

5530 SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Board of Education recognizes that a student's abuse of harmful substances seriously impedes that pupil's education and threatens the welfare of the entire school community. The Board is committed to the prevention of substance abuse and the rehabilitation of substance abusers by educational means, but will take the necessary and appropriate steps to protect the school community and the involved student(s) from harm and from exposure to harmful substances. Accordingly, the Board will establish and maintain a comprehensive substance abuse intervention, prevention, and treatment referral program in the schools of this district.

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Definitions     N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9  
                      N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3; 6A:16-4.1

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For the purposes of this policy:

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"Substance" means alcoholic beverages, controlled dangerous substances, including anabolic steroids, as defined at N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2, any chemical or chemical compound which releases vapors or fumes causing a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system, including, but not limited to, glue containing a solvent having the property of releasing toxic vapors or fumes as defined at N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10.4 and over-the-counter and prescription medications which are improperly used to cause intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system.

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"Substance abuse" means the consumption or use of any substance for purposes other than for the treatment of sickness or injury as prescribed or administered by a person duly authorized by law to treat sick and injured human beings.

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"Evaluation" means those procedures used by a certified or licensed professional to make a positive determination of a pupil's need for programs and services which extend beyond the general school program by virtue of learning, behavior, or health difficulties of the pupil or the pupil's family.

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"Intervention" means those programs, services, and actions taken to identify and offer help to a pupil at risk for learning, behavior, or health difficulties.

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"Referral for treatment" means those programs and services offered to a pupil or his or her family to help implement the recommendations of an evaluation or in response to the family's request for assistance with a learning, behavior, or health difficulty.

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“School grounds” means and includes land, portions of land, structures, buildings, and vehicles, when used for the provision of academic or extracurricular programs sponsored by the school district or community provider and structures that support these buildings, such as school district wastewater treatment facilities, generating facilities, and other central services facilities including, but not limited to, kitchens and maintenance shops. School grounds also includes other facilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1.2, playgrounds, and recreational places owned by local municipalities, private entities or other individuals during those times when the school district has exclusive use of a portion of such land.

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Discipline      N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-10; 18A:40A-11  
                      N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(c)2.; 6A:16-6.3(a)

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The Board prohibits the use, possession, and/or distribution of alcohol or other drugs on school grounds, including on school buses or at school-sponsored functions according to N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9, 10, and 11.

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A pupil who uses, possesses, or distributes a substance, on or off school premises, will be subject to discipline. Discipline will be graded to the severity and frequency of the offenses, the nature of the problems and the pupil’s needs. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion. The Board may establish consequences for a pupil not following through on the recommendations of an evaluation for alcohol or other drug abuse and related behaviors. The Superintendent and/or designee will notify the appropriate law enforcement agency as well as other appropriate agencies pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(a).

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Instruction      N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq.  
                      N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.1

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The Board shall provide a comprehensive program of prevention, intervention, referral for evaluation, referral for treatment, and continuity of care for pupil alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse.

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Identification, Evaluation, and Intervention

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N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-11 through 18A:40A-17  
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.1; 6A:16-4.1; 6A:16-4.2; 6A:16-4.3

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Any educational staff member or other professional to whom it appears that a pupil may be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs on school grounds, including on a school bus or at a school-sponsored function shall report the matter in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(a)1.

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An immediate medical examination shall be conducted and a written report of the medical evaluation shall be furnished to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the pupil, the Building Principal, and the Superintendent in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(a)2 - 4.3(a)8.

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If the written report of the medical examination is not provided within twenty-four hours of the referral of the pupil, the pupil shall be allowed to return to school until such time as a positive determination of alcohol or other drug use is received from the physician.

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If the written report of the medical evaluation verifies that alcohol or other drugs do not interfere with the pupil's physical or mental ability to perform in school, the pupil shall be immediately returned to school. If there is a positive determination from the medical examination indicating the pupil's alcohol or other drug use interferes with his or her physical or mental ability to perform in school, the pupil shall be returned to the care of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) as soon as possible and attendance at school shall not resume until a written report verifies the pupil's alcohol or other drug use no longer interferes with his or her physical and mental ability to perform in school.

- Removal of a pupil with a disability shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

- While a pupil is at home because of the medical evaluation or after the pupil returns to school, an appropriately certified school staff member(s) will conduct an alcohol and other drug assessment of the pupil and a reasonable investigation of the situation and may initiate referral alcohol or other drug abuse treatment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(a)12, 4.3(a)13, and 4.3(a)14.

