

4161 EXAMINATION FOR CAUSE

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 227 and 231]

A. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3, the Board of Education may require physical or psychiatric examinations of a support staff member whenever, in the judgment of the Board, a support staff member shows evidence of deviation from normal physical or mental health, to determine the support staff member's physical and mental fitness to perform, with reasonable accommodation, the position the support staff member currently holds, or to detect any health risk(s) to students and other employees. When the Board requires a support staff member to undergo a physical or psychiatric examination:

1. The Board shall provide the support staff member with a written statement of the reasons for the required examination; and

2. The Board shall provide the support staff member with a hearing, if requested.

a. Notice of the support staff member's right to a hearing shall be provided with the statement of reasons for the required examination;

b. The support staff member must request the Board hearing, in writing, within five working days of the support staff member's receipt of the written statement of reasons:

(1) The support staff member shall be ordered to submit to the appropriate examination(s) by the physician or institution designated by the Board if the support staff member failed to timely request a hearing before the Board;

c. The Board hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:25-7 and will offer the support staff member the opportunity to appear before the Board to refute the reason(s) for the required examination(s);

d. The support staff member shall be ordered to submit to the appropriate examination(s) by the physician or institution designated by the Board if the support staff member failed to



persuade the Board at the hearing that the support staff member should not be required to submit to the appropriate examination(s); and

e. The determination of such a hearing shall be appealable to the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:4 - Appeals.

3. The support staff member may, without reprisal, refuse to waive their right to protect the confidentiality of medical information, in accordance with P.L. 104-191, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.
- B. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:16-3, the Board shall bear the cost of examinations made by a physician or institution designated by the Board. However, the support staff member shall bear the cost if the examination is performed by a physician or institution designated by the support staff member with approval of the Board.
1. If the support staff member submits names of physicians or institutions to the Board for consideration to complete the appropriate examination(s), the Board is not required to designate the physician or institution submitted for consideration by the support staff member, but shall not act unreasonably in withholding its approval of the physician or institution.
 2. The support staff member shall authorize the physician or institution performing the examination to immediately release the examination results to the Superintendent.
 3. All records and reports relating to any such examination shall be the property of the Board, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-5.
 - a. Health records of support staff members, including computerized records, shall be secured, stored, and maintained separately from other personnel files; and
 - b. Health records may be shared only with authorized individuals in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-5.
 4. If the results of any such examination indicate mental abnormality or communicable disease, the support staff member shall be ineligible for further service until proof of recovery, satisfactory to the Board, is



furnished, but if the support staff member is under contract or has tenure, they may be granted sick leave with compensation as provided by law and shall, upon satisfactory recovery, be permitted to complete the term of their contract, if they are under contract, or be reemployed with the same tenure as they possessed at the time their services were discontinued, if they have tenure, unless their absence shall exceed a period of two years in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-4.

C. In order to return to work, the support staff member must submit to an appropriate examination and submit the results of the examination to the Superintendent.

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1. The examination must be conducted by a physician or institution upon which the Board and support staff member confer and agree;

2. If the physician or institution conducting the examination is conducted by the Board's choice, the cost shall be borne by the Board; if the physician or institution conducting the examination is conducted by the support staff member's choice, the cost shall be borne by the support staff member; and

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3. The support staff member shall authorize the physician or institution performing the examination to immediately release the examination results to the Superintendent.

~~The Board of Education may, in accordance with law, require the psychiatric or physical examination of any support staff member who shows evidence of deviation from normal physical or mental health.~~

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~~The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board the examination of any support staff member whose physical or mental condition so departs from normal health as to adversely affect the performance of the member's duties. Any such recommendation must be accompanied by competent evidence. If the Board determines that deviation from normal health has been demonstrated, it may require that the member submit to a physical or mental examination.~~

~~A requirement for physical or mental examination shall be made known to the employee by written notice setting forth the nature of the examination required, the reasons for the requirement, and a statement offering the member the opportunity to appear before the Board to explain or refute those reasons, provided any such hearing is requested in writing within ten working days of the receipt of the notice.~~

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~~A support staff member who fails to request an appearance before the Board within the time permitted or, having appeared before the Board, fails to persuade the Board that he/she should not be required to submit to the required examination shall be ordered to submit to an appropriate examination by a physician or institution designated by the Board and at the Board's expense.~~

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~~The support staff member may, at his/her option, submit names of physicians or institutions to the Board for consideration to complete the appropriate examination(s). The Board is not required to designate a physician or institution submitted for consideration by the teaching staff member, but the Board will not act unreasonably in withholding its approval of a physician or institution submitted by a support staff member. The cost of the examination will be borne by the Board if the Board designates a physician or institution from the names submitted from the support staff member.~~

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~~If the support staff member's request is denied, or if the support staff member does not request the Board to consider a physician or institution, the staff member may elect to submit to an appropriate examination conducted by a physician or institution of the support staff member's own choosing and at his/her expense, provided the physician or institution so chosen is approved by the Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:16-3, and is authorized and directed by the member to report the results of the examination to the Board.~~

~~If the results of the examination show mental illness or communicable disease, as defined in Policy 8451, the support staff member shall be placed on sick leave and compensated in accordance with his or her sick leave entitlement, if any, until proof of recovery, satisfactory to the Board, is furnished. No leave of absence granted under this policy shall exceed the term of the contract of a nontenured support staff member or a period of two years in the case of a tenured support staff member.~~

D. A support staff member who refuses to submit to the examination required by the Board in accordance with this Policy and has exhausted the hearing procedures established by law and this ~~policy~~ Policy shall be subject to discipline, which may include but is not limited to, termination or the certification of tenure charges to the Commissioner of Education as applicable.

42 U.S.C.A. 12101

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10; 18A: 16-2; 18A:16-3; 18A:16-4; 18:16-5

18A:25-7; 18A:28-5; 18A:30-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.2; 6A:32-6.3



POLICY

SOUTH ORANGE MAPLEWOOD
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Support Staff
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