer than the school term; will assume all personal obligations for the student relative to school requirements; and provides a copy of his or her lease if a tenant, a sworn landlord's statement if residing as a tenant without a written lease, or a mortgage or tax bill if an owner. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.c, any person who fraudulently allows a child of another person to use his or her residence and is not the primary financial supporter of that child and any person who fraudulently claims to have given up custody of his or her child to a person in another district commits a disorderly persons offense.

A student is eligible to attend school in this school district free of charge pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.b if the student is kept in the home of a person domiciled in the school district, who is not the parent or guardian and the parent or guardian is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or the reserve component of the United States armed forces and has been ordered into active military service in the United States armed forces in time of war or national emergency. Eligibility under this provision shall cease at the end of the current school year during which the parent or guardian returns from active military duty.

A student is eligible to attend school in this school district free of charge pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.d if the student's parent or guardian temporarily resides within the school district and elects to have the student attend the school district of temporary residence, notwithstanding the existence of a domicile elsewhere. When required by the Board of Education, the parent or guardian shall demonstrate the temporary residence is not solely for purposes of a student attending the school district of temporary residence. When one of a student's parents or guardians temporarily resides in the school district while the other is domiciled or temporarily resides elsewhere, eligibility to attend school shall be determined in accordance with the criteria of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1(a)1.i.

A student is eligible to attend this school district free of charge:

1. If the student's parent or guardian moves to another school district as the result of being homeless, subject to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2 - Education of Homeless Children;
2. If the student is placed by court order or by a society, agency, or institution in the home of a school district resident pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-2;
3. If the student previously resided in the school district and if the parent or guardian is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or the United States reserves and has been ordered to active service in time of war or national emergency, resulting in the relocation of the student out of the school district, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3.b. The school district shall not be obligated for transportation costs; and
4. If the student resides on Federal property within the State pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-7.7 et seq.

Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 or any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, a student who moves out of the school district as a result of domestic violence, sexual abuse, or other family crises shall be permitted to remain enrolled in the school district for the remainder of the school year in pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1 and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2(h). If the student remains enrolled in the school district for the remainder of the school year, the school district shall provide transportation services to the student, provided the student lives remote from school, and the State shall reimburse the school district for the cost of the transportation services. Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1 shall be construed to affect the rights of homeless students pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12, N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12.1, or any other applicable State or Federal law.

A student's eligibility to attend this school shall not be affected by the physical condition of an applicant's housing or his or her compliance with local housing ordinances or terms of lease.

Except as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.3(b)1, immigration/visa status shall not affect eligibility to attend school and the school district shall not condition enrollment in the school district on immigration status. A student's immigration/visa status and their eligibility to attend school shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.3(b) and Regulation 5111.

### Proof of Eligibility

The Board of Education shall accept a combination of forms of documentation from persons attempting to demonstrate a student's eligibility for enrollment in the school district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.4. The Board of Education shall consider the totality of information and documentation offered by an applicant, and shall not deny enrollment based on failure to provide a particular form or subset of documents without regard to other evidence presented.

The Board of Education shall not condition enrollment on the receipt of information or documents protected from disclosure by law, or pertaining to criteria that are not a legitimate basis for determining eligibility to attend school as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.4(d). The Board of Education may consider, in a manner consistent with Federal law, documents or information referenced in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.4(d) or pertinent parts thereof if voluntarily disclosed by the applicant. The Board of Education may not, directly or indirectly, require or request such disclosure as an actual or implied condition of enrollment. However, in the case of a dispute between the school district and the parent or guardian of a student in regard to the student's eligibility to enroll in the school district or to remain enrolled in the school district pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, the school district may request from the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission the parent or guardian's name and address for use in verifying a student's eligibility for enrollment in the school district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.3.

### Registration Forms and Procedures for Initial Assessment

Registration and initial determinations of eligibility will be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.1. The Board of Education shall use Commissioner-provided registration forms or locally developed forms that are consistent with the forms provided by the Commissioner. A district-level administrator designated by the Superintendent shall be clearly identified to applicants and available to assist persons who experience difficulties with the enrollment process.

Initial eligibility determinations shall be made upon presentation of an enrollment application, and enrollment shall take place immediately except in cases of clear, uncontested denials. Enrollment shall take place immediately when an applicant has provided incomplete, unclear, or questionable information, but the applicant shall be notified that the student will be removed from the school district if defects in the application are not corrected, or an appeal is not filed, in accordance with subsequent notice to be provided pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.2.

When a student appears ineligible based on the information provided in the initial application, the school district shall issue a preliminary written notice of ineligibility, including an explanation of the right to appeal to the Commissioner of Education. Enrollment shall take place immediately if the applicant clearly indicates disagreement with the district's determination and an intent to appeal to the Commissioner of Education. An applicant whose student is enrolled pursuant to this provision shall be notified that the student will be removed, without a hearing before the Board, if no appeal is filed within the twenty-one day period established by N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.

When enrollment is denied and no intent to appeal is indicated, applicants shall be advised they shall comply with compulsory education laws. When the student is between the ages of six and sixteen, applicants also shall be asked to complete a written statement indicating the student will be attending school in another school district or nonpublic school, or receiving instruction elsewhere than at a school pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25. In the absence of this written statement, designated staff shall report to the school district of actual domicile or residence, or the Department of Children and Families, a potential instance of "neglect" for the purposes of ensuring compliance with compulsory education law, N.J.S.A. 9:6-1. Staff shall provide the school district or the Department of Children and Families with the student's name, the name(s) of the parent/guardian/resident, and the student's address to the extent known. Staff shall also indicate admission to the school district has been denied based on residency or domicile, and there is no evidence of intent to arrange for the child to attend school or receive instruction elsewhere.

Enrollment or attendance at the school shall not be conditioned on advance payment of tuition when enrollment is denied and an intent to appeal is indicated, or when enrollment is provisional and subject to further review or information. The Board of Education shall ensure the registration process identifies information suggesting an applicant may be homeless so procedures may be implemented in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2, Education of Homeless Children. Enrollment or attendance in the school district shall not be denied based upon the absence of the certified copy of the student's birth certificate or other proof of a student's identity as required within thirty days of initial enrollment, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-25.1.

Enrollment in the school district shall not be denied based upon absence of student medical information. However, actual attendance at school may be deferred until the student complies with student immunization rules set forth in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.

When enrollment in the school district, attendance at school, or the receipt of educational services in the regular education program appears inappropriate, the student shall not be denied based upon the absence of a student's prior educational record. However, the applicant shall be advised the student's initial educational placement may be subject to revision upon the school district's receipt of records or further assessment of the student.

Notice of Ineligibility

When a student is found ineligible to attend the school district pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22 or the student's initial application is found to be deficient upon subsequent review or investigation, the school district immediately shall provide to the applicant notice that is consistent with Commissioner-provided sample form(s) and meets requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4 et seq. Notices shall be in writing; in English and in the native language of the applicant; issued by the Superintendent; and directed to the address at which the applicant claims to reside. Notices of ineligibility shall include information as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.2.

#### Removal of Currently Enrolled Students

Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:22 et seq. and this Policy shall preclude the Board of Education from identifying through further investigation or periodic requests for revalidation of eligibility, students enrolled in the school district who may be ineligible for continued attendance due to error in initial assessment, changed circumstances, or newly discovered information.

When a student who is enrolled and attending school based on an initial eligibility determination is later determined to be ineligible for continued attendance, the Superintendent may apply to the Board of Education for the student's removal in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.3. No student shall be removed from school unless the parent, guardian, adult student, or resident keeping an "affidavit student" (as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-1.2) has been informed of his or her entitlement to a hearing before the Board of Education. Once the hearing is held, or if the parent, guardian, adult student or resident keeping an "affidavit student", does not respond within the designated time frame to the Superintendent's notice or appear for the hearing, the Board of Education shall make a prompt determination of the student's eligibility and shall immediately provide notice in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.2. Hearings required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.3 may be conducted by the full Board or a Board Committee, at the discretion of the full Board. If the hearing(s) is conducted by a Board Committee, the Committee shall make a recommendation to the full Board for action. No student may be removed except by vote of the Board taken at a meeting duly convened and conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the Open Public Meetings Act.