- The Board may provide additional intervention and referral services for the pupil according to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-10 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.

- Whenever any teaching staff member, certified or non-certified school nurse, or other educational personnel shall have reason to believe a pupil has used or may be using anabolic steroids, that person shall report the matter in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(b)1.

- The Building Principal or designee upon receiving such report shall immediately notify the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and Superintendent and shall arrange for an examination of the pupil as soon as possible to determine whether the pupil has been using anabolic steroids in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(b)2.

- The Superintendent will disclose to law enforcement authorities the identity of the pupil pursuant to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(b)3.

- A written report of the examination shall be provided by the examining physician to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), Building Principal, and Superintendent.

- If it is determined the pupil has used anabolic steroids, an appropriately certified school staff member(s) shall interview the pupil and others to determine the extent of the pupil's involvement with and use of anabolic steroids and the possible need for referral for treatment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(b)5.

- If the results of a referral for evaluation have positively determined the pupil's involvement with and use of anabolic steroids represents a danger to the pupil's health and well-being, an appropriately certified school staff member(s) shall initiate a referral for treatment to agencies and/or private practitioners as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(b)6.

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In-Service Training N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-15(b)

- The Board directs the Superintendent to develop a program of in-service training for all teaching staff members involved in the instruction of pupils. The Board will provide time for the conduct of the program during the usual school schedule. In-service training shall prepare teachers to instruct pupils on substance abuse and inform teachers about the nature of substances, the symptomatic behavior associated with substance abuse, the availability of rehabilitation and treatment programs, the legal aspects of substance abuse, and Board policy and regulations on substance abuse.

- Outreach to Parents N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-16; 18A:40A-17  
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(c)7.

- The Board will provide an outreach program to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of pupils that includes information on the district's substance abuse curriculum, the identification of substance abusers, and rehabilitation organizations and agencies. The Superintendent is directed to develop the program in consultation with local agencies recommended by the Commissioner and to offer the program at times and in places convenient to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) on school premises or in other suitable facilities.

- Records §408 of the Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment,  
and Rehabilitation Act, 42 U.S.C., and Implementing  
Regulations, 42 CFR Part 2

- Notations concerning a pupil's involvement with substances may be entered on his/her records, subject to Policy No. 8330 regarding confidentiality and limited access. All such notations shall be expunged when they are no longer required for the counseling or discipline of the pupil or when the pupil leaves school. Information regarding a pupil's involvement in a school intervention or treatment program shall be kept strictly confidential in accordance with §408 of the Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Act, 42 U.S.C. 290 ee-3, and implementing regulations, 42 CFR Part 2.

- If an elementary or secondary pupil involved in a school-based drug or alcohol counseling program provides information during the course of a counseling session in that program which indicates that the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or other person residing in the pupil's household is dependent upon or illegally using a substance as that term is defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9, that information shall be kept confidential and may be disclosed only with the pupil's written consent, to another person or entity whom the pupil specifies in writing in the case of a secondary pupil, or to a member of the pupil's immediate family or the appropriate school personnel in the case of an elementary pupil; pursuant to a court order; to a person engaged in a bona fide research purpose, except that no names or other information identifying the pupil or the person with respect to whose substance abuse the information was provided, shall be made available to the researcher; or to the ~~Division of Youth and Family Services~~ Department of Children and Families Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit or to a law enforcement agency, if the information would cause a person to reasonably suspect that the elementary or secondary pupil or another child may be an abused or neglected child.

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Nonpublic School Pupils N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-5; 18A:40A-17c

- The Board will lend to pupils attending nonpublic schools located in this district and to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of such pupils educational materials on substance abuse prepared and supplied by the Commissioner. The loan of such materials shall be at no cost to the district.

- Civil Immunity N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-13, 18A:40A-14;  
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(c)

- No civil action of any kind shall lie against any employee, officer or agent of the Board because of actions taken under the education statutes on substance abuse, N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq., provided the skill and care given is that ordinarily required and exercised by other such employees, officers and agents of the Board.

- Any educational or non-educational school staff member who in good faith reports a pupil to the Building Principal or designee in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3 shall not be liable in civil damages as a result of making such a report, as specified in N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-13 and 14.

- Reporting Pupils to Law Enforcement Authorities  
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(a)

- The Superintendent, or designee, shall report pupils to law enforcement authorities if the staff member has reason to believe a pupil is unlawfully possessing or in any way involved in the distribution of controlled dangerous substances, anabolic steroids, or drug paraphernalia, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(a). The Superintendent will not report pupils who have voluntarily sought treatment or counseling for a substance abuse problem provided the pupil is not involved or implicated in a current drug distribution activity.

