

WEST NEW YORK BOARD OF EDUCATION
West New York, New Jersey

District Policies & Regulations

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9100. PUBLIC RELATIONS
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: June, 2008

9100- PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Board of Education believes that school district community relations is not solely an information program, but encompasses all aspects of the schools' relationship with the total community.

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

- A. Promote public interest and participation in the operation of the school system;
- B. Gather information about public attitudes toward the school system, its programs and report them to the Superintendent and the Board;
- C. Provide an honest, continuous, yet comprehensive flow of information about the policies, procedures, programs, any problems that may arise, together with the progress of the school system both to the community and the staff;
- D. Develop the most effective means of communication with the school systems' public and use available media as appropriate;
- E. Develop programs in the schools that would integrate home, school and community to meet the needs of district pupils;
- F. Develop and maintain the confidence of the community in both the school Board and the school staff;
- G. Develop a climate that attracts good teachers and encourages staff to strive for excellence in its education program;
- H. Anticipate and forestall problems that are brought about by lack of communication and understanding; and
- I. Evaluate past procedures to determine how to make improvements in future communications.

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

Adopted: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9120. PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: April, 2009

9120- PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

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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, other than class pictures, 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.

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.

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 relations, 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 relations. Any increase in the maximum dollar amount shall require formal Board action.

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

Adopted: 22 April 2009

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REGULATION

West New York School District

Section: Community

9120. PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: April, 2009

9120. PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

A. Standards of Presentation

1. Material released in the district's public information program should:
 - a. Be factual, topical, newsworthy, and consistent with the educational goals adopted by the Board of Education;
 - b. Represent the activities at all grade levels, subject areas, and schools and not favor one school population or activity over another;
 - c. Strive to interpret the educational program to the lay public and avoid the use of professional terminology; and
 - d. Present an integrated district-wide picture of district-wide programs rather than fragmented information.
2. Information regarding an individual pupil, other than information classified as directory information in Policy No. 8330, shall be released only with the express written permission of the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or the adult pupil. Pupil "information" includes verbal and photographic material, whether or not the pupil depicted is individually identified. Directory information regarding an individual pupil may be released only if the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or the adult pupil has not prohibited its release in accordance with Policy No. 8330.

B. Preparation of Information for Public Distribution

1. Information will be released in a systematic manner to avoid confusion and misunderstanding.
2. Information planned for general public consumption should first be reviewed by interested district employees.
3. News bulletins issued by individual schools or departments within the district must identify the issuing school or department as a part of the school district. Thus all letterheads, bulletins, and publications must carry the full name of the West New York School District.
4. The Principal of each school should prepare a bulletin or news item of interest in his/her building. A copy of the item will be sent to the Superintendent for clearance before the bulletin or item may be released to the press.
5. The office of the Superintendent will prepare and disseminate:
 - a. An annual calendar of Board, district, and school events open to the

public;

- b. A district newsletter;
 - c. Information about the proposed budget, in accordance with Policy No. 6230;
 - d. News releases about Board activities and district-wide activities.
6. The Principal of each school will prepare, submit to the Superintendent for approval, and disseminate the following public information publications.
- a. A pupil handbook will be given to each pupil enrolled in the school or to the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The handbook will include, as appropriate to the grade levels in the school:
 - (1) The organization of the school;
 - (2) Rules for pupil conduct;
 - (3) Pupil rights and responsibilities;
 - (4) Information about school operations, health services, attendance, emergency closings, and the like;
 - (5) Descriptions of pupil activities and programs;
 - (6) The pupil grievance procedure; and
 - (7) Academic requirements.
 - b. A calendar of school events will be distributed to all pupils, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and staff members.
 - c. As appropriate to the grade levels of the school, a listing of course offerings and requirements will be distributed to all parents or legal guardians and pupils.
 - d. Programs for specific performances and athletic contests will be distributed to attendees and participants.

C. Release of Information to the Press

1. In accordance with Policy No. 9120, information determined by the Board to be of particular community impact and interest will be released to the press only by the Board.
2. Information regarding Board actions of lesser importance may be released to the press by the Superintendent.
3. Information regarding the activities of the schools and of individuals in the schools may be released to the press on the approval of the Superintendent or designee.

4. All inquiries from members of the press will be referred to the Superintendent or designee for response. A staff member who is requested to give an interview to a member of the press shall so inform the Superintendent or designee, who may request to be present at the interview.
5. In the event of an unusual development in the school district that arouses substantial public interest, the Superintendent or designee will accommodate the needs of the press by establishing a temporary press center.
 - a. A room will be prepared, as close to the main office as feasible, and equipped with a telephone, computer, access to copying equipment, paper, and other equipment and supplies as may reasonably facilitate the tasks of reporters and photographers.
 - b. Members of the press will be directed to gather in the pressroom, where they will hear and may question the district's spokesperson.
 - c. All information about the unusual development will be relayed through the designated district spokesperson, who should be given direct access to the information and people necessary to the gathering of accurate data.
 - d. School officials who are asked to give statements to the press regarding the development should seek the assistance of the Superintendent or designee in drafting their statements.