#### Appeal to the Commissioner

An applicant may appeal to the Commissioner of Education the school district's determination that a student is ineligible to attend its schools. Appeals shall be initiated by petition which shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:3-8.1 and shall proceed as a contested case pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.b(1), appeals of "affidavit student" eligibility determinations shall be filed by the resident keeping the student.

#### Assessment and Calculation of Tuition

If no appeal to the Commissioner is filed following notice of an ineligibility determination, the Board of Education may assess tuition, for up to one year of a student's ineligible attendance, including the twenty-one day period provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 for appeal to the Commissioner. Tuition will be assessed and calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-6.3



et seq. If the responsible party does not pay the tuition assessment, the Board of Education may petition the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3 for an order assessing tuition, enforceable in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:58-10 through recording, upon request of the Board of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3-12, on the judgment docket of the Superior Court, Law Division.

If an appeal to the Commissioner is filed and the petitioner does not sustain the burden of demonstrating the student's right to attend the school district, or the petitioner withdraws the appeal, fails to prosecute, or abandons the appeal by any means other than settlement agreeing to waive or reduce tuition, the Commissioner may assess tuition in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-6.2(a). Upon the Commissioner's finding that an appeal has been abandoned, the Board of Education may remove the student from school and seek tuition in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-6.2.

### Nonresident Students

The admission of a nonresident student to school free of charge must be approved by the Board. No student otherwise eligible shall be denied admission on the basis of the student's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation or sex, social or economic status, or disability. The continued enrollment of any nonresident student shall be contingent upon the student's maintenance of good standards of citizenship and discipline.

### Children Who Anticipate Moving to or from the District

A nonresident student otherwise eligible for attendance whose parent or guardian anticipates school district residency and has entered a contract to buy, build, or rent a residence in this school district may be enrolled without payment of tuition for a period of time not greater than 10 weeks prior to the anticipated date of residency. If any such student does not become a resident of the school district within 10 weeks after admission to school, tuition will be charged for attendance commencing the beginning of the eleventh week and until such time as the student becomes a resident or withdraws from school.

Students whose parent or guardian have moved away from the school district on or after April 1<sup>st</sup> and twelfth grade students whose parent or guardian have moved away from the school district on or after April 1<sup>st</sup> will be permitted to finish the school year in this school district without payment of tuition. Parents shall be responsible for transportation.

### Other Nonresident Students

Other nonresident students, otherwise eligible for attendance may be admitted to this school district with payment of tuition and Board approval.

### F-1 Visa Students

The school district will permit the attendance of F-1 Visa students into the school district only with the payment of full tuition and a signed tuition contract. The district may require advance payment of full tuition before providing the requested I-20 Form, in accordance with the provisions of Federal regulation 8 CFR 214.3. An F-1 Visa is granted to a foreign student through an application process that must include, but is not limited to, signed approval by the receiving school district exhibiting the receiving school district will accept the foreign student for enrollment and the foreign student's proof of financial means to pay the full tuition to the receiving school district for the academic year.

N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 et seq.; 18A:38-3; 18A:38-3.1  
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3; 6A:17-2.1 et seq.; 6A:22-1.1 et seq.  
8 CFR 214.3

Adopted:

## **ELIGIBILITY OF RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT STUDENTS (M)**

### **R 5111**

#### **M**

##### **A. Definitions**

1. "Affidavit student" means a student attending, or seeking to attend school in a district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.b and N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2(a).
2. "Appeal" means contested case proceedings before the Commissioner of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes.
3. "Applicant" means a parent, guardian, or a resident supporting an affidavit student who seeks to enroll a student in a school district; or an unaccompanied homeless youth or adult student who seeks to enroll in a school district.
4. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education or his/her designee.
5. "Guardian" means a person to whom a court of competent jurisdiction has awarded guardianship or custody of a child, provided that a residential custody order shall entitle a child to attend school in the residential custodian's school district unless it can be proven that the child does not actually live with the custodian. "Guardian" also means the Department of Children and Families for purposes of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.e.

B. Eligibility to Attend School – Students Domiciled in the District

1. A student over five and under twenty years of age pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, or such younger or older student as is otherwise entitled by law to a free public education, is eligible to attend school in this school district if the student is domiciled within the district:
  - a. A student is domiciled in the school district when he or she is living with a parent or guardian whose domicile is located within the school district.
    - (1) When a student's parents or guardians are domiciled within different school districts and there is no court order or written agreement between the parents designating the school district of attendance, the student's domicile is the school district of the parent or guardian with whom the student lives for the majority of the school year. This provision shall apply regardless of which parent has legal custody.
    - (2) When a student's physical custody is shared on an equal-time, alternating week/month or other similar basis so the student is not living with one parent or guardian for a majority of the school year and there is no court order or written agreement between the parents designating the school district of attendance, the student's domicile is the present domicile of the parent or guardian with whom the student resided on the last school day prior to October 16 preceding the application date.
      - (a) When a student resided with both parents or guardians, or with neither parent or guardian, on the last school day prior to the preceding October 16, the student's domicile is the domicile of the parent or guardian with whom the parents or guardians indicate the student will be residing on the last school day prior to the ensuing October 16. When the parents or guardians do not designate or cannot agree upon the student's likely residence as of that date, or if on that date the student is not residing with the parent or guardian previously indicated, the student shall attend school in the school district of domicile of the parent or guardian with whom the student actually lives as of the last school day prior to October 16.
      - (b) When the domicile of the student with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14 cannot be determined pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1, nothing shall preclude an equitable

determination of shared responsibility for the cost of such student's out-of-district placement.

- (3) When a student is living with a person other than a parent or guardian, nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1 is intended to limit the student's right to attend school in the parent or guardian's school district of domicile pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:22.
    - (4) No school district shall be required to provide transportation for a student residing outside the school district for all or part of the school year unless transportation is based upon the home of the parent or guardian domiciled within the school district or otherwise required by law.
  - b. A student is domiciled in the school district when he or she has reached the age of eighteen or is emancipated from the care and custody of a parent or guardian and has established a domicile within the school district.
  - c. A student is domiciled in the school district when the student has come from outside the State and is living with a person domiciled in the school district who will be applying for guardianship of the student upon expiration of the six-month "waiting period" of State residency required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:34-54 ("home state" definition) and 2A:34-65.a(1). However, a student may later be subject to removal proceedings if application for guardianship is not made within a reasonable period of time following expiration of the mandatory waiting period or if guardianship is applied for and denied.
  - d. A student is domiciled in the school district when his or her parent or guardian resides within the school district on an all-year-round basis for one year or more, notwithstanding the existence of a domicile elsewhere.
  - e. A student is domiciled in the school district if the Department of Children and Families is acting as the student's guardian and has placed the student in the school district.
2. When a student's dwelling is located within two or more school districts, or bears a mailing address that does not reflect the dwelling's physical location within a municipality, the school district of domicile for school attendance purposes shall be the municipality to which the majority of the dwelling's property tax is paid, or to which the majority of the dwelling's or unit's property tax is paid.
- a. When property tax is paid in equal amounts to two or more municipalities, and there is no established assignment for students residing in the affected

dwellings, the school district of domicile for school attendance purposes shall be determined through assessment of individual proofs as provided pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.4.