- The Superintendent or designee may, but need not disclose to law enforcement authorities the identity of a pupil suspected to be under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled dangerous substances, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(a), or a pupil suspected to have used or who may be using anabolic steroids, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(b), and who is referred for a medical evaluation, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3(a) or (b), as appropriate, for the purposes of providing appropriate health care for the pupil and for determining whether the pupil is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs or has been using anabolic steroids, provided the pupil is not reasonably believed to be in possession of a controlled dangerous substance or drug paraphernalia, and is not reasonably believed to be involved or implicated in drug distribution activities.

- Policy Review and Accessibility  
N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-10; 18A:40A-11  
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.2(a) & (b)

- The Board will annually review the effectiveness of Policy and Regulation 5530 on pupil alcohol and drug abuse. The Board shall solicit parent(s) or legal guardian(s), pupil and community input, as well as consult in the review process with local alcohol or other drug abuse prevention,

intervention and treatment agencies licensed by the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

This policy and regulation shall be made available annually, at the beginning of the school year, to all school employees, pupils, and parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Each newly hired employee and transferred pupil will be offered this policy and implementing regulations on his/her arrival in the district.

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N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq.; 18A:40A-7.1 et seq.  
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1 et seq.

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~~The Board of Education recognizes that a pupil's abuse of harmful substances seriously impedes that pupil's education and threatens the welfare of the entire school community. The Board is committed to the prevention of substance abuse and the rehabilitation of substance abusers by educational means, but will take necessary and appropriate steps to protect the school community from harm and from exposure to harmful substances. Accordingly, the Board will establish and maintain a comprehensive substance abuse intervention, prevention, and treatment referral program in the schools of this district.~~

~~Definitions — *N.J.S.A. 18A: 40A-9; N.J.A.C. 6:29-6.2*~~

~~For the purposes of this policy:~~

~~**"Evaluation"** means those procedures used to determine a pupil's need for an educational program or treatment that extends beyond the regular school program by virtue of the use of substances by the pupil or a member of the pupil's family.~~

~~**"Intervention and referral to treatment"** means those programs and services offered to help a pupil because of the use of substances by the pupil or a member of the pupil's family.~~

~~**"Substance"** means alcoholic beverages, controlled dangerous substances as defined at N.J.S.A. 24:21-2, anabolic steroids, or any chemical or chemical compound that releases vapors or fumes causing a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system, including, but not limited to, glue containing a solvent having the property of releasing toxic vapors or fumes as defined at N.J.S.A. 2A:170-25.9.~~

~~**"Substance abuse"** means the consumption or use of any substance for purposes other than for the treatment of sickness or injury as prescribed or administered by a person duly authorized by law to treat sick and injured human beings.~~

~~Discipline — *N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-10; 18A:40A-11; N.J.A.C. 6:29-6.3(c)2*~~

~~The Board prohibits the use, possession, and/or distribution of a substance on or near school premises, at any event away from the school premises that is sponsored by this Board, and on any transportation vehicle provided by this Board.~~

~~Pupils shall be subject to discipline for any violation of the foregoing prohibition. Discipline will be graded to the severity of the offense and may include suspension or expulsion. The pupil may be reported to appropriate law enforcement personnel.~~

~~Instruction — *N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1; N.J.A.C. 6:29-6.6*~~

~~The Board shall provide a program of instruction on the nature and effects of substances and tobacco. The program will be included in the health education curriculum and conducted in accordance with law, rules of the State Board of Education, and Policy No. 2422.~~

~~Identification, Evaluation, and Intervention — *N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-11; N.J.A.C. 6:29-6.3*~~

~~All staff members shall be alert to signs of substance abuse by pupils and shall respond to those signs in accordance with administrative regulations. Such regulations shall provide for prompt examination by a physician to determine whether a substance has been used, notification of the pupil's parent or legal guardian and appropriate school officials, evaluation services, and referrals for treatment. Treatment will not be at Board expense.~~

~~When a pupil's substance abuse or suspected substance abuse threatens the pupil's life or places the pupil and/or others in imminent peril, all procedures shall be expedited in accordance with the emergency. Policy No. 8441, Care of Injured and Ill Persons, may be implemented as appropriate, provided no component of the procedures implementing this policy is omitted.~~

~~The Board will provide intervention and treatment referral services by teaching staff members who are properly and appropriately certified and trained to render such services.~~

