

POLICY

SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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9000 COMMUNITY

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Public Relations

9100 PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Board of Education believes that school district public relations encompasses all aspects of the schools' relationship with the total community.

The Board of Education believes its school-community communications program should:

1. Promote public interest and participation in the operation of the school system;
2. Gather information about public attitudes toward the school system and its programs and report them to the Superintendent and the Board;
3. Provide an honest, continuous, comprehensive flow of information about the policies, procedures, programs, problems, and progress of the school system to the community and the staff;
4. Develop the most effective means of communication with the school system's public and use available media as appropriate;
5. Develop programs in the school that will integrate home, school, and community in meeting the needs of district pupils;
6. Develop and maintain the confidence of the community in school Board and the school staff;
7. Recognize pupils as a "public" entitled both to be heard and to be provided with reasons for policies and practices which relate to them and as "ambassadors" from the school system to the community, whose attitudes will affect community opinion of the schools;
8. Anticipate and avert problems that are brought about by lack of understanding;
9. Evaluate past procedures in order to make improvements in future communications; and
10. Ensure communicator fact sheets are developed and distributed following Board meetings to staff and the school leadership and community based organizations.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing programs, techniques and channels for implementing this policy.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



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Public Relations Program
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9120 PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

The Board of Education believes all reasonable means should be employed to keep the community served by the school district informed on matters of importance regarding district programs, finances, personnel, policies, and operations.

The Board will determine which of its official actions have sufficient community impact and interest to warrant special release; the Board alone will release to the news media information about those matters of importance. The Board President may release information regarding Board actions of lesser importance as they have been recorded in the minutes of the Board meetings and upon the request of media representatives. The release of all other publications, photographs, and documents depicting the accomplishments of the pupils and staff of the district shall be approved by the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

The school district will not release or publish photographs or release other personal identifying information of an individual district pupil without the prior written permission of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or from the adult pupil. Written permission slips for such release from each parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or adult pupil will be obtained by the Principal or designee for the pupils in their school building or by the Program Administrator for pupils in programs where a Principal is not assigned. These written permission forms shall be maintained by the Principal or Program Administrator. Group photographs may be released by the district without permission, but in no event will an individual pupil in a group photograph be identified by name and/or by other personal identifier without written permission from the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or adult pupil.

The Superintendent of Schools shall direct an information program designed to acquaint residents of the community and the public generally with the achievements and the needs of the schools. As a minimum, information shall be disseminated regarding the district's educational goals; the district's guarantee of equal educational opportunity; the district's programs for basic skills improvement, special education, bilingual education, and English as a second language; and summary reports of the administration of statewide assessment tests. Every effort shall be made to foresee and avoid problems caused by misunderstanding or lack of information.



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Public Relations Program

The public information program may include the publication and distribution of a district newsletter, meetings with parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and interested residents, a presentation and interpretation of the proposed annual budget, periodically distributed calendars and notices of events, the Superintendent's annual report, and a pupil handbook, as well as the release of news and photographs of school activities for publication. Notices, publications, and other written materials may be prepared in languages other than English when necessary and appropriate for understanding.

The Board of Education adopts the following strategies to minimize the cost of public relations as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3(c)14 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2.

School district publications shall be produced and distributed in the most cost-efficient manner possible that will enable the school district to inform and educate the target community. The use of expensive materials or production techniques where lower cost methods are available and appropriate, such as the use of multi-color glossy publications instead of suitable, less expensive alternatives, is prohibited.

The school district will not distribute, via mass mailings or other means to the district community at large, publications that include the picture(s) of any members of the Board of Education within ninety days before any election in which any Board member is seeking any elective office or any election relating to school district operations held in the district. Any publication(s) distributed by the Board via mass mailings or other means to the district community at large within sixty days before any election in which any Board member is seeking any elective office or any election relating to school district operations held in the district must be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent for review prior to distribution to ensure that the public funds are being expended in a reasonable and cost-effective manner.

Public relations activities, such as booths at Statewide conferences, marketing activities and celebrations for opening schools and community events, and TV productions that are not part of the instructional program or do not provide information about district or Board operations to the public, that are excessive in nature are prohibited. All activities involving promotional efforts to advance a particular position on school elections or any referenda are prohibited.



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Public Relations Program

Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2 and this Policy shall preclude the school district from accepting donations or volunteer services from community members, local private education foundations and local business owners to conduct or assist in public relations services. Examples include, but are not limited to: providing school district flyers, newsletters, or other materials containing school-related information of public concern to local businesses, public meeting places, or other local organizations to display or make available for dissemination; making school district related information of public concern available to local newspapers to publish related articles; and utilizing volunteered services of local community members, district employees, members of parent organizations or local businesses with expertise in related areas such as printing, advertising, publishing, or journalism.

The Board of Education will establish annually prior to budget preparation, a maximum dollar limit for public relation, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3(c)14. In the event it becomes necessary to exceed the established maximum dollar limit for public relations, the Superintendent of Schools shall recommend to the Board of Education an increase in the maximum dollar amount for public. Any increase in the maximum dollar amount shall require formal Board action.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2

Adopted: 17 September 2008

Revised: 12 August 2009



9130 PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

Any person or group having a legitimate interest in the schools of this district may present a request, suggestion, or complaint concerning district personnel, the educational program, instructional or resource materials, or the operations of the district. The Board directs the establishment of procedures for the hearing and settlement of requests and complaints that provide a means for resolving them fairly and impartially, permit appropriate redress, and protect district personnel from unnecessary harassment.

When a Board member is confronted with an issue, he/she will withhold comment, commitment and/or opinion and refer the complaint or inquiry to the Superintendent, who shall review the complaint according to established procedures.

Only in those cases where satisfactory adjustment cannot be made by the Superintendent and the staff shall communications and complaints be referred to the Board for resolution.

Any misunderstandings or disputes between the public and school district staff should, whenever possible, be settled by direct, informal discussions among the interested parties. It is only when such informal meetings fail to resolve differences that more formal procedures shall be employed. A complaint about a school program or personnel should be addressed to the Building Principal; a complaint about instructional or resource materials should be addressed to the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall establish procedures for the hearing of requests and complaints regarding district personnel, the educational program, instructional and resource materials, and the operation of the school district. Procedures will be governed by the following guidelines:

1. The matter will be resolved initially, wherever possible, by informal discussions between or among the interested parties.
2. A matter that cannot be resolved informally may be appealed at successive levels of authority, up to and including the Board of Education.
3. The complaint and its immediate resolution will be reduced to writing at the first and at each successive level of appeal.
4. A reasonable period of time, not to exceed five working days, will be permitted for the filing of an appeal in writing at each successive level. A decision at each level of appeal must be rendered in writing no later than seven working days after



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Public Complaints and Grievances

the appeal is filed, except that the Board shall have forty-five calendar days to make its decision.