D. Displays

1. Displays of the accomplishments of district pupils and the results of educational programs may be placed in locations that afford a high level of public visibility, such as in local commercial establishments, municipal offices, health facilities, libraries, and banks.
2. Any display must be approved in advance by the school Principal.
3. The staff member planning the display must request and receive in writing the permission of the facility in which the display will be placed. The request will clearly indicate the duration of the display, the time when it will be installed, and any particular accommodations that are necessary to the display.
4. A letter of appreciation shall be sent to the facility after the display is removed.

Issued: 25 June 2008

POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9130. PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

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 the appeal is filed, except that the Board shall have thirty 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: 25 June 2008

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REGULATION

West New York School District

Section: Community

9130. PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9130. PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

All complaints and grievances addressed to the Board of Education, Board members individually, school officials, or district staff members shall be referred to the Superintendent for consideration in accordance with the following procedures.

A. Complaints Regarding a Teaching Staff Member Other Than Administrator

1. First level

- a. The complainant will be directed to address the matter to the staff member.
- b. The staff member will be directed to discuss the matter directly with the complainant and to make every reasonable effort to explain the difficulty and/or take appropriate action in accordance with district regulations and within his/her authority and district regulations.
- c. The staff member will report the matter, and whatever action may have been taken to resolve the matter, to the Principal.

2. Second level

- a. If the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved at the first level, the complainant may discuss the matter with the Principal.
- b. The Principal will take all reasonable and prudent steps to resolve the complaint or to explain to the complainant why the matter cannot be resolved as the complainant wishes.

3. Third level

- a. If the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved at the second level, the complainant may, within three working days (see Policy No. 9130) of his/her meeting with the Principal, submit to the Superintendent a written request for a conference. The request shall include:
 - (1) The specific nature of the complaint and a brief statement of the facts giving rise to it,
 - (2) The respect in which it is alleged that the complainant or the complainant's child has been unfairly treated or adversely affected, and
 - (3) The remedy sought by the complainant.

- b. A copy of the request for conference will be sent to the Board of Education.
 - c. Within seven working days (see Policy No. 9130) of the receipt of the request, the Superintendent shall conduct a conference, at a time convenient to the complainant, and attempt to resolve the matter informally. The time for conference will be extended if the complainant is unable to schedule a convenient meeting.
 - d. The Superintendent shall record in writing his/her disposition of the complaint and shall, within ten working days (see Policy No. 9130) of the conference, provide a copy of the written disposition to the complainant and to the Board.
4. Fourth level
- a. A complaint that is not resolved by conference with the Superintendent or that seeks a remedy beyond the Superintendent's jurisdiction may be appealed to the Board of Education.
 - b. The complainant may, within three working days (see Policy No. 9130) of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's written disposition, submit a written request for a hearing before the Board. The request will include a copy of the Superintendent's disposition at Level 3.
 - c. The Board shall, within forty-five calendar days (see Policy No. 9130) of the receipt of the request, conduct an informal hearing before a committee of Board members, in which the complainant will present his/her complaint. The Board may, on the petition of the complainant, permit the examination of witnesses. The Board may permit the teaching staff member complained of to testify in his/her own behalf.
 - d. The Board shall, within ten calendar days (see Policy No. 9130) of the hearing, advise the complainant in writing of the Board's disposition of the complaint.
 - e. The complainant will be advised that the Board's decision may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education.
5. Reasonable efforts will be made to expedite a complaint that arises at the end of the school year so that the matter can be resolved before the interruption of summer vacations.

B. Complaints About an Administrative Staff Member

- 1. The procedure set forth in A will be followed and the complainant will be directed to discuss the matter first with the administrator.
- 2. A complaint about a Principal or a central office administrator will omit the second level of the complaint procedure. Appeal of the first level discussion will be made directly to the Superintendent in accordance with A3.

C. Complaints About a Support Staff Member

1. The procedure set forth in A will be followed and the complainant will be directed to discuss the matter first with the support staff member.
2. Appeal at the second level of the complaint procedure will be to the support staff member's supervisor.
3. A complaint about a support staff supervisor will omit the second level of the complaint procedure. Appeal of the first level discussion will be made directly to the Superintendent in accordance with A3.

D. Complaints About a Program, Practice, or Operation

1. A complaint directed to a matter of district or school policy, procedure, program, or operation, including entitlement programs established by state or federal law, should be addressed, initially, to the administrator or department head most directly concerned with the matter, in accordance with A1.
2. A complaint that cannot be satisfactorily resolved at the first level may be appealed to the Superintendent and, thereafter, the Board in accordance with the procedures set forth in A3 and A4.