- b. This provision shall not preclude the attendance of currently enrolled students who were permitted to attend the school district prior to December 17, 2001.
  - c. When a student's parent or guardian elects to exercise such entitlement, nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1 shall exclude a student's right to attend the school district of domicile although the student is qualified to attend a different school district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.b or the temporary residency (less than one year) provision of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.d.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 or any other section of law to the contrary, a child who is domiciled within the school district and resides with a parent or guardian who is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or a member of the reserve component of the armed forces of the United States who is ordered into active military service in any of the armed forces of the United States in a time of war or national emergency, shall be permitted to remain enrolled in the school district in which the child is domiciled at the time of the parent or guardian being ordered into active military service, regardless of where the child resides during the period of active duty. The school district shall not be responsible for providing transportation for the child if the child lives outside of the district. Following the return of the child's parent or guardian from active military service, the child's eligibility to remain enrolled in the school district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3.1 shall cease at the end of the current school year unless the child is domiciled in the school district.

C. Eligibility to Attend School – Other Students Eligible to Attend School

- 1. A student over five and under twenty years of age pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, or such younger or older student as is otherwise entitled by law to a free public education, is eligible to attend school in this school district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.b if that student is kept in the home of a person other than the student's parent or guardian, and the person is domiciled in the school district and is supporting the student without remuneration as if the student were his or her own child.
  - a. A student is not eligible to attend this school district pursuant to this provision unless:
    - (1) The student's parent or guardian has filed, together with documentation to support its validity, a sworn statement that he or she is not capable of supporting or providing care for the student

due to family or economic hardship and that the student is not residing with the other person solely for the purpose of receiving a free public education; and

(2) The person keeping the student has filed, if so required by the Board of Education:

(a) A sworn statement that he or she is domiciled within the school district, is supporting the child without remuneration and intends to do so for a longer time than the school term, and will assume all personal obligations for the student pertaining to school requirements; and

(b) A copy of his or her lease if a tenant, a sworn landlord's statement if residing as a tenant without a written lease, or a mortgage or tax bill if an owner.

b. A student shall not be deemed ineligible under this provision because required sworn statement(s) cannot be obtained when evidence is presented that the underlying requirements of the law are being met, notwithstanding the inability of the resident or student to obtain the sworn statement(s).

c. A student shall not be deemed ineligible under this provision when evidence is presented that the student has no home or possibility of school attendance other than with a school district resident who is not the student's parent or guardian, but is acting as the sole caretaker and supporter of the student.

d. A student shall not be deemed ineligible under this provision solely because a parent or guardian gives occasional gifts or makes limited contributions, financial or otherwise, toward the student's welfare provided the resident keeping the student receives from the parent or guardian no payment or other remuneration for regular maintenance of the student.

e. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.c, any person who fraudulently allows a child of another person to use his or her residence and is not the primary financial supporter of that child and any person who fraudulently claims to have given up custody of his or her child to a person in another school district commits a disorderly persons offense.

2. A student over five and under twenty years of age pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, or such younger or older student as is otherwise entitled by law to a free public education, is eligible to attend school in this school district pursuant to N.J.S.A.

18A:38-1.b if the student is kept in the home of a person domiciled in the school district, who is not the parent or guardian and the parent or guardian is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or the reserve component of the United States armed forces and has been ordered into active military service in the United States armed forces in time of war or national emergency.

- a. Eligibility under this provision shall cease at the end of the school year during which the parent or guardian returns from active military duty.
3. A student over five and under twenty years of age pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, or such younger or older student as is otherwise entitled by law to a free public education, is eligible to attend school in this school district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.d if the student's parent or guardian temporarily resides within the school district and elects to have the student attend the school district of temporary residence, notwithstanding the existence of a domicile elsewhere.
  - a. When required by the Board of Education, the parent or guardian shall demonstrate the temporary residence is not solely for purposes of the student attending the school district of temporary residence;
  - b. When one of a student's parents or guardians temporarily resides in a school district while the other is domiciled or temporarily resides elsewhere, eligibility to attend school shall be determined in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1(a)1i. However, no student shall be eligible to attend school based upon a parent or guardian's temporary residence in a school district unless the parent or guardian demonstrates, if required by the Board of Education, the temporary residence is not solely for purposes of a student's attending the school district.
4. A student over five and under twenty years of age pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, or such younger or older student as is otherwise entitled by law to a free public education, is eligible to attend school in this school district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.f if the student's parent or guardian moves to another school district as the result of being homeless, subject to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2, Education of Homeless Children.
5. A student over five and under twenty years of age pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, or such younger or older student as is otherwise entitled by law to a free public education, is eligible to attend school in this school district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-2 if the student is placed by court order or by a society, agency, or institution in the home of a school district resident pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-2. As used in this section, "court order" shall not encompass orders of residential custody under which claims of entitlement to attend a school district are governed by provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and the applicable standards set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:22.

6. A student over five and under twenty years of age pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, or such younger or older student as is otherwise entitled by law to a free public education, is eligible to attend school in this school district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3.b if the student previously resided in the school district and if the parent or guardian is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or the United States reserves and has been ordered to active service in time of war or national emergency, resulting in the relocation of the student out of the school district. A school district admitting a student pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3.b shall not be obligated for transportation costs.
7. A student over five and under twenty years of age pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, or such younger or older student as is otherwise entitled by law to a free public education, is eligible to attend the school district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-7.7 et seq. if the student resides on Federal property within the State.
8. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1, a student who is not considered homeless under N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12 and who moves to a new school district during the academic year as a result of a family crisis shall be permitted to remain enrolled in the original school district of residence for the remainder of the school year without the payment of tuition. A student attending an academic program during the summer, who is otherwise eligible except for the timing of the move, shall be permitted to remain in the school district for the remainder of the summer program if it is considered an extension of the preceding academic year.
  - a. For purposes of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2(h) and Policy and Regulation 5111, “family crisis” shall include, but not be limited to:
    - (1) An instance of abuse such as domestic violence or sexual abuse;
    - (2) A disruption to the family unit caused by death of a parent or guardian; or
    - (3) An unplanned displacement from the original residence such as fire, flood, hurricane, or other circumstances that render the residence uninhabitable.
  - b. Upon notification of the move by the parent or guardian, the original school district of residence shall allow the student to continue attendance and shall provide transportation services to and from the student’s new domicile in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1. The original school district of residence may request from the parent or guardian and may review supporting documentation about the reason(s) for the move; however, any such review shall not interrupt the student’s continued



enrollment in the school district and in the current school of attendance with the provision of transportation.

- (1) Examples of documentation include, but are not limited to, newspaper articles, insurance claims, police or fire reports, notes from health professionals, custody agreements, or any other legal document.
- c. If the parent or guardian or the relevant documentation indicates the child is homeless pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12, the school district liaison shall assume the coordination of enrollment procedures pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.5 and the student shall not be eligible for enrollment under N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1.
- d. If the original school district of residence determines the situation does not meet the family crisis criteria outlined in 8.a. above, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent or guardian in writing. The notification shall inform the parent or guardian of his or her right to appeal the decision within twenty-one calendar days of his or her receipt of the notification, and shall state that if such appeal is denied, he or she may be assessed the costs for transportation provided to the new residence during the period of ineligible attendance. It shall also state whether the parent or guardian is required to withdraw the student by the end of the twenty-one day appeal period in the absence of an appeal.
- (1) The parent or guardian may appeal by submitting the request in writing with supporting documentation to the Executive County Superintendent of the county in which the original school district of residence is situated.
  - (2) Within thirty calendar days of receiving the request and documentation, the Executive County Superintendent shall issue a determination whether the situation meets the family crisis criteria set forth at 8.a. above. The original school district of residence shall continue to enroll the student and provide transportation to the current school of attendance in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 until the determination is issued.
  - (3) If the Executive County Superintendent determines the situation does not constitute a family crisis, the school district may submit to the Executive County Superintendent for approval the cost of transportation to the ineligible student's new domicile. The Executive County Superintendent shall certify the transportation costs to be assessed to the parent or guardian for the period of ineligible attendance.