5. In the case of complaints about instructional or resource materials, the initial complaint must set forth in writing the author, title, and publisher of the materials as well as those specific portions of the material or the work to which objection is taken; the complainant's familiarity with the work; the reasons for the objection; and the use of the work in the schools. The Superintendent shall appoint a committee of professional staff members and community representatives to review the challenged material against the standards for the selection of resource materials established by Board policy. The committee will report its findings to the Board. No challenged material may be removed from the curriculum or from a collection of resource materials except by action of the Board of Education, and no challenged material may be removed solely because it presents ideas that may be unpopular or offensive to some. Any Board action to remove material will be accompanied by the Board's statement of its reasons for the removal.
6. A complainant shall be notified that a decision of the Board may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



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Citizens Advisory Committees
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9140 CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Community and/or parent(s) or legal guardian(s) advisory committees can be particularly useful both in keeping the Board and administration informed with regard to community opinion and in representing the community in the study of specific school problems. The Board shall, when required by law or when it finds it beneficial, appoint advisory committees to assist in research projects, long-range studies, program evaluation, and development of policies or educational goals/programs. Each committee shall be appointed for a specific purpose and time. The Board may dissolve any Board-appointed committee at its sole discretion.

Such committees shall be representative of the community in relation to the tasks delegated to them, and may include staff and pupils when appropriate. No appointee shall represent an organization, geographic area, religious group, or any other subdivision of the community in an official capacity.

Systematic programs shall be set up to draw on the assistance business, labor, and other organizations have to offer in developing vocational, technical, and enrichment programs and in providing pupils with practical work experience.

The Board shall adopt the committee structure and organization it deems appropriate to the assignment at hand, except for funded programs where requirements are set by law. The Board is responsible for approving all members of a committee and the method of their selection in consultation with the superintendent. Staff members shall not constitute a majority of any general community advisory committee.

Recommendations from the committee shall not reduce the responsibility of the Board, which shall be free to accept or reject the recommendations as it sees fit. Only the Board has the power to act. It will be the responsibility of the chairperson to see that the members of the committee are informed as to the final decision of the Board.

Any publicity concerning the organization, membership, operations, findings, or recommendations of any committee shall be released only by the Board designee.



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Citizens Advisory Committees

In district-initiated advisory committees, the Superintendent shall draft procedures for instructing committees as to the length of time each member is being asked to serve, the services the Board wishes them to render, the resources the Board intends to provide, and the approximate date on which the Board wishes to dissolve the committee. Furthermore, the committee shall be instructed as to the relationship it has to the Board, to the individual Board members, to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, to the Superintendent, and to the rest of the professional staff.

When the law regulates the formation and activities of an advisory committee, the administration shall cooperate fully in its activities.

N.J.A.C. 6:30-1.5; 6:31-1.14(b)
20 U.S.C.A. 3801 et seq.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



9150 SCHOOL VISITORS

The Board welcomes and encourages visits to school by parent(s) or legal guardian(s), other adult residents of the community, and interested educators. In order for the educational program to continue undisturbed when visitors are present and to prevent the intrusion of disruptive persons into the school, the Superintendent shall invoke visitor controls.

Regarding those visitors wishing to make a class presentation, a Guest Presenter Request Form (see 9150 Exhibit 1) shall be submitted to the school Principal five days prior to the presenter's visit. The class presentation must be aligned with Core Curriculum Content Standards which must be specified in writing; handouts to be used during the class presentation must be submitted for approval. Background and experience of the presenter in the topic of presentation must be designated by the presenter. Class activities to be presented prior to and subsequent to the requested visit are to be delineated by the classroom teacher. The Principal's action taken (a) approved or (b) denied is to be so noted on the Guest Presenter Request Form. Should additional information be required, it must be specified in writing. If approved by the Principal, then the classroom teacher is to complete the Guest Presenter Evaluation (see 9150 Exhibit 2).

The Superintendent has the authority to prohibit the entry of any person to the school or to expel any person when there is reason to believe the presence of such person would be disruptive to the good order of the school. If such an individual refuses to leave the school grounds or creates a disturbance, the Principal is authorized to request from the local law enforcement agency whatever assistance is required to remove the individual.

The Superintendent shall promulgate regulations that will protect pupils and employees of the district from disruption to the educational program or the efficient conduct of their assigned tasks.

1. Persons wishing to visit a class should make arrangements in advance with the school Principal/designee.
2. Upon their arrival at the school, visitors must register at the Main office where they will receive instructions, permission, and/or a pass.
3. At no time shall a staff member transact business with a person in the school who does not have a visitor's authorization.
4. No visitor may confer with a pupil in school without the approval of the administration. Should an emergency require that a pupil be called to the school office to meet a visitor, an administrator must be present during the meeting.



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School Visitors

5. A pupil is not permitted to leave the school with anyone who has not been clearly identified as his/her custodial parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or a person authorized to act on the behalf of a parent(s) or legal guardian(s). When the parental rights of a parent have been terminated by a court of appropriate jurisdiction, the legal guardian must inform the school. The Superintendent shall seek confirmation of legal custodianship where necessary.
6. Any visitor to the school whose presence or conduct is disruptive, or whose behavior, past or present suggests that he/she intends or is likely to become disruptive, may be requested to leave the school premises. If the visitor so addressed does not withdraw, the Superintendent may summon assistance from the local law enforcement agency.

All visitors to the school must obey regulations prohibiting smoking and any other regulations designed to ensure orderly operation of the school. All persons violating this policy shall be considered "disorderly persons" and subject to appropriate action.

N.J.S.A. 2C:18-3

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-42; 18A:20-1; 18A:20-34

Adopted: 17 September 2008



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Public Attendance at School Events

9160 PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

The Board of Education welcomes the attendance of members of the community at athletic and other public events held by the schools of the district and acknowledges its duty to maintain order and preserve the facilities of the district during the conduct of such events.

The Board may bar the attendance of any person at a school event whose conduct constitutes a disruption. The Board prohibits the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages at any function sponsored by the district, and, further, prohibits wagering on school premises.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



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Crowd Control

9161 CROWD CONTROL

The Board of Education believes in order to achieve its goals for interscholastic competition, the student body and the general public attending an interscholastic event conduct themselves in such a manner as to make a positive contribution toward the educational objectives of this district.