E. Complaints About Instructional and Resource materials

1. Complaints about textbooks, library books, reference works, and other instructional materials used in the district will be made in writing and submitted to the Superintendent.
2. The complainant will complete and sign a complaint form in the Principal's office. The form will include:
 - a. The title, author, and publisher of the work complained of,
 - b. The specific portions or language complained of (by page and item),
 - c. The complainant's familiarity with the work objected to,
 - d. The reasons for the objection,
 - e. The pupils or class for whom the work is intended, and
 - f. The way in which the work is used.
3. Within seven working days of the receipt of the complaint form, the Superintendent shall appoint a review committee consisting of:
 - a. The head of the department in which the work is being used,
 - b. A teacher in the subject area of the work,
 - c. A library staff member,
 - d. A Board member,
 - e. A lay person knowledgeable in the area of the work, and

- f. The Principal of a school in which the work is used.
4. The review committee will meet to evaluate the complaint and review the material objected to. The standards used by the committee will be those set forth in Policy No. 2530.
5. The committee will report its findings and recommendations to the Board.
6. The Board will receive the report of the committee. If the Board acts to remove the work complained of or to limit access to the work, its action will be accompanied by a statement of reasons for the removal or limitation.
7. A copy of the committee's report and the Board's action, if any, will be given to the complainant.
8. The complainant will be informed that a decision of the Board may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education.

Issued: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9140. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEES (M)

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9140- CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEES (M)

M

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, only the Board designee shall release findings or recommendations of any committee.

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 Secretary of the Board, 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.

Adopted: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9150. SCHOOL VISITORS
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: June, 2008

9150- SCHOOL VISITORS

The Board of Education 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 schools, the Board directs the enforcement of rules governing school visits.

The Superintendent and Building Principal each possess the authority to prohibit the entry of any person into a school of this district or to expel any person from the school when there is reason to believe the presence of such person would be inimical to the good order of the school. If such a person 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.

Visitors shall be required to register their presence in the school. No staff member shall transact business with or permit the continuing presence in the school of a visitor who has not been duly registered.

No visitor may confer with a pupil in school without the approval of the Principal; any such conference may take place only in the presence of a teaching staff member and/or administrator.

When a court of appropriate jurisdiction has terminated the parental rights of a parent, the legal guardian must inform the school so that the administration may apply appropriate regulations. The Principal shall seek confirmation of legal custodianship where necessary.

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

N.J.S.A. 2C:18-3
N.J.S.A. 18A:17-42; 18A:20-1; 18A:20-34

Adopted: 25 June 2008

REGULATION

West New York School District

Section: Community
9150. SCHOOL VISITORS
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: March, 2011

9150. SCHOOL VISITORS

A. Definition

“Visitor” means any person present in a school building on a school day during the hours school is in session, other than those persons whose presence is required by their enrollment in the school or employment by the Board and includes, but need not be limited to, parents or legal guardians, family members, district residents, guests, educational researchers, and members of the Board. For the purposes of this regulation, “visitor” does not include persons present in school buildings to attend meetings of the Board or events sponsored by organizations granted permission by the Board to meet in the school.

B. Registration

1. Every visitor is required to register in the school office or front desk.
2. A notice will be prominently posted at each entrance to the school building, advising visitors to report to the school office or front desk before advancing to any other part of the school.
3. The Principal will maintain a logbook in the main office of the school. Each visitor’s name shall be entered in the logbook along with the time of arrival and the purpose of his/her visit. The staff member or Police Officer assigned must verify for accuracy the name in the logbook with the submitted photo identification card. The photo identification will not be returned until the visitor leaves the premises.
4. Each visitor will be given an identification tag or badge, which must be worn while the visitor is in the school and/or on school grounds.
5. The Principal or office personnel designated by the Principal shall arrange for an escort to accompany each visitor to his/her destination.
6. A staff member who encounters a visitor without identification will request the visitor to report at the school office, and if feasible, conduct the visitor to the school office. A visitor who resists the request or refuses to be conducted to the school office shall be reported to the Principal and/or assigned police officer immediately.
7. When a visitor has completed the business of his/her visit, he/she will return directly to the school office or front desk, return the identification tag or badge, retrieve his/her photo identification, and promptly leave the building.

C. Permission to Visit Classroom

1. Permission to visit a classroom in session must be sought from and granted by the Principal.
2. In general, arrangements to visit a classroom should be made at least one day in advance of the intended visit.
3. If the intended visit would interfere with the planned instructional program, the Principal will so advise the visitor and suggest another time for the visit.
4. The Principal is authorized to exclude a visitor from a classroom if the Principal has reason to suspect that the visitor may disrupt the educational program or threaten the health and safety of pupils or staff members.
5. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who arrives at school without having sought advance approval of