- e. When the original school district of residence determines the situation constitutes a family crisis pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately notify the parent or guardian in writing.
  - (1) When the original school district of residence anticipates the need to apply for reimbursement of transportation costs, it shall send to the Executive County Superintendent a request and documentation of the family crisis for confirmation the situation meets the criteria set forth at 8.a. above.
  - (2) Within thirty days of receiving the school district's request and documentation, the Executive County Superintendent shall issue a determination of whether the situation meets the criteria for a family crisis. The original school district of residence shall continue to enroll the student and provide transportation to the current school of attendance in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 until the determination is issued, and shall not be reimbursed for additional transportation costs unless the Executive County Superintendent determines the situation is a family crisis or as directed by the Commissioner upon appeal.
- f. In providing transportation to students under N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1, the Board shall use the most efficient and cost-effective means available and in conformance with all laws governing student transportation.
- g. At the conclusion of the fiscal year in which the Executive County Superintendent has determined the situation constitutes a family crisis, the original school district of residence may apply to the Executive County Superintendent for a reimbursement of eligible costs for transportation services.
  - (1) Eligible costs shall include transportation for students who are required to be transported pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.
  - (2) The school district shall provide documentation of the transportation costs for the eligible student(s) to the Executive County Superintendent who shall review and forward the information to the Department's Office of School Facilities and Finance for reimbursement payment(s) to the school district.
  - (3) Payment to the school district shall be made in the subsequent fiscal year and shall equal the approved cost less the amount of transportation aid received for the student(s).

- h. Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2 shall prevent the Board of Education from allowing a student to enroll without the payment of tuition pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3.a.
- i. Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2 shall prevent a parent or school district from appealing the Executive County Superintendent's decision(s) to the Commissioner in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.3. If the Commissioner of Education determines the situation is not a family crisis, his or her decision shall state which of the following shall pay the transportation costs incurred during the appeal process: the State, school district, or parent.

D. Housing and Immigration Status

- 1. A student's eligibility to attend school shall not be affected by the physical condition of an applicant's housing or his or her compliance with local housing ordinances or terms of lease.
- 2. Except as set forth in a. below, immigration/visa status shall not affect eligibility to attend school. Any student over five and under twenty years of age pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, or such younger or older student as is otherwise entitled by law to a free public education, who is domiciled in the school district or otherwise eligible to attend school in the district pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2 shall be enrolled without regard to, or inquiry concerning, immigration status.
  - a. However, the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:22 shall not apply to students who have obtained, or are seeking to obtain, a Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status (INS Form I-20) from the school district in order to apply to the INS for issuance of a visa for the purpose of limited study on a tuition basis in a United States public secondary school ("F-1" Visa).
- 3. F-1 Visa Students
  - a. The school district will permit the attendance of F-1 Visa students into the school district only with the payment of full tuition and a signed tuition contract. The district may require advance payment of full tuition before providing the requested I-20 Form, in accordance with the provisions of Federal regulation 8 CFR 214.3. An F-1 Visa is granted to a foreign student through an application process that must include, but is not limited to, signed approval by the receiving school district exhibiting the receiving school district will accept the foreign student for enrollment and the foreign student's proof of financial means to pay the full tuition to the receiving school district for the academic year.

E. Nothing in Policy and Regulation 5111 or N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2 shall be construed to limit the discretion of the Board to admit nonresident students, or the ability of a nonresident student to attend school with or without payment of tuition, with the consent of the district Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3.a.

F. Proof of Eligibility

1. The Board of Education shall accept a combination of any of the following or similar forms of documentation from persons attempting to demonstrate a student's eligibility for enrollment in the school district:

- a. Property tax bills; deeds; contracts of sale; leases; mortgages; signed letters from landlords; and other evidence of property ownership, tenancy, or residency;
- b. Voter registrations; licenses; permits; financial account information; utility bills; delivery receipts; and other evidence of personal attachment to a particular location;
- c. Court orders; State agency agreements; and other evidence of court or agency placements or directives;
- d. Receipts; bills; cancelled checks; insurance claims or payments; and other evidence of expenditures demonstrating personal attachment to a particular location, or to support the student;
- e. Medical reports; counselor or social worker assessments; employment documents; unemployment claims; benefit statements; and other evidence of circumstances demonstrating family or economic hardship, or temporary residency;
- f. Affidavits, certifications and sworn attestations pertaining to statutory criteria for school attendance, from the parent, guardian, person keeping an "affidavit student," adult student, person(s) with whom a family is living, or others, as appropriate;
- g. Documents pertaining to military status and assignment; and
- h. Any other business record or document issued by a governmental entity.

2. The Board of Education may accept forms of documentation not listed above, and shall not exclude from consideration any documentation or information presented by an applicant.

3. The Board of Education shall consider the totality of information and documentation offered by an applicant, and shall not deny enrollment based on failure to provide a particular form or subset of documents without regard to other evidence presented.
4. The Board of Education shall not condition enrollment on the receipt of information or documents protected from disclosure by law, or pertaining to criteria that are not a legitimate basis for determining eligibility to attend school. They include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Income tax returns;
  - b. Documentation or information relating to citizenship or immigration/visa status, except as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.3(b);
  - c. Documentation or information relating to compliance with local housing ordinances or conditions of tenancy; and
  - d. Social security numbers.
5. The Board of Education may consider, in a manner consistent with Federal law, documents or information referenced in 4. above, or pertinent parts thereof if voluntarily disclosed by the applicant. However, the Board of Education may not, directly or indirectly, require or request such disclosure as an actual or implied condition of enrollment.
6. In the case of a dispute between the school district and the parents or guardians of a student in regard to a student's eligibility to enroll in the school district or to remain enrolled in the school district pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, the school district may request from the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission the parent or guardian's name and address for use in verifying a student's eligibility for enrollment in the school district.

G. Registration Forms and Procedures for Initial Assessment

1. The Board of Education shall use Commissioner-provided registration forms, or locally developed forms that:
  - a. Are consistent with the forms provided by the Commissioner;
  - b. Do not seek information prohibited by N.J.A.C. 6A:22 or any other provision of statute or rule;

- c. Summarize, for the applicant's reference, the criteria for attendance set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, and specify the nature and form of any sworn statement(s) to be filed;
  - d. Clearly state the purpose for which the requested information is being sought in relation to the criteria; and
  - e. Notify applicants that an initial eligibility determination is subject to a more thorough review and evaluation, and that an assessment of tuition is possible if an initially admitted applicant is later found ineligible.
2. The Board of Education shall make available sufficient numbers of registration forms and trained registration staff to ensure prompt eligibility determinations and enrollment. Enrollment applications may be taken by appointment, but appointments shall be promptly scheduled and shall not unduly defer a student's attendance at school.
- a. If the school district uses separate forms for affidavit student applications rather than a single form for all types of enrollment, affidavit student forms shall comply in all respects with the provisions of G.1. above. When affidavit student forms are used, the school district shall provide them to any person attempting to register a student of whom he or she is not the parent or guardian, even if not specifically requested.
    - (1) The Board of Education or its agents shall not demand or suggest that guardianship or custody must be obtained before enrollment will be considered for a student living with a person other than the parent or guardian since such student may qualify as an affidavit student.
    - (2) The Board of Education or its agents shall not demand or suggest that an applicant seeking to enroll a student of whom the applicant has guardianship or custody produce affidavit student proofs.
  - b. A district-level administrator designated by the Superintendent shall be clearly identified to applicants and available to assist persons who experience difficulties with the enrollment process.
3. Initial eligibility determinations shall be made upon presentation of an enrollment application, and enrollment shall take place immediately except in cases of clear, uncontested denials.
- a. Enrollment shall take place immediately when an applicant has provided incomplete, unclear, or questionable information, but the applicant shall be notified that the student will be removed from the school district if defects

in the application are not corrected, or an appeal is not filed, in accordance with subsequent notice to be provided pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.2.

- b. When a student appears ineligible based on information provided in the initial application, the school district shall issue a preliminary written notice of ineligibility, including an explanation of the right to appeal to the Commissioner of Education. Enrollment shall take place immediately if the applicant clearly indicates disagreement with the school district's determination and intent to appeal to the Commissioner.
  - (1) An applicant whose student is enrolled pursuant to this provision shall be notified that the student will be removed without a hearing before the Board if no appeal is filed within the twenty-one day period established by N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.
- 4. When enrollment is denied and no intent to appeal is indicated, applicants shall be advised they shall comply with compulsory education laws. When the student is between the ages of six and sixteen, applicants also shall be asked to complete a written statement indicating the student will be attending school in another school district or nonpublic school, or receiving instruction elsewhere than at a school pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25. In the absence of this written statement that the student will be attending school in another school district or nonpublic school, or receiving instruction elsewhere than at a school, designated staff shall report to the school district of actual domicile or residence, or the Department of Children and Families, a potential instance of "neglect" for purposes of ensuring compliance with compulsory education laws, N.J.S.A. 9:6-1. Staff shall provide the school district or the Department of Children and Families with the student's name, the name(s) of the parent/guardian/resident, and the student's address to the extent known. Staff shall also indicate admission to the school district has been denied based on residency or domicile, and there is no evidence of intent to arrange for the child to attend school or receive instruction elsewhere.
- 5. Enrollment or attendance in the school district shall not be conditioned on advance payment of tuition in whole or part when enrollment is denied and an intent to appeal is indicated, or when enrollment is provisional and subject to further review or information.
- 6. The Board of Education shall ensure the registration process identifies information suggesting an applicant may be homeless so procedures may be implemented in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2 - Education of Homeless Children.
- 7. Enrollment or attendance in the school district shall not be denied based upon absence of a certified copy of the student's birth certificate or other proof of his or

her identity as required within thirty days of initial enrollment, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-25.1.

8. Enrollment in the school district shall not be denied based upon absence of student medical information. However, actual attendance at school may be deferred until the student complies with student immunization rules set forth in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.
9. When enrollment in the school district, attendance at school, or the receipt of educational services in the regular education program appears inappropriate, the student shall not be denied based upon the absence of a student's prior educational record. However, the applicant shall be advised the student's initial educational placement may be subject to revision upon the school district's receipt of records or further assessment of the student.

#### H. Notice of Ineligibility

1. When a student is found ineligible to attend the school district pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22 or the student's initial application is found to be deficient upon subsequent review or investigation, the school district shall immediately provide notice to the applicant that is consistent with Commissioner-provided sample form(s) and meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4 et seq.
  - a. Notices shall be in writing; in English and in the native language of the applicant; issued by the Superintendent; and directed to the address at which the applicant claims to reside.
2. Notices of ineligibility shall include:
  - a. In cases of denial, a clear description of the specific basis on which the determination of ineligibility was made:
    - (1) The description shall be sufficient to allow the applicant to understand the basis for the decision and determine whether to appeal; and
    - (2) The description shall identify the specific subsection of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 under which the application was decided.
  - b. In cases of provisional eligibility, a clear description of the missing documents or information that still must be provided before a final eligibility status can be attained under the applicable provision of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1;



- c. A clear statement of the applicant's right to appeal to the Commissioner of Education within twenty-one days of the notice date, along with an informational document provided by the Commissioner describing how to file an appeal;
- d. A clear statement of the student's right to attend school for the twenty-one day period during which an appeal can be made to the Commissioner. It also shall state the student will not be permitted to attend school beyond the twenty-first day following the notice date if missing information is not provided or an appeal is not filed;
- e. A clear statement of the student's right to continue attending school while an appeal to the Commissioner is pending;
- f. A clear statement that, if an appeal is filed with the Commissioner and the applicant does not sustain the burden of demonstrating the student's right to attend the school district, or the applicant withdraws the appeal, fails to prosecute or abandons the appeal by any means other than settlement, the applicant may be assessed, by order of the Commissioner enforceable in Superior Court, tuition for any period of ineligible attendance, including the initial twenty-one day period and the period during which the appeal was pending before the Commissioner;
- g. A clear statement of the approximate rate of tuition, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-6.3, that an applicant may be assessed for the year at issue if the applicant does not prevail on appeal, or elects not to appeal:
  - (1) If removal is based on the student's move from the school district, the notice of ineligibility shall also provide information as to whether district Policy permits continued attendance, with or without tuition, for students who move from the school district during the school year.
- h. The name of a contact person in the school district who can assist in explaining the notice's contents; and
- i. When no appeal is filed, notice that the parent or guardian shall still comply with compulsory education laws. In the absence of a written statement from the parent or guardian that the student will be attending school in another school district or non-public school, or receiving instruction elsewhere than at a school, school district staff shall notify the school district of actual domicile/residence, or the Department of Children and Families, of a potential instance of "neglect" pursuant to N.J.S.A. 9:6-1. For purposes of facilitating enforcement of the State compulsory education requirement (N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25), staff shall provide the

student's name, the name(s) of the parent/guardian/resident, address to the extent known, denial of admission based on residency or domicile, and absence of evidence of intent to attend school or receive instruction elsewhere.

#### I. Removal of Currently Enrolled Students

1. Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:22 and this Regulation shall preclude the Board of Education from identifying through further investigation or periodic requests for revalidation of eligibility, students enrolled in the school district who may be ineligible for continued attendance due to error in initial assessment, changed circumstances, or newly discovered information.
2. When a student who is enrolled and attending school based on an initial eligibility determination is later determined to be ineligible for continued attendance, the Superintendent may apply to the Board of Education for the student's removal.
  - a. The Superintendent shall issue a preliminary notice of ineligibility meeting the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.2. However, the notice shall also provide for a hearing before the Board of Education prior to a final decision on removal.
3. No student shall be removed from school unless the parent, guardian, adult student, or resident keeping an "affidavit student," has been informed of his or her entitlement to a hearing before the Board of Education.
4. Once the hearing is held, or if the parent, guardian, adult student, or resident keeping an "affidavit student," does not respond within the designated time frame to the Superintendent's notice or appear for the hearing, the Board of Education shall make a prompt determination of the student's eligibility and shall immediately provide notice in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.2.
5. Hearings required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.3 may be conducted by the full Board of Education or a Board committee, at the discretion of the full Board. If the hearing is conducted by a Board Committee, the Committee shall make a recommendation to the full Board for action. However, no student shall be removed except by vote of the Board of Education taken at a meeting duly convened and conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the Open Public Meetings Act.

#### J. Appeal to the Commissioner

1. An applicant may appeal to the Commissioner of Education a school district determination that a student is ineligible to attend its schools. Appeals shall be initiated by petition, which shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1

and N.J.A.C. 6A:3-8.1 and shall proceed as a contested case pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3.

- a. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.b(1), appeals of “affidavit student” ineligibility determinations shall be filed by the resident keeping the student.

K. Assessment and Calculation of Tuition

1. If no appeal to the Commissioner is filed by the parent, guardian, adult student, or school district resident keeping an “affidavit” student following notice of an ineligibility determination, the Board of Education may assess tuition for up to one year of a student’s ineligible attendance, including the twenty-one day period provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 for appeal to the Commissioner.
  - a. If the responsible party does not pay the tuition assessment, the Board of Education may petition the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3 for an order assessing tuition, enforceable in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:58-10 through recording, upon request of the Board of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3-12, on the judgment docket of the Superior Court, Law Division.
2. If an appeal to the Commissioner is filed by the parent, guardian, adult student, or school district resident keeping an “affidavit” student and the petitioner does not sustain the burden of demonstrating the student’s right to attend the school district, or the petitioner withdraws the appeal, fails to prosecute, or abandons the appeal by any means other than settlement agreeing to waive or reduce tuition, the Commissioner may assess tuition for the period during which the hearing and decision on appeal were pending, and for up to one year of a student’s ineligible attendance in a school district prior to the appeal’s filing and including the twenty-one day period to file an appeal.
  - a. Upon the Commissioner’s finding that an appeal has been abandoned, the Board of Education may remove the student from school and seek tuition for up to one year of ineligible attendance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-6.1(a) plus the period of ineligible attendance after the appeal was filed. If the record of the appeal includes a calculation reflecting the tuition rate(s) for the year(s) at issue, the per diem tuition rate for the current year and the date on which the student’s ineligible attendance began, the Commissioner may order payment of tuition as part of his or her decision. In doing so, the Commissioner shall consider whether the ineligible attendance was due to the school district’s error. If the record does not include such a calculation and the Board of Education has filed a counterclaim for tuition, the counterclaim shall proceed to a hearing notwithstanding that the petition has been abandoned.

- b. An order of the Commissioner assessing tuition is enforceable through recording, upon request of the Board of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3-12, on the judgment docket of the Superior Court, Law Division, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:58-10.
- 3. Tuition assessed pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-6 shall be calculated on a per-student basis for the period of a student's ineligible enrollment, up to one year, by applicable grade/program category and consistent with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-17.1. The individual student's record of daily attendance shall not affect the calculation.
- 4. Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:22 shall preclude an equitable determination by the Board of Education or the Commissioner that tuition shall not be assessed for all or part of any period of a student's ineligible attendance in the school district when the particular circumstances of a matter so warrant. In making the determination, the Board of Education or Commissioner shall consider whether the ineligible attendance was due to the school district's error.

Adopted:

## **Administrative Guidance**

For Reference, see [Policy 5337](#)

For Track Changes, see [Policy 5337](#)

## **Strauss Esmay Guidance**

### **P 5337 – Service Animals (Revised)**

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, requires public school districts to permit the use of service animals by individuals with disabilities who require such support. Policy Guide 5337 has been revised to reflect expanding Federal case law in other jurisdictions stating, among other things, a Board of Education may not *require* an individual with a disability using a service animal to carry liability insurance for the service animal. The United States District Court Southern Division of Florida in *Monica Alboniga, individually and on behalf of A.M., a minor, v. The School Board of Broward County Florida*, February 10, 2015, indicated a requirement for a student with a disability to maintain liability insurance for their service animal is “an impermissible discriminatory practice.” In addition, the Court in *Alboniga* held a school district is not responsible to pay for or provide a handler to aid the individual with a disability in the control of a service animal, but is responsible to assist an individual with a disability in performing the tasks required of the individual for the care and maintenance of the service animal. The Court indicated requiring the school district to provide a person to assist the individual by tethering or untethering the dog from the individual’s wheelchair for the dog to go outside to relieve themselves during the day was not an unreasonable accommodation. The Court indicated this accommodation was the same as a school employee assisting a diabetic child with an insulin pump; a physically disabled child with his/her wheelchair; or a blind child deploying a cane. These Federal cases were decided by Federal Courts in jurisdictions other than New Jersey’s; however, it is very likely a similar case in New Jersey would be decided in the same manner. Policy Guide 5337 has been revised to incorporate these two provisions. The Board may want to discuss this issue with the Board Attorney and insurance carrier to ensure the district is insured for an individual’s use of a service animal. This Policy Guide is not mandated, but is an important requirement for all school districts.

Policy Guide 5337 is RECOMMENDED

## **Proposed Policy Language**

### **SERVICE ANIMALS**

5337

In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, it is the Policy of the Board to permit use of a service animal by an individual with a disability in all areas of the district where the public is normally permitted: in district buildings; on district property; and on vehicles owned, leased, or controlled by the district. (28 CFR §35.136)

A. Definitions

1. “Act” means the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008.
2. “Designated administrator” means Principal or person designated by the Principal to coordinate these activities.
3. “District” means this school district.
4. “Handler” means the animal’s owner who is an individual with a disability or a person, such as a trainer, assisting the owner with control of the service animal.
5. “Service animal” means a dog individually trained to do work or perform a specific job or task for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. (28 CFR §36.104)
  - a. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition.
  - b. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability (e.g. navigation, alerting physical support and assistance, preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors).
  - c. Work or tasks for the purposes of this definition do not include the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, therapy, companionship, or crime deterrence.

B. Generally

1. The district shall permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability unless:
  - a. The animal is out of control and the animal’s handler does not take effective action to control it;
  - b. The animal is not housebroken.

2. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g. voice control, signals, or other effective means). (28 CFR §35.136(d))
3. If an animal is properly excluded, the district shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises. (28 CFR §35.136(b))
4. If there are places in the district where it is determined to be unsafe for a handler and service animal, reasonable accommodations will be provided to assure the individual with a disability has equal access to the activity.
5. Unless the need for a service animal is readily apparent, the individual with a disability or his/her parent will be required to provide the district with information that:
  - a. The service animal is required because of a disability; and
  - b. What work or task the animal has been trained to perform.
6. The district may not require documentation, including proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal; nor that the dog demonstrates its ability to perform the work or task. (28 CFR §35.136(f))
7. Individuals with a disability who have service animals are not exempt from local animal control or public health requirements.
8. Service animals must be licensed and registered in accordance with State and local laws.

C. Delegation of Responsibility

1. The district is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal, in accordance with 28 CFR §35.136(e).
  - a. The district is not responsible to pay for or provide a handler to aid the individual with a disability in the control of the service animal.
  - b. The district is responsible to provide assistance to an individual with a disability in performing the tasks required of the individual for the care and maintenance of the service animal.

2. If the district normally charges individuals for damage they cause, an individual with a disability may be charged for damage caused by his or her service animal. (28 CFR §35.136(h))
3. The district will designate relief areas for the service animal which will be included in mobility training and orientation of students and animals new to the school.

D. Notification and Responsibilities

1. In the event a service animal will be introduced as part of the school community, the designated administrator will develop a comprehensive implementation plan prior to introduction of the service animal into the school to include:
  - a. Notification to parents of students who may be in contact with the service animal;
  - b. Appropriate accommodations:
    - (1) For students who are allergic to the service animal; and/or
    - (2) For students who have fears regarding the service animal.
  - c. Appropriate etiquette regarding service animals to include:
    - (1) Never pet a service animal while it is working;
    - (2) Never feed a working service animal;
    - (3) Do not deliberately startle, tease, or taunt a service animal; and
    - (4) Do not hesitate to ask the handler if he or she would like assistance regarding directions for navigating the facility.
2. The use of a service animal introduced as part of the school community will require inclusion into the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or the student's Section 504 Accommodation Plan.
3. The district may request, but cannot require, the owner of a service animal introduced as part of the school community and, as included in the student's IEP or Section 504 Accommodation Plan, maintain liability insurance for the service animal. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will ensure the school district has appropriate insurance in the event a service animal is introduced as part of the school community.



E. Miniature Horses

1. Miniature horses, although not included in the Act under the definition of “service animal,” may only be permitted if individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability and if they meet the assessment factors outlined in 3. below. (28 CFR §35.136(i))
2. Ponies and full size horses are not considered miniature horses.
3. Assessment factors to determine whether the district can reasonably modify its policies, practices, and procedures to allow for the use of miniature horses on its property, facilities, or vehicles include:
  - a. Type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate those features;
  - b. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
  - c. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
  - d. Whether the miniature horse’s presence compromises legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operation.
4. All requirements for the use of service animals also apply to the use of miniature horses.

28 CFR §35.136

28 CFR §36.104

Adopted:

## **P8561 PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (M)**

### **Administrative Guidance**

For Reference, see [Policy 8561](#)

For Tracking Changes, see [Policy 8561](#)

### **Strauss Esmay Guidance**

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is conducting audits of school districts to verify compliance with the new Federal regulations regarding procurement procedures for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Nutrition Programs. Strauss Esmay worked with the first school district in the State audited under these new requirements and the NJDA to develop Policy Guide 8561 to ensure compliance with the USDA's new regulations. Policy Guide 8561 was provided to school districts in Policy Alert 215 - April 2018 and revised in Policy Alert 216 - July 2018 with minor revisions made by the NJDA. Strauss Esmay was recently notified the "Federal Funds Procurement Method Selection Chart" in the Appendix was updated by the USDA in August 2018 and is provided with the updated revisions in this Policy Alert. Policy Guide 8561 has also been revised to include a note underneath the revised chart indicating the chart is subject to change, citing the applicable New Jersey Statute, and the location of the source document on the NJDA's website. The updated chart necessitated the removal of language in sections A.2. and D.5. of the Policy Guide, both of which referred to specific bid threshold amounts. Furthermore, both sections A.2. and D.5. now only apply to Non-Public schools as per the Model Policy provided by the NJDA.

Please be advised the NJDA has requested general procurement questions be directed to Emma Davis-Kovacs at (609) 984-1438 or [emma.davis-kovacs@ag.nj.gov](mailto:emma.davis-kovacs@ag.nj.gov). Questions specifically dealing with food service management company (FSMC) contracts should be directed to Nani Lepicard at (609) 984-0698 or [nani.lepicard@ag.nj.gov](mailto:nani.lepicard@ag.nj.gov)

School districts participating in any USDA School Nutrition Program, either self-operated or with a FSMC, are required to adopt Policy Guide 8561 making Policy Guide 8561 mandated for those school districts. School districts not participating in a USDA School Nutrition Program are not required to adopt this Policy Guide.

Policy Guide 8561 is **MANDATED**

PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (M)

8561

**M**

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

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

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

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

#### A. General Procurement

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

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

2. The following procedures will be used for all purchases:

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


Micro-Purchases (2 CFR 200.67):

Non-Public Schools Only - Purchases of supplies or services, within the micro-purchase threshold (the aggregate amount does not exceed the Federal micro-purchase threshold as set by 48 CFR 2.101) will be awarded without soliciting competitive price quotations if the price is reasonable. Purchases will be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers with reasonable prices. Records will be kept for micro-purchases.

3. Formal bid procedures will be applied on the basis of: centralized system.
4. Because of the potential for purchasing more than public or non-public informal/small purchase threshold amount, or the Board approved threshold if less, it will be the responsibility of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to document the amounts to be purchased so the correct method of procurement will be followed.

B. Formal Procurement

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

1. An announcement of an IFB or a RFP will be placed in the Board designated official newspaper to publicize the intent of the Board of Education to purchase needed items. The advertisement for bids/proposals or legal notice will be published in the official newspaper for at least one day in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-21.
2. An advertisement in the official newspaper for at least one day is required for all purchases over the school district's small purchase threshold as outlined in Appendix – Federal Funds Procurement Method Section Chart. The advertisement will contain the following:
  - a. A general description of items to be purchased;
  - b. The deadline for submission of questions and the date written responses will be provided, including addenda to bid specifications, terms, and conditions as needed;
  - c. The date of the pre-bid meeting, if provided, and if attendance is a requirement for bid award;

- d. The deadline for submission of sealed bids or proposals; and
  - e. The address of the location where complete specifications and bid forms may be obtained.
3. In an IFB or RFP, each vendor will be given an opportunity to bid on the same specifications.
4. The developer of written specifications or descriptions for procurements will be prohibited from submitting bids or proposals for such products or services.
5. The IFB or RFP will clearly define the purchase conditions. The following list includes requirements, not exclusive, to be addressed in the procurement document:
- a. Contract period;
  - b. The Board of Education is responsible for all contracts awarded (statement);
  - c. Date, time, and location of IFB/RFP opening;
  - d. How the vendor is to be informed of bid acceptance or rejection;
  - e. Delivery schedule;
  - f. Requirements (terms and conditions) the bidder must fulfill in order for bid to be evaluated;
  - g. Benefits to which the Board of Education will be entitled if the contractor cannot or will not perform as required;
  - h. Statement assuring positive efforts will be made to involve minority and small business;
  - i. Statement regarding the return of purchase incentives, discounts, rebates, and credits to the Board of Education's nonprofit school food service account;
  - j. Contract provisions as required in Appendix II to 2 CFR 200;
  - k. Contract provisions as required in 7 CFR 210.21(f) for all cost reimbursable contracts;

- l. Contract provisions as required in 7 CFR 210.16(a)(1-10) and 7 CFR 250.53 for food service management company contracts;
- m. Procuring instrument to be used are purchase orders from firm fixed prices after formal bidding;
- n. Price adjustment clause for renewal of multi-year contracts as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42. The “index rate” means the annual percentage increase rounded to the nearest half percent in the implicit price deflator for State and local government purchases of goods and services computed and published quarterly by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis;
- o. Method of evaluation and type of contract to be awarded (solicitations using an IFB are awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; solicitations using a RFP are awarded to the most advantageous bidder/offeror with price as the primary factor among factors considered);
- p. Method of award announcement and effective date (if intent to award is required by State or local procurement requirements);
- q. Specific bid protest procedures including contact information of person and address and the date by which a written protest must be received;
- r. Provision requiring access by duly authorized representatives of the Board of Education, New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), or Comptroller General to any books, documents, papers, and records of the contractor which are directly pertinent to all negotiated contracts;
- s. Method of shipment or delivery upon contract award;
- t. Provision requiring contractor to maintain all required records for three years after final payment and all other pending matters (audits) are closed for all negotiated contracts;
- u. Description of process for enabling vendors to receive or pick up orders upon contract award;
- v. Provision requiring the contractor to recognize mandatory standards/policies related to energy efficiency contained in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (PL 94-163);
- w. Signed statement of non-collusion;

- x. Signed Debarment/Suspension Certificate, clause in the contract or a copy of search results from the System for Award Management (SAM);
- y. Provision requiring “Buy American” as outlined in 7 CFR Part 210.21(d) and USDA Guidance Memo SP 38-2017; and
- z. Specifications and estimated quantities of products and services prepared by the school district and provided to potential contractors desiring to submit bids/proposals for the products or services requested.

6. If any potential vendor is in doubt as to the true meaning of specifications or purchase conditions, interpretation will be provided in writing to all potential bidders by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee and will specify the deadline for all questions.

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

7. In awarding a RFP, a set of award criteria in the form of a weighted evaluation sheet will be provided to each bidder in the initial bid document materials. Price alone is not the sole basis for award, but remains the primary consideration among all factors when awarding a contract. Following evaluation and negotiations, a firm fixed price or cost reimbursable contract is awarded.

- a. The contracts will be awarded to the responsible bidder/proposer whose bid or proposal is responsive to the invitation and is most advantageous to the Board of Education, price as the primary, and other factors considered. Any and all bids or proposals may be rejected in accordance with the law.
- b. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee is required to sign on the bid tabulation of competitive sealed bids or the evaluation criterion score sheet of competitive proposals signifying a review and approval of the selections.
- c. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall review the procurement system to ensure compliance with applicable laws.

d. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for documentation that the actual product specified was received.

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

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

g. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is responsible for maintaining all procurement documentation.

#### C. Small Purchase Procedures

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

1. Written specifications will be prepared and provided to all vendors.

2. Each vendor will be contacted and given an opportunity to provide a price quote on the same specifications. A minimum of three vendors shall be contacted.

3. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for contacting potential vendors when price quotes are needed.

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

5. Quotes/Bids will be awarded by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. Quotes/Bids will be awarded on the following criteria. Quote/Bid price must be the highest weighted criteria. Examples of other possible criteria include quality, service, delivery, and availability.

6. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for documentation of records to show selection of vendor, reasons for selection, names of all vendors contacted, price quotes from each vendor, and written specifications.



7. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for documentation that the actual product specified is received.

8. Any time an accepted item is not available, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will select the acceptable alternate. Full documentation will be made available as to the selection of the acceptable item.

9. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee is required to sign all quote tabulations, signifying a review and approval of the selections.

#### D. Noncompetitive Proposal Procedures

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

1. Written specifications will be prepared and provided to the vendor.

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

3. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will be responsible for documentation that the actual product or service specified was received.

4. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be responsible for reviewing the procedures to be certain all requirements for using single source or noncompetitive proposals are met.