The Board directs the Superintendent to prepare regulations for pupil and public behavior at interscholastic events and to publicly post such regulations and to devise procedures for the control of crowds.

The Board authorizes school officials to have expelled from any district event by the law enforcement officers on duty, any spectator who willfully violates the rules and regulations of the district or whose behavior jeopardizes the safe conduct of the event. Further, any spectator involved in continual violations of the rules and regulations shall be prohibited from attending further school events.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



9162 PARENT CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE

The Board of Education promotes good sportsmanship at all sports events to include competition, practice or instructional event involving one or more interscholastic sports teams sponsored by the Board of Education and as defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq. any person who:

1. Engages in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any pupil, coach, official or parent; or
2. Initiates a fight or scuffle with any pupil, coach, official, parent, or other person if the conduct occurs at or in connection with a school-sponsored youth sports events, may result in any one of the following:
 - receive a verbal warning by official, head coach and/or administrator
 - receive a written warning
 - receive parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organization involved
 - receive game forfeit through official
 - receive parental season suspension

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq., the Board will require all parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of pupils as a condition of participation in all Board sponsored athletic programs sign a Code of Conduct (see 9162 Exhibit 1) that would require those persons to refrain from verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any pupil, coach, official or other parent, or from initiating any fight or scuffle with any person.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, the Board will adhere to the consequences specified above for those who choose not to adhere to the Code of Conduct. In the event an individual is banned from attendance in accordance with the Code of Conduct, that individual may petition the Board for permission to resume attendance. Prior to being permitted to resume attendance, the Board will require the individual to present proof of completion of anger management counseling through a public or private source.

N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



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School Volunteers

9180 SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The Board of Education recognizes that the services of community volunteers can enrich the educational program, assist teaching staff members in the performance of their duties, and enhance the relationship between the school district and the community. The Board directs the institution of a program for the utilization of volunteer services in grades Kindergarten through twelve.

The Principal shall be responsible for the recruitment and screening of volunteers, may delegate the assignment of volunteers to specific tasks and must submit their names for Board approval.

Volunteers must be persons of known character, responsibility, and integrity.

Neither the Superintendent nor any Principal shall be obligated to utilize the proffered services of a volunteer whose abilities or interests do not serve the needs of pupils.

The following guidelines shall govern the service of school volunteers:

1. Volunteers may serve only under the direction and supervision of a teaching staff member;
2. Volunteers should clearly understand their duties and responsibilities and perform no service outside those duties;
3. Volunteers serve only in a support capacity; only teaching staff members are responsible for educational planning and decisions and the teaching of new concepts;
4. Volunteers shall respect the individuality, dignity, and worth of each child;
5. Volunteers are not permitted access to pupil records;
6. Volunteers should exercise discretion in discussing their school activities with others in the community;
7. Volunteers may consult with the Principal regarding their duties and responsibilities;
8. Volunteers shall receive no financial remuneration from the Board.

All school volunteers must have an approved

Criminal background check and fingerprinted at volunteer's expense;

Provide documentation that a Mantoux test has been administered; and



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School Volunteers

The Superintendent shall report periodically to the Board on the number of volunteers serving in the schools of the district, the duties performed by volunteers, and the number of volunteer hours served, by school.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1

Adopted: 17 September 2008

Revised:



9181 VOLUNTEER ATHLETIC COACH/EXTRA CURRICULAR ADVISOR

The Board of Education recognizes the services of volunteer coaches/advisors bring unique skills to the district, enrich the athletic program, assist district's coaching staff members in the performance of their duties, and enhance the relationship between the school district and the community. The Board directs a program for the utilization of volunteer athletic coaches/extra curricular advisors in grades six through twelve.

The Building Principal and/or Athletic Director or district designee will be responsible for the recruitment and screening of volunteer coaches/extra curricular advisors and their assignment. The district is not obligated to utilize the proffered services of a volunteer coach/extra curricular advisor whose abilities or interests do not serve the needs of the school district as determined by the Superintendent. Coaching volunteers/Extra Curricular Advisors must be persons of known character, responsibility, and integrity and must be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Education prior to assuming any coaching/advisory responsibilities.

The Building Principal/Athletic Director or district designee will prepare and promulgate rules of conduct for volunteer athletic coaches/extra curricular advisors. Each volunteer athletic coach/extra curricular advisor will be given a copy of this policy and the rules of conduct.

The following guidelines shall govern the service of a volunteer athletic coach/extra curricular advisor:

1. Volunteer athletic coaches/extra curricular advisors may serve only under the direction and immediate supervision of a head and/or assistant coach/advisor employed by the Board;
2. Volunteer athletic coaches/extra curricular advisors must clearly understand their duties and responsibilities and perform no services outside those duties;
3. Volunteer athletic coaches/extra curricular advisors serve only in a support capacity and only head or assistant coaches/advisors employed by the Board are responsible for the supervision and instruction provided to pupils participating in the athletic/extra curricular program;
4. Volunteer athletic coaches/extra curricular advisors shall respect the individuality, dignity and worth of each pupil;



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Volunteer Athletic Coaches/Extra Curricular Advisors

5. Volunteer athletic coaches/extra curricular advisors are not permitted access to pupil records;
6. Volunteer athletic coaches/extra curricular advisors must exercise discretion in disclosing any confidential pupil matters the coach becomes aware of as a result of their volunteer responsibilities;
7. Volunteer athletic coaches/extra curricular advisors must consult with the Athletic Director and/or Building Principal regarding any matters or questions regarding their duties and responsibilities;
8. Volunteers shall receive no financial remuneration; and
9. Volunteer athletic coaches/extra curricular advisors, may be immediately relieved of their volunteer responsibilities, with or without cause, by the Superintendent with such action to be recommended to the Board by the Superintendent at the next Board Meeting following relief of duties.

All volunteer athletic coaches/extra curricular advisors must have an approved

Criminal background check and fingerprinted at volunteer's expense;

Provide documentation that a Mantoux test has been administered; and

The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board on the number of volunteer coaches/extra curricular advisors serving in the district, the duties performed by volunteer coaches/extra curricular advisors, and the number of volunteer hours served, by school athletic/extra curricular program.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1

Adopted: 17 September 2008

Revised: 16 September 2009



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Community Organizations/Resources

9190 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS/RESOURCES

The Board of Education respects the contributions to community life made by business, industry, labor, charitable organizations, cultural institutions, volunteer associations and other community groups that enrich the educational potential of the community.

