The Board of Education believes that the safety and well-being of students, staff, and visitors is fundamental and that the buildings and facilities of the school district represent a substantial community investment. The Board directs the development and implementation of a plan for school district security to protect the safety and well-being of students, staff, and visitors and school community’s investment in the school buildings and facilities.

The school district security program will include: maintenance of facilities that are secure against unwelcome intrusion; protection against fire hazards and faulty equipment; and compliance with safe practices in the use of electrical, plumbing, heating, information technology and other school building equipment and systems, and the services of unarmed security employees in accordance with board policy 7446. The Board directs close cooperation of district officials with law enforcement in accordance with the district’s memorandum of understanding as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2, fire officials, and other emergency agencies. The Board of Education shall approve a security plan for all district facilities. School security functions shall be conducted in a manner that is conducive to a positive school climate and consistent with the district’s comprehensive equity plan and the antidiscrimination policies adopted by the board.

The superintendent or his designee shall designate a school administrator as a school safety specialist for the district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3. The school safety specialist shall be required to acquire a New Jersey Department of Education school safety specialist certification in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.2. The school safety specialist shall also serve as the school district’s liaison with local law enforcement and national, State, and community agencies and organizations in matters of school safety and security, develop a district security program. The plans shall include the maintenance of facilities secure against unwelcome intrusion; protection against fire hazards and faulty equipment; and the observation of safe practices in the use of electrical, plumbing, and heating equipment. The Board directs close cooperation of district officials with local law enforcement officers, fire fighters, the sheriff’s office, and insurance company inspectors.

Access to school buildings and grounds outside the hours school is in session shall be limited to personnel whose employment requires their presence in the facility, and persons who are participating in authorized programs that are taking place at school facilities. An adequate key control system will be established to limit building access to authorized personnel and guard against the potential of intrusion by unauthorized persons who have obtained access improperly. The superintendent shall implement procedures regarding visitor access to school buildings and grounds when school is in session.

Building records and funds shall be kept in a safe place and secured as appropriate and necessary. Each building site is the responsibility of the principal or his/her designee. All school activities outside the regular-session hours must have a custodian with Black Seal designation on duty to be available in the event of an emergency.
Protective devices designed to be used as safeguards against illegal entry and vandalism may be installed when appropriate. The Board may approve the employment of school resource officers, school security guards officers, and/or law enforcement officers in situations in which special risks are involved.


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