~~Such services may include instruction, counseling, and related services to a pupil who is receiving medical or therapeutic care for diagnosed substance abuse; referral to a community agency approved by the County Local Advisory Council on Alcoholism or Drug Abuse or the State Department of Health; support services for pupils who are in care or returning from care for substance dependency; and/or a special class or course designed to meet the needs of pupils with problems of substance abuse.~~

~~A substance abuser who has also been identified as potentially disabled shall be referred to the Child Study Team to determine his or her eligibility for Special Services and/or related services.~~

~~Confidentiality — *N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-7.1(a); N.J.A.C. 6:29-10.6; N.J.A.C. 6:2906.3(b)(2)*~~

~~The school shall not disclose the identity of any pupil or staff member who has voluntarily sought treatment or counseling for a substance abuse problem provided the pupil or staff member is not currently involved or implicated in any illegal activity.~~

~~In accordance with law, the district shall keep confidential all information learned in the course of or as a result of evaluation or treatment services provided by the district's substance abuse program. Except as specifically permitted by law, no such information shall be disclosed to law enforcement personnel nor used to initiate or substantiate any criminal charges against the substance abuse program participant or to conduct any investigation of that person in response to a pupil or staff member who has voluntarily sought counsel.~~

~~In-Service Training — *N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-15(b)*~~

~~The Board directs the Superintendent to develop a program of in-service training for all teaching staff members involved in the instruction of pupils. The Board will provide time for the conduct of the program during the usual school schedule. In-service training shall prepare teachers to instruct pupils on substance abuse and inform teachers about the nature of substances, the symptomatic behavior associated with substance abuse, the availability of rehabilitation and treatment programs, the legal aspects of substance abuse, and Board policy and regulations on substance abuse.~~

~~Outreach to Parents — *N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-16; N.J.A.C. 6:29-6.3(c)7*~~

~~The Board will provide a program of outreach to parents or legal guardians of pupils that includes information on the district's substance abuse curriculum, the identification of substance abusers, and rehabilitation organizations and agencies. The Superintendent is directed to develop the program in consultation with local agencies recommended by the Commissioner and to offer the program at times and in places convenient to parents or legal guardians on school premises or in other suitable facilities.~~

~~Nonpublic School Pupils — *N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-5, 18A:40A-17c*~~

~~The Board will lend to pupils attending nonpublic schools located in this district and to the parents or legal guardians of such pupils educational materials on substance abuse prepared and supplied by the Commissioner. The loan of such materials shall be at no cost to the district.~~

~~Civil Immunity — *N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-13, 18A:40A-14; N.J.A.C. 6:29-6.5(c)*~~

~~No civil action of any kind shall lie against any employee, officer or agent of the Board because of actions taken under the education statutes on substance abuse, N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq., provided the skill and care given is that ordinarily required and exercised by other such employees, officers and agents of the Board.~~

~~Any employee who in good faith reports a pupil to the Principal, the Principal's designee, the school medical inspector, or the school nurse shall not be liable in civil damages as a result of making any such report.~~

~~Drug Free School Zones — *N.J.A.C. 6:29-6.3(c)6*~~

~~The Board will cooperate with law enforcement drug operations and activities on or near school property in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:29-10 et seq. and Policy No. 9322, Drug Free School Zones.~~

~~Policy Review and Accessibility — *N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-10; 18A:40A-11  
N.J.A.C. 6:29-6.3(b); 6:29-6.3(d); 6:29-6.4*~~

~~The Board will annually review the effectiveness of this policy in consultation with appropriate teaching staff members, a local agency approved by the State Department of Health, and community representatives.~~

~~This policy and its implementing regulations shall be made available annually, at the beginning of the school year, to all school employees, pupils, and parents or legal guardians. Each newly hired employee and transferred pupil will be offered this policy and implementing regulations on his or her arrival in the district.~~

~~The Superintendent is directed to establish regulations implementing this policy. Such regulations shall include (1) specific procedures, sanctions and due process provisions for violations of this policy, with sanctions graded according to the severity of the offense; (2) specific procedures for and responsibilities of staff in initiating or conducting searches and seizures of pupils, their property and personal effects, all in strict accordance with law; (3) provisions for maintaining confidentiality of information as described above; and (4) such other provisions as are necessary to implement this policy.~~

~~N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq.~~

~~N.J.A.C.6:29-6.1 et seq.~~

~~Cross References: 2422, 2460, 5500, 5600,  
5610, 5620, 8441, 9322~~

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