The Board directs the Superintendent to be alert to the opportunities for an educational program expanded and enriched by utilization, both within and without the school district, of a diversity of community resources.

The Superintendent shall direct each Building Principal to establish and maintain a file of community resources and invite the appropriate participation of community organizations and resource persons in the instructional program. The Superintendent shall determine those schools, instructional programs, and/or district operations that would profit by the involvement of community resources.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



9191 BOOSTER CLUBS

The Board of Education recognizes that the support offered by booster clubs can benefit the school district. Because the activities of booster clubs also reflect on the district, the Board establishes guidelines for the operation of booster clubs in order to ensure that their activities assist in the attainment of district goals and objectives.

A booster club that is organized for the purpose of endorsing and supporting a school sponsored activity shall:

1. Be incorporated as a nonprofit organization;
2. Enter into a contract with this Board for the conduct of intended activities;
3. Obtain liability insurance indemnifying the Board against all suits arising from the conduct of club activities;
4. Account to the Board for all funds raised through the conduct of school related activities;
5. Utilize all funds raised through the conduct of school related activities for the benefit of school programs;
6. Certify adherence to the policies of the school district;
7. Request permission of the Board before taking any group of pupils on a trip; and
8. Obtain the approval of the Superintendent before raising funds in the name of the district.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as the Board's assumption of responsibility for any activity conducted by a booster club.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



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Cooperation Between Parents and School

9200 COOPERATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOL

The Board of Education believes that the education of children is a joint responsibility that the Board shares with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of pupils. To ensure that the best interests of the child are served in this process, a strong program of communication between home and school must be maintained.

It is the position of the Board that parent(s) or legal guardian(s) bear the ultimate responsibility for their children's in-school behavior, including the behavior of pupils who have reached the legal age of majority, but are still for all practical purposes under parental authority.

The Board directs that cooperation be encouraged by parent-teacher conferences that permit two-way communication between home and school; open houses in district schools that provide parent(s) or legal guardian(s) with the opportunity to see the school facilities, meet the faculty, and observe the program on a first hand basis; meetings of staff members and groups of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of those pupils having special abilities, needs, or problems; and special events of a cultural, ethnic, or topical nature, which are initiated by parent groups, involve the cooperative effort of pupils and parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and are of general interest to the schools or community.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



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Parent Organizations

9210 PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

In South Plainfield, any organization consisting of parent(s) or legal guardian(s), school staff, and friends of the school shall be a Board-approved voluntary organization. It may not establish educational policy, participate in the administration of the school, or authorize management and direction of school affairs.

Organizations shall not use the district's name in their titles without the Board's express consent. Such permission to use the district's name does not constitute permission to act as the district's representative.

The Board shall make it a practice not to interfere in the internal workings of such groups. The Board of Education encourages such organizations to inform parent(s) or legal guardian(s), school staff and friends of the school of regularly scheduled meetings and of any special meetings to the extent possible.

Permission to hold regular meetings of such associations in school facilities will be extended by the Board of Education.

The Board welcomes officials of the parent-teacher association to its Board meetings. The Board from time to time will request to meet with the officers of the parent-teacher association in its efforts to promote communication with the public. The Board, as a matter of practice, sends to the president of the parent-teacher association a notification of its regularly scheduled monthly meetings. Teachers and other staff personnel are urged to support the activities of the parent-teacher association.

A professional staff member may serve as adviser to the general parent/teacher organization. All members of the professional staff shall be encouraged to join the organization and to participate in its activities.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



9230 PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board believes that the education of children is a joint responsibility, one it shares with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the school community. To ensure that the best interests of the child are served in this process, a strong program of communication between home and school must be maintained and parental involvement in district concerns encouraged.

The Board recognizes the vital role of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) in the welfare and education of their children and the pivotal part they play in shaping character and values. Because parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are familiar with the needs, problems, gifts and abilities of their children, staff should involve parent(s) or legal guardian(s) in the planning of pupil programs.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) can support their children's educational efforts by:

1. Being familiar with the policies and regulations of the district;
2. Ensuring their child's regular attendance at school, on time, properly dressed and in a condition of physical health and mental alertness to benefit from instruction;
3. Cooperating with school staff in educational and disciplinary matters;
4. Communicating to appropriate school staff changes in the child's home life that may affect conduct or performance. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are specifically requested to inform the school of any changes in legal custody of the child;
5. Taking an active part, when possible, in the affairs of the school and the district;
6. Maintaining an active interest in the pupils' daily work and making it possible for the pupil to complete assigned homework through providing a quiet place and suitable conditions for study;
7. Reading all communications from the school, and signing and returning them promptly when required and/or requested. The Superintendent shall develop procedures and regulations to implement this policy. These regulations shall include use of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) native language when necessary.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



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Rights of Parents

9240 RIGHTS OF PARENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each child are ultimately responsible for the care and custody of that child, and that both parent(s) or legal guardian(s) share that responsibility equally. The Board recognizes as well that, where only one parent has legal custody of a child, the rights and responsibilities of the other parent may be limited. The Board believes that the interests of the child are best served by the continuing involvement of both parents in the child's life and well-being.

The Board will presume that each natural or adoptive parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pupil enrolled in this district possesses full parental rights of access to the pupil and to information about the pupil, notwithstanding any separation of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or dissolution of their marriage. Accordingly, and in the absence of notice to the contrary, the Board directs that school administrators accommodate the needs of both parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for access to their child, to their child's teachers, and to information about their child.

Every parent, except as prohibited by federal and state law, shall have access to records and information pertaining to his/her unemancipated child, including, but not limited to, medical, dental, insurance, child care and educational records, whether or not the child resides with the parent, unless that access is found by the court to be not in the best interest of the child or the access is found by the court to be sought for the purpose of causing detriment to the other parent.

The place of residence of either parent shall not appear on any records or information released pursuant to the provisions of this section.

A child's parent(s), guardian(s) or legal custodian(s) may petition the court to have a parent's access to the records limited. If the court, after a hearing, finds that the parent's access to the record is not in the best interest of the child or that the access sought is for the purpose of causing detriment to the other parent, the court may order that access to the records be limited. Proper notice of court action consists of the custodial parent's sworn affidavit or certification supported by a copy of the pertinent portion of a legal agreement or court order that awards custody and establishes the rights and limitation of the noncustodial parent or terminates the parental rights of the noncustodial parent.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting in any way the rights of the noncustodial parent whose parental rights have not been terminated to full access to his/her child's records.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6 et seq.; 18A:47-4; 18A:47-8
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3; 6A:14-2.9; 6A:32-7.1; 6A:32-7.5

Adopted: 17 September 2008



POLICY

SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Parental Liability for Vandalism

9260 PARENTAL LIABILITY FOR VANDALISM

The school property held in trust by this Board of Education represents a substantial investment of the taxpayers of the school district; liability for the willful and malicious destruction of that property should be borne by those directly and indirectly responsible.

The Board further believes that parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are ultimately responsible for the supervision and discipline of pupils and that the knowledge that they are vicariously liable for the acts of their children and wards will encourage parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to exercise that responsibility more vigorously.

Where any property, real or personal, owned by this Board has been willfully and maliciously damaged by any minor, whether or not the person is enrolled in this district, the Board shall bring civil action against the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) having legal custody and control of the person at the time the damage was caused, for the full amount of the damage.

N.J.S.A. 18A:37-3

Adopted: 17 September 2008



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Home Schooling and Equivalent Education
Outside the Schools
M

9270 HOME SCHOOLING AND EQUIVALENT EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLS

The Board of Education encourages the enrollment of all children of school age resident in the district in public schools or in approved private schools so that they may enjoy the benefits of a well-planned educational program and the socialization possible in a group environment.

Every parent, legal guardian or other person having custody and control of a child between the ages of six and sixteen years shall cause such child regularly to attend the public school or a day school in which there is given instruction equivalent to that provided in the public schools for children of similar grades and attainments or to receive equivalent instruction elsewhere than at school. The Board recognizes its responsibility for assuring that every child of school age resident in the district is enrolled in a public or private school or is offered an equivalent thorough and efficient education elsewhere than at school. The Board acknowledges that parents have a constitutional right to choose the type and character of education they feel is best suited for their children, be it secular or sectarian. Home schooling is an option that parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may choose to educate their children. When parents choose this option the program will be carried out in the pupil's home rather than the school.

In the event a child is receiving an education outside the district schools, the Superintendent may report to the appropriate municipal authorities children whom he/she has reason to believe are not offered instruction outside the schools equivalent to that offered in the public schools for children of similar ages or attainments. If the Superintendent makes such report, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pupil receiving instruction elsewhere other than school may notify the Superintendent of their child's educational program status and provide sufficient information to satisfy the district that equivalent instruction is being offered.

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or other person having charge and control of a child between the ages of six and sixteen, who shall fail to comply with any of the compulsory education provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38 et seq. relating to his/her duties, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person and shall be subject to a fine.

If a child seeks admission to this school district from a program of home schooling, the school district will evaluate the work of the child to determine his/her appropriate grade placement. The Superintendent or designee will objectively evaluate the child's skill and achievement levels, as it would with any transfer pupil, before making a determination as to the acceptability of credits and/or the appropriate grade level placement.



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SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Home Schooling and Equivalent Education
Outside the Schools

When children are educated at home and are not enrolled in a school, the school district is not required to provide any of the entitlements or privileges of pupils enrolled in the school district unless specifically provided in the federal special education laws.

A child educated at home shall not receive a state endorsed high school diploma from the Board of Education.

N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25; 18A:38-25 through 18A:38-31
U.S.C.A. 1401 et seq.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



9280 PARENT CONFERENCES

The Board of Education endorses the parent-teacher conference as an effective means of permitting parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and teachers to share information about pupils and the educational program in a constructive setting.

The Superintendent is directed to schedule parent-teacher conferences at such times as will permit the maximum attendance of parent(s) or legal guardian(s), including working parent(s) or legal guardian(s); to encourage the participation of parent(s) or legal guardian(s); and to provide in-service training to teachers to assist them in making most effective use of the conference.

The Board believes that the information exchanged in parent-teacher conferences can be of great importance to the pupil's ability to profit educationally; such conferences are, therefore, an essential part of the instructional program and an integral part of a teacher's professional responsibility. Accordingly, all teachers are required to attend the parent conferences scheduled for the children assigned to them. A teacher's failure to observe this policy may be cause for discipline.

The Board regards parent-teacher conferences as non-adversarial meetings in which all persons present are united in a common interest in the educational well-being of the pupil. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the pupil may bring to the conference additional persons who share that interest and wish to aid the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the teacher. When a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) desires the representation of legal counsel at the conference, however, the Board may wish to be similarly represented. Accordingly, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who plans to bring legal counsel to a parent-teacher conference shall notify the school Principal of that intention no later than five working days in advance of the conference in order that the Superintendent may secure such legal representation as he/she may deem advisable.

The purposes of the parent-teacher conference are best served when all persons present share freely and candidly their knowledge of the pupil's educational progress and information relating to that progress. Any person present may make and preserve notes, for his/her benefit, of the information shared and may, if permitted, make a tape recording of the conference as an aid to memory or to share with an absent parent or legal guardian. Because the presence of the tape recorder may act to impede the free exchange necessary to an effective conference, however, either the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or the teacher may refuse the other's request that a tape recorder be used.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



POLICY

SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies
M

9320 COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Board of Education acknowledges the law compelling school attendance vests in the Board a custodial responsibility for the children in its charge and a duty to protect those children from persons not associated with the school district.

The Board further recognizes that its interest in helping children understand and respect the law is best served by a close and cooperative relationship with local law enforcement. The Board adopts Policy and Regulation 9320 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1 et seq. to ensure cooperation between school staff and law enforcement officials in all matters relating to the unlawful possession, distribution and disposition of controlled dangerous substances, as defined in N.J.S.A. 24:21-2, including anabolic steroids, drug paraphernalia, alcoholic beverages and/or firearms as defined in subsection f. of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1.(f); and other deadly weapons as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1.(r) and in the planning and conduct of law enforcement activities and operations occurring on school property, including arrest procedures and undercover school operations. The Board directs the Superintendent to institute a program of such communication and cooperation.

Policy and Regulation 9320, as adopted by the Board, will be submitted for approval to the County Superintendent of Schools in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(a)2.

Policy and Regulation 9320 have been developed and approved by the Board to protect the interests of pupils and serve the legitimate needs of law enforcement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1 et seq.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



9323 NOTIFICATION OF JUVENILE OFFENDER CASE DISPOSITION

School Principals have a need to receive and have access to juvenile justice proceedings involving juveniles who are registered pupils in the school building. The school Principal shall have access to information relating to juvenile justice proceedings in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-60.

The school Principal may request from law enforcement agencies at the time of charge, adjudication or disposition, information as to the identity of a juvenile pupil charged, the adjudication and the disposition. The school Principal may inform school staff members of this information if the Principal deems it appropriate for maintaining order, safety or discipline in the school or for planning programs relevant to the juvenile's educational and social development. This information will not become part of the juvenile pupil's permanent school record and shall not be maintained except as authorized by regulation of the Department of Education.

A law enforcement or prosecuting agency shall at the time of charge, adjudication or disposition, advise the school Principal of the school where the juvenile is enrolled, of the identity of the juvenile charged, the offense charged, the adjudication and the disposition if:

1. The offense occurred on school property or a school bus, occurred at a school-sponsored function or was committed against an employee or official of the school; or
2. The juvenile was taken into custody as a result of information or evidence provided by school officials; or
3. An offense, if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime and the offense:
 - a. Resulted in death or serious bodily injury or involved an attempt or conspiracy to cause death or serious bodily injury; or
 - b. Involved the unlawful use or possession of a firearm or other weapon; or
 - c. Involved the unlawful manufacture, distribution or possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance or controlled substance analog; or



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Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition

- d. Was committed by a juvenile who acted with a purpose to intimidate an individual or group of individuals because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation or sex, social or economic status, or disability; or
- e. Would be a crime of the first or second degree.

Information provided in accordance with the section above shall be treated as confidential. The school Principal may inform school staff members of this information if the Principal deems it appropriate for maintaining order, safety or discipline in the school or to planning programs relevant to the juvenile's educational and social development. This information will not become part of the juvenile pupil's permanent school record and shall not be maintained except as authorized by regulation of the Department of Education.

Law enforcement or the prosecuting agency may provide the school Principal with information identifying one or more juveniles who are under investigation or who have been taken into custody for the commission of any act that would constitute an offense if committed by an adult when the law enforcement or prosecuting agency determines that the information may be useful to the Principal in maintaining order, safety, or discipline in the school or in planning programs relevant to the juvenile's educational and social development. Information provided in accordance with the section above shall be treated as confidential, but the school Principal may inform school staff members of this information if the Principal deems it appropriate for maintaining order, safety or discipline in the school or for planning programs relevant to the juvenile's educational and social development. No information provided in accordance with this paragraph shall be maintained.

The Principal who requests and/or receives information as specified in this policy shall notify the Superintendent or designee within twenty-four hours.

The school district shall comply with the Department of Education rules and regulations concerning the creation, maintenance and disclosure of pupil records regarding school Principal notification of juvenile offender case disposition and this policy.

P.L.1982, c.79
R.S.53:1-15
P.L.1985, c.69

Adopted: 17 September 2008



9324 SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION

The Board of Education and administration will comply with the guidelines developed by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and will work cooperatively with the County Prosecutor's Office and the South Plainfield Police Department regarding the requirements of N.J.S.A. 2C:7-1 et seq. (Megan's Law).

The Megan's Law notification statute applies to all sex offenders who are required to register pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:7-1 et seq. The offenses requiring registration by persons convicted, an adjudicated delinquent or a person acquitted by reason of insanity are as indicated in New Jersey Statutes Annotated.

Definitions

- A. Tier One offenders encompass those that are a "low risk of re-offense", thus constituting a low risk of harm to the community. This offender is one who, because of the type of crime, the lack of violence in his/her behavior, the lack of a substantial criminal history and the existence of ties to the community presents no more than a possible risk of re-offense.
- B. Tier Two offenders encompass those who are a "moderate risk of re-offense", thus constituting a moderate risk of harm to the community in that the pertinent documents demonstrate that they are reasonably likely to re-offend, warranting limited notice for the protection of the public.
- C. Tier Three offenders encompass those who are a "high risk of re-offense" in that the available record demonstrates that there is a probable risk of re-offense, warranting notice to the community likely to encounter the offender.

The County Prosecutors Office determines the specific schools, community organizations and residences to receive notification.

The School District is automatically included on the notification list and is not required to register to be notified under Tier Two or Tier Three notifications. Where the risk of re-offense is determined by the County Prosecutor's Office to be moderate or high in accordance with the law, the County Prosecutor's Office and/or the appropriate law enforcement office will notify the Superintendent and the Principal of the targeted school(s). The Superintendent should not notify the target school(s), but may contact the Prosecutor's Office if the Superintendent thinks that a



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Sex Offender Registration and Notification

school in the notification area has been inadvertently omitted. The school district is entitled to receive the offender's name and a recent photograph, along with a physical description, the offense of which he/she was convicted, their address, place of employment and/or schooling, and vehicle license number.

The Board of Education shall take appropriate steps to educate and alert those staff members who are charged with the care and supervision of children, emphasizing that this information is intended to assist such staff members in the protection of their charges, not to provide notification to the community at large. All sex offender notification information to the community must be released by the appropriate law enforcement agency or the County Prosecutor's Office. The school district and/or any school staff member shall keep all sex offender notification information confidential. In the event the school district is notified a pupil is a Tier One or Two sex offender, the school district will cooperate with the local law enforcement and the County Prosecutor's Office on community notification consistent with the law and guidelines of the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

The County Prosecutor's Office will be asked to provide guidance to the school district staff members. The Board of Education, working in conjunction with the County Prosecutor's Office and/or a local law enforcement office, will hold meetings and other educational programs at a particular school for staff regarding the safeguarding of the school district's children. There will be a strong emphasis on providing pertinent information, constructive knowledge and guidance to the community, as well as advice concerning the consequences of vigilante activity.

The Building Principal of each school notified by the Prosecutor's Office will have the discretion to make the determination as to which employees within the school should be informed of the notification. The Building Principal should share the notice with any person who in the course of the duties of his/her employment or assignment is regularly in a position to observe unauthorized persons in or near the property of the notified school. If any persons to be notified by the Building Principal are employees of private contractors, the Principal or the Superintendent will notify the private vendor who will provide notice to the employees. The Principal shall only notify school appropriate district staff of Tier Two or Tier Three notifications and not to provide notification to the community at large. Guidance to the school district in providing this information to staff members will be obtainable from the County Prosecutor's Office.

N.J.S.A. 2C:7-1 et seq.

Guidelines - New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Adopted: 17 September 2008



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Cooperation with Public Library

9340 COOPERATION WITH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The public library can and should play an important role in the intellectual and educational development of children attending district schools, serving them as a resource that reinforces and augments the school library in many areas and by providing services and materials that may go beyond those that the school library alone can provide.

The Board of Education encourages the effective utilization of the public library by communication and cooperation between the school and library staff. School staff members should be kept informed of new materials and services available from the public library and library staff members should be kept advised of school projects and programs that call for pupil use of the public library.

N.J.A.C. 15:22-1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



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News Media Relations

9400 NEWS MEDIA RELATIONS

Representatives of the local newspapers and radio and television stations are an important link in the communications chain between the school district and the community it serves. The maintenance of a good working relationship with members of the media is essential to meeting the objectives of the district's school and community relations program.

The Board of Education must give formal approval to all basic practices governing relations between news media and the district and reserves the right to negotiate, on terms most favorable to the district, for the radio broadcasting, televising, filming, or sound recording of any school event by an outside agency.

The Board President or designee shall be the chief communications representative of the Board. He/she shall be readily available to media representatives, provide media representatives with all appropriate and necessary information, suggest or supply feature articles or stories, prepare "press kits," assist school and parent organizations with press relations, meet periodically with media representatives, and protect school personnel from any unnecessary demands on their time by news media representatives.

Photographs of Pupils (Refer to Policy 9120)

Taking pictures of district pupils and buildings for commercial purposes is prohibited without written approval of the Superintendent and parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

"Commercial purposes" in this context is defined to mean for sale or for use in connection with the advertisement or promotion of goods or services.

"School pupils" in this context means boys and girls enrolled in the school during that part of the day they are at school, on the school grounds, or engaged in any activity under the direction and supervision of the school.

Pictures of handicapped children shall not be disseminated in any way unless permission is granted by parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Photographs of children placed in the district by the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) shall not be published without permission of the division caseworker.

Adopted: 17 September 2008
Revised: 16 September 2009



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Cooperation with Educational Agencies

9500 COOPERATION WITH EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

The Board recognizes the need and the value of cooperative relationships with all public and nonpublic schools, colleges, and educational organizations. It encourages district staff to work with their counterparts in organizations on educational matters within the framework established by New Jersey statutes and regulations, and Board policy.

The Superintendent shall explore areas of mutual benefit with the administrative officers of other schools and recommend desirable courses of action.

The Board directs the Superintendent to seek and maintain working relationships with local colleges and universities in such areas as pupil teaching, in-service staff development, and advanced placement.

Further, the Superintendent shall recommend to the Board the forming of relationships with organizations other than schools which may be of benefit to district pupils. It is of particular importance to establish and maintain close working relations with trades, businesses, and industries which may provide members for advisory committees.

The Superintendent may cooperate with any governmental agency and with charitable organizations in promoting activities in the general public interest which are nonpartisan and non-controversial and which promote the education or other best interests of district pupils.

Donations to Private Organizations

The authority for a Board of Education to expend public funds is derived from the constitutional mandate to “provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools.” The donation of moneys to any private organization, regardless of the merits of that organization’s purposes, is not within the authority of the Board and is, therefore, prohibited.

20 U.S.C.A. §3066
N.J.S.A. 18A:38-13.1 et seq.; 18A:40-23 et seq.;
18A:46-19.1 et seq.; 18A:46A-1 et seq.;
18A:58-37.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:23-6.1 et seq.; 6A:14-6.2 et seq.

Adopted: 17 September 2008



9541 STUDENT TEACHERS/INTERNS

The Board of Education encourages cooperation with colleges and universities in the education of teachers, because the public school offers an experience essential to their training, interaction with pupils and teachers at work in the classroom. Accordingly, the schools of this district will accept pupils from accredited institutions of higher learning as junior or senior student teachers/interns.

The Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, shall approve all student teachers/interns.

Student teachers/interns shall be assigned by the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall assign student teachers/interns throughout the district in a manner that assures that no single group of pupils will be subject to excessive student teacher/intern classroom hours.

Student teachers/interns shall comply with the health examination required by rules of the State Board of Education and that required for teaching staff members by this Board.

The Board of Education requires every student teacher/intern possess a county substitute credential issued in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-6.5.]

Student teachers/interns shall at all times be subject to the policies of this Board. Student teachers/interns serving in the schools of this district shall be responsible to the Principal for their conduct and to the cooperating teacher for their performance.

Students and other affiliates of educational institutions will be offered the opportunity to visit and observe our district in the course of teacher training programs and educational research projects. Such students will be treated as visitors and will be under the direct supervision of the Principal.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-6.5; 6A:9-10.2; 6A:9-10.3; 6A:9-10.4

Adopted: 17 September 2008



9550 EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Board of Education will cooperate, whenever appropriate and feasible, with organizations and individuals conducting bona fide educational research involving pupils enrolled in the schools of this district.

All educational research by persons other than district employees must be approved in advance by the Board. A written application for approval must state the purpose of the research, the specific ways in which pupils will be involved, the estimated duration of the project, the persons who will conduct the research project and their relevant affiliations, and any possible benefits to pupils or to the school district. Approval will be granted only to those projects that will serve the interests of pupils and the educational program; approval will not be granted to projects that will impede or significantly disrupt the instructional program approved by the Board.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be informed of any educational research project that involves their children and may request the removal of their children from the project.

The conduct of research activities must rigorously protect pupils' privacy. Approved researchers may be given access to pupil records in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and Board Policy No. 8330, but shall not abuse this privilege by using information in any way that may embarrass or harm individual pupils or their families. The Board must be satisfied that strict standards of anonymity and confidentiality will be observed.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5

Adopted: 17 September 2008



9560 ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOL SURVEYS

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) requires written consent for certain pupil surveys, analysis and/or evaluations funded in whole or in part by a program of the United States Department of Education. The district will comply with the PPRA consent requirements and Policy 2415.05 for certain pupil surveys, analysis, and/or evaluations.

The district will also comply with the requirements of 34 CFR Part 98 – Student Rights in Research, Experimental Programs and Testing for certain programs administered by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education:

1. Instructional material used in connection with any research or experimentation program and project shall be made available for inspection by parents/legal guardians of pupils engaged in such program or project in accordance with the requirements of 34 CFR Part 98.3.
2. Prior written parental/legal guardian consent is required for any surveys, analysis, and/or evaluations that involve psychiatric or psychological examination, testing, or treatment; if the primary purpose is to reveal information as specified in 34 CFR Part 98.4(a)(1).
 - a. Psychiatric or psychological examination or test means a method of obtaining information, including a group activity, that is not directly related to academic instruction and that is designed to elicit information about attitudes, habits, traits, opinions, beliefs or feelings.
 - b. Psychiatric or psychological treatment means an activity involving the planned, systematic use of methods or techniques that are not directly related to academic instruction and that is designed to affect behavioral, emotional, or attitudinal characteristics of an individual or group.