5. Non-Public Schools Only - The noncompetitive micro-purchase method shall be used for one-time purchases of a new food item if the amount is less than the Federal micro-purchase threshold (2 CFR 200.67) to determine food acceptance by students and provide samples for testing purposes. A record of noncompetitive negotiation purchase shall be maintained by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee. At a minimum, the record of noncompetitive purchases shall include: item name; dollar amount; vendor; and reason for noncompetitive procurement.

6. A member or representative of the Board of Education will approve, in advance, all procurements that result from noncompetitive negotiations.

#### E. Miscellaneous Provisions

1. New product evaluation procedures will include a review of product labels and ingredients; an evaluation of the nutritional value; taste tests and surveys; and any other evaluations to ensure the new product would enhance the program.

2. The Board of Education agrees the reviewing official of each transaction will be the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

3. Payment will be made to the vendor when the contract has been met and verified and has met the Board of Education's procedures for payment. (If prompt payment is made, discounts, etc., are accepted.)

4. Specifications will be updated as needed.

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

#### F. Emergency Purchases

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

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

1. When participating in intergovernmental and inter-agency agreements the Board of Education will ensure that competitive procurements are conducted in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.318 through .326 and applicable program regulations and guidance.

2. When utilizing the services of a co-op, agent, or third party the Board of Education will ensure that the following conditions have been met:

a. All procurements were subject to full and open competition and were made in accordance with Federal/State/local procurement requirements;

b. The existing contract allows for the inclusion of additional Board of Educations that were not contemplated in the original procurement to purchase the same supplies/equipment through the original award;

c. The specifications in the existing contract meets their needs and that the items being ordered are in the contract;

d. The awarded contract requires all the Federally required certifications; e.g. Buy American, debarment, restrictions on lobbying, etc.;

e. The agency will confirm the addition of their purchasing power (goods or services) to the procurement in scope or services does not create a material change, resulting in the needs to re-bid the contract;

f. Administrative costs (fees) for participating in the agreement are adequately defined, necessary and reasonable, and the method of allocating the cost to the participating agencies must be specified;

g. The Buy American provisions are included in the procurement of food and agricultural products; and

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

#### H. Records Retention

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

a. Written rationale for the method of procurement;

b. A copy of the original solicitation;

c. The selection of contract type;

d. The bidding and negotiation history and working papers;

e. The basis for contractor selection;

f. Approval from the State agency to support a lack of competition when competitive bids or offers are not obtained;

g. The basis for award cost or price;

h. The terms and conditions of the contract;

i. Any changes to the contract and negotiation history;

- j. Billing and payment records;
- k. A history of any contractor claims;
- l. A history of any contractor breaches; and
- m. Any other documents as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:18A – Public School Contracts Law.

I. Code of Conduct for Procurement

1. All procurements must ensure there is open and free competition and adhere to the most restrictive Federal, State, and local requirements. The Board of Education seeks to conduct all procurement procedures in compliance with stated regulations and to prohibit conflicts of interest and actions of employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts. All procurements will be in accordance with this Policy and all applicable provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A – Public School Contracts Law.

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

3. The officers, employees, and agents of the non-Federal entity may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, non-Federal entities may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value.

4. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the non-Federal entity. Based on the severity of the infraction, the penalties could include a written reprimand to their personnel file, a suspension with or without pay, or termination.

5. All questions and concerns regarding procurement solicitations, contract evaluations, and contract award, shall be directed to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

J. Food Service Management Company (FSMC)

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

applicable State and local laws. In order to operate an a la carte food service program, the FSMC shall agree to offer free, reduced price, and full price reimbursable meals to all eligible children.

2. The school district shall monitor the FSMC billing invoices to ensure compliance with Federal and State procurement regulations.

3. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5a.(22), RFPs are required in all solicitations for a FSMC.

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

New Jersey Department of Agriculture

“Procurement Procedures for School Food

Authorities” Model Policy – September 2018

## APPENDIX

FEDERAL FUNDS PROCUREMENT METHOD SELECTION CHART		
THERE ARE TWO (2) PROCUREMENT METHODS, FORMAL AND INFORMAL. THE METHOD THE SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES (SFA) NEEDS TO USE DEPENDS ON TWO (2) FACTORS, THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT AND WHETHER THE SFA IS A PUBLIC/CHARTER OR NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL.		
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC/CHARTER SCHOOLS PURCHASING THRESHOLDS		
AMOUNT	ACTIVITY	PROCUREMENT METHOD
INFORMAL PROCUREMENT		
Below \$4,350 without QPA	N.J.S.A 18A:18A-3	Sound Business Practice *
Below \$6,000 with QPA	APPLIES TO PURCHASES BELOW THE QUOTATION THRESHOLDS	
SMALL PURCHASE QUOTATION PROCEDURES		

\$4,351 OR \$6,001 up to \$29,000 or \$40,000	N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 ANY PURCHASE EXCEEDING QUOTATION THRESHOLDS REQUIRES A QUOTE UP TO THE APPLICABLE N.J.S.A. BID THRESHOLDS OF \$29,000 (without a QPA*) OR \$40,000 (with a QPA*)	Quotation using SFA Internal Procurement Procedures
NOTE: ANNUAL AGGREGATE AMOUNTS		
FORMAL PROCUREMENT		
\$29,000 or \$40,000 and above	N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 Bid Threshold without a QPA* - \$29,000 Bid Threshold with a QPA* - \$40,000	Bid - Invitation for Bid (IFB) OR Request for Proposal (RFP)
* QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT		
NEW JERSEY NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL PURCHASING THRESHOLDS		
AMOUNT	ACTIVITY	PROCUREMENT METHOD
INFORMAL PROCUREMENT		
Below \$10,000 *	Micro - purchases 2 CFR 200.320(a) Single Transaction aggregate cost less than \$10,000	Sound Business Practice *
* Or LESS than \$10,000 if local SFA Procurement Policies are more restrictive		
\$10,001 - \$249,999	Small purchase procedures 2 CFR 200.320(b)	Quotation using SFA Internal Procurement Procedures
FORMAL PROCUREMENT		

\$250,000 and above	As per Federal requirements in 2 CFR Parts 200.317 - 200.326	Bid - Invitation for Bid (IFB) OR Request for Proposal (RFP)
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Note: The Federal Funds Procurement Method Selection Chart is subject to change in accordance with the schedule set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 "Public School Contracts Law". A "Qualified Purchasing Agent" must be qualified in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9. In order to track updates to this Chart, the source document can be located on the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's website under "Forms and Publications" it is titled, "State Agency Form #358."

Adopted:

## **Administrative Guidance**

For Reference, see [Policy 8860](#)

For Track Changes, see [Policy 8860](#)

## **Strauss Esmay Guidance**

### **P 8860 – Memorials (Revised)**

Policy Guide 8860 has been revised removing the provision permitting a school district to fly an American Flag at half-staff for reasons not authorized in the Flag Code - United States Code Title 4 Chapter 1 Section 7 “Position and Manner of Display.” The Flag Code states the American Flag should not be flown at half-staff unless directed to do so by the President of the United States for national mourning or Governor of a State for local mourning. However, there is no penalty for violating the Flag Code and local governmental entities routinely fly an American Flag at half-staff to recognize the loss of local individuals. Notwithstanding local practices, Policy Guide 8860 has been revised to align with the Flag Code. In addition, the third paragraph of the Policy Guide has been moved to the last paragraph. Policy Guide 8860 is suggested and is optional.

Policy Guide 8860 is SUGGESTED

## **Proposed Policy Language**

### **MEMORIALS**

#### **8860**

The Board of Education recognizes that each officer and employee is important to the school district and the community at large. The loss of any officer or employee of this Board by death is a loss that the Board and the school district will share with the community and memorialize in an appropriate manner.

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board and the Board may approve appropriate recognition measures when the deceased Board officer or employee has especially distinguished his/her service to this school district.

The Superintendent may, in his/her discretion, grant an employee of the school district a brief absence without loss of pay or personal leave for the purpose of attending the funeral of his/her direct supervisor or subordinate provided that no disruption in the educational program will be caused by any such absence.

Adopted:



