
PUPIL SAFETY

The board of education recognizes the safety of its pupils as a consideration of utmost importance. The chief school administrator shall maintain all facilities and equipment in proper condition to provide a safe learning environment, ensuring compliance with state law on the handling, labeling and storing of hazardous substances.

The chief school administrator shall oversee development of a district wide safety program with emphasis on accident prevention. All teachers shall be familiar with the provisions of this program that particularly concern them. Regulations concerning use and maintenance of eye protective devices shall be scrupulously enforced by all staff.

The chief school administrator shall inform all staff of school safety rules and regulations at the beginning of the school year and shall post copies of the rules in a prominent place in each school. Special emphasis shall be given to accident prevention and precautionary measures in case of fire.

The staff must maintain complete classroom supervision during regular school hours. The chief school administrator shall seek the cooperation of parents/guardians to prevent any children being unsupervised on school property during lunch hour and during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times. Further, the chief school administrator shall seek the cooperation of the police and other appropriate agencies in providing for the safety of pupils on or around school property. The board shall adopt the necessary regulations governing supervision of pupil safety.

No pupil shall leave the school grounds before the end of the school day without permission of the principal. No pupil shall run errands on school business off the school property.

The curriculum shall include courses in safety as required by state law. The chief school administrator shall oversee development and implementation of a vocational education safety program correlated with course work. In development of courses, the safety of participating pupils shall be a primary consideration.

Employers of work/study pupils are required to report to the principal if a pupil has not reported for work within one hour of the expected arrival time. Other pupils leaving before regular dismissal must be met in the school office and signed out by a parent/guardian or a person authorized to act in his/her behalf.

A record shall be kept indicating the legal custodian of each pupil. Such custodian shall be responsible for informing the chief school administrator of any change in the pupil's custody. If one parent/guardian has been awarded custody of the pupil in a divorce, the other parent/guardian shall present to the principal a letter authorizing him/her to accompany the child from school before the child may be released. The principal may

take reasonable steps to verify the letter. It is the responsibility of the person or agency having custody to inform the school that such authorization will be required.

Voluntary Fingerprinting Program

The board of education shall provide a voluntary fingerprinting program for the protection of its pupils. This program shall be carried out in cooperation with the county sheriff's office and local law enforcement officials in accordance with the requirements of law.

All pupils in grade nine shall be eligible to participate with written authorization of their parent/guardian or temporary caretaker. Completed fingerprint cards shall be given to the parent/guardian or temporary caretaker, and shall not be retained by the school district or the law enforcement agency.

The chief school administrator is directed to provide an orientation program for those pupils for whom fingerprinting has been authorized, and to develop appropriate administrative regulations for the implementation of the voluntary fingerprinting program in the district.

Release to an Individual Impaired by Drugs/Alcohol Prohibited

The board believes that allowing a child to be released into the custody of a parent/guardian or other individual who appears to be impaired by drugs or alcohol can have tragic consequences. Therefore, the board prohibits release of a pupil into the custody of any person who appears to be physically and/or emotionally impaired to the extent that harm could come to the pupil if released to such a person. The chief school administrator/designee shall make the final determination as to whether an individual is impaired.

Possessions

Parents/guardians are requested not to permit their children to bring expensive or fragile objects to school and to label or otherwise identify clothing, books and personal items. The board is not responsible for items destroyed or stolen from lockers.

Megan's Law

Only law enforcement agencies in the community receive notification of the presence of Tier One offenders. The chief school administrator and principals in affected schools shall receive notification from the county prosecutor's office or local law enforcement officials when Tier Two or Tier Three sex offenders move into the district. Principals shall inform those employees/volunteers whose duties regularly put them in a position to observe unauthorized persons on or near the property of the school. Principals shall determine who to notify on the basis of this definition, as well as on specific job duties carried out in their schools. If private vendors perform any of these functions, the chief

school administrator or principal shall inform the vendor. Notification may include, but is not limited to:

- A. Aides
- B. Bus drivers
- C. Coaches
- D. Maintenance staff
- E. Professional support staff
- F. School level administrative staff
- G. Security personnel
- H. Teachers' assistants
- I. Teachers

School personnel are notified only in their capacity as such and shall not disseminate information about an offender to anyone not specifically identified by the county prosecutor or Attorney General. Any school employee who does so may be disciplined. If a school employee has reason to believe that an offender who has been the subject of a notification is a danger to someone outside the school environs, he/she shall immediately contact the local law enforcement agency or the county prosecutor.

District personnel shall not notify the following of the presence of Tier Two or Tier Three offenders:

- A. Members of PTO
- B. Organizations using school facilities
- C. Other schools
- D. Press

The principal shall provide registration forms to any organization that uses the school facilities, including parent-teacher organizations, that wishes to be notified by the county prosecutor's office of the presence of a Tier Two or Tier Three offender in the community.

In addition to the school personnel identified by the principal, students and parents/guardians shall be notified of the presence of Tier Three offenders. The prosecutor's office and local law enforcement shall supply the school with notices for them when a school is located in the area where a vulnerable population is likely to encounter a Tier Three offender. Dissemination of these notices shall be in accord with law and accomplished in cooperation with the county prosecutor's office. Confidentiality shall be a prime consideration in all communication with students and parents/guardians, and all directives of the county prosecutor and Attorney General's offices shall be observed.

When a student has been identified as a sex offender, all procedures of notification shall apply. When a parent/guardian has been identified as an offender, he/she may continue

to participate in all appropriate parent/guardian activities, unless prohibited by legal constraint.

Newly hired staff and newly enrolled students and their parents/guardians shall be trained and informed of the presence of Tier Two and Tier Three offenders, unless the county prosecutor has notified the principal that notice can no longer be given.

Students and district employees shall not be liable in any civil or criminal action for providing or failing to provide information relevant to notification. The chief school administrator shall prepare regulations to implement this policy and all directives of the county prosecutor's office to ensure careful adherence to Megan's Law.

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A. 2C:7-2 et seq.</u>	Registration and Notification of Release of Certain Offenders
<u>N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5</u>	Unlawful possession of weapon
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:6-2</u>	Instruction in accident and fire prevention
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2</u>	Physical examinations; requirement
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:17-42, -43</u> and -45 through -48	Public School Safety Law
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:20-21</u>	Supervisors and other employees
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5</u>	Maintenance of physical training courses; features
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:35-5.1</u> through -5.3	Lyme disease prevention; public school health curriculum
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:36-24</u> through -25	Missing children; legislative findings and declarations...
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:36-29 et seq.</u>	Voluntary fingerprinting
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.1, -12.2</u>	Protective eye devices required for teachers, pupils and visitors in certain cases...
<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1 et seq.</u>	Fire drills and fire protection
<u>N.J.S.A. 30:5B-26 through -29</u>	Child care before and after school hours...
<u>N.J.S.A. 34:5A-1 et seq.</u>	Worker and Community Right to Know Act
<u>N.J.S.A. 39:4-183.1a</u>	Traffic control devices
<u>N.J.A.C. 6:8-4.5</u>	Curriculum and instruction
<u>N.J.A.C. 6:8-4.9</u>	School resources: finance and facilities
<u>N.J.A.C. 6:21-11.3</u>	Emergency exit drills from school buses
<u>N.J.A.C. 6:29-1.1 et seq.</u>	Health, safety and physical education

See particularly:

<u>N.J.A.C. 6:29-1.3(a)5,</u> -1.3(a)6, -1.7, -3.2(d)	
<u>N.J.A.C. 6:53-2.2</u>	Vocational education safety standards

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