However, academic and nonacademic surveys, assessments, analyses, and/or evaluations may be administered to pupils for programs or activities that are not funded in whole or in part by a program of the United States Department of Education and/or programs not administered by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education as defined in 34 CFR Part 98.1. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34, the district shall receive prior written informed consent from a pupil's parent or legal guardian before administering these academic and nonacademic surveys, assessments, analyses, and/or evaluations that reveal information concerning:



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Administration of School Surveys

1. Political affiliations;
2. Mental or psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the pupil or the pupil's family;
3. Sexual behavior and attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom a respondent has a close family relationship;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under a program;
8. Social security number; or
9. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the pupil or parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

When administering an academic and/or nonacademic survey, assessment, analysis, and/or evaluation that concern the issues listed in 1. through 9. above, the Assistant Superintendent shall request written informed consent at least two weeks prior to the administration of the survey. The request for consent shall provide the parent/legal guardian the opportunity to view a copy of the document at a convenient location and time. The pupil shall not participate in the administration of the academic and/or nonacademic surveys, assessments, analyses, and/or evaluations if the requested written informed consent is not obtained.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34
34 CFR Part 98

Adopted: 17 September 2008



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9700 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Board of Education recognizes the contributions of persons and organizations outside the schools district may take the form of materials, activities, and awards that tend to serve the interests of the contributor as well as benefit the school district and pupils. For the purposes of this Policy, “organizations outside the school district” shall be any organization, group, activity, club, association, agency, or individual that is not approved or sponsored by the Board of Education.

The Board reserves the right to review, approve, or reject proposed contributions from organizations outside the school district. Proposed contributions may be rejected by the Board, including but not limited to, proposed contributions that have the primary effect of advancing the name, product, or special interest of a person, corporation, or organization; fail to meet district standards of accuracy and good taste; are of little or no educational value to pupils; make unreasonable demands upon the time and energies of staff and pupils or upon the resources of the district; interrupt or interfere with the regular school program; or involve a direct cost to the district.

The approval of the use of any material or the conduct of any activity offered by an organization outside the schools district shall not under any circumstances be construed as an endorsement by this Board of any interest, cause, or organization.

Permission to solicit or raise funds on school premises will be granted only to those persons and organizations whose purposes are consistent with the goals of this district and the interests of the community and are in accordance with the Board’s fundraising policy. Solicitation or fundraising may not interfere with the orderly operation of the schools. The Board will not be responsible for the protection of or accounting for such funds and these funds may not be deposited in any district account.

The Board will not permit the distribution of literature to or through pupils in the school district for any organization outside the school district.



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Special Interest Groups

However, distribution of literature to or through pupils in the school district may be approved by the Superintendent of Schools or designee if the organization requesting the distribution of literature is a local, State, county or Federal governmental agency or a community, non-profit organization and the information is determined by the Superintendent or designee to be of special interest to school district pupils or the community. Written requests for the distribution of this literature must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee with one copy of the specific literature to be distributed. The approval and method of the distribution of literature will be at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. Any approval for such distribution will be consistent with the governing principles of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. In no circumstance will the school district release confidential pupil information.

The Board prohibits the distribution of political literature to or through the pupils of this district in school buildings or on school grounds that promotes, favors, or opposes the candidacy of any candidate for election at any annual school election, or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or any public question submitted at any general, municipal or school election. No pupil shall be requested or directed by any school official or employee to engage in any activity that tends to promote, favor, or oppose any such candidacy, bond issue, proposal or a public question submitted at any election.

The Board will permit the award of scholarships or prizes to deserving pupils provided that information regarding pupils is released only in accordance with Policy No. 8330 on Pupil Records, the manner of selection of the recipient is approved by the Superintendent or designee and includes consultation with appropriate staff members, and the nature of the prize or award is approved by the Superintendent or designee.

N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4

United States Department of Education - Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

Cross reference: Policy Guide Nos. 5440, 5830

Adopted: 17 September 2008
Revised: 12 May 2010



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SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Recruitment by Special Interest Groups
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9713 RECRUITMENT BY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Board of Education will permit access to school pupils on school premises and access to certain information about individual pupils for educational, occupational, and military recruitment activities. Access for recruitment purposes will be equally available to all recruitment agencies, in accordance with law.

Representatives of bona fide educational institutions, occupational agencies, and the United States Armed Forces may recruit pupils on school premises by participation in assembly programs, career day activities, and the like and by distributing literature. Permission to recruit on school premises must be requested in writing ten working days before the planned activity and must be approved in advance by the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall not favor one recruiter over another, but shall not approve an activity that, in the Superintendent's judgment, carries a substantial likelihood of disrupting the educational program of this district.

Each representative of a bona fide educational institution, occupational agency, and the United States Armed Forces will be given, on request, a copy of the pupil information directory, compiled in accordance with Policy No. 8330.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and adult pupils will be informed annually in writing of their right to request a pupil's excusal from participation in all recruitment activities and/or from a listing in the pupil information directory distributed for recruitment purposes.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as requiring the Board to approve or participate in an activity that appears to advance or inhibit any particular religious sect or religion generally.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.1
No Child Left Behind §9528

Adopted: 17 September 2008



POLICY

SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

COMMUNITY
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Solicitations by Vendors

9720 SOLICITATIONS BY VENDORS

The Board of Education will permit vendors to solicit pupils and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for the sale of goods and services through the schools of this district, provided that the Board has given prior approval to the vendor and to the solicitation.

The Superintendent shall review each vendor's request to solicit sales and shall recommend to the Board for its approval only those that offer a product or service that is related to the educational goals of this district and offers good value to purchasers.

Any funds collected on behalf of a vendor approved by the Board under this policy shall be kept in a separate account pending transfer to the vendor. The Board disclaims any responsibility for any such funds.

In the event that more than one vendor requests permission to solicit sales of a particular product or service, or the Superintendent seeks a vendor to provide a particular product or service to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or pupils, the Superintendent shall seek quotations from qualified vendors in order to determine which will provide the greater value to purchasers.

The Board reserves the right to withdraw its approval of any vendor at any time.

Adopted: 17 September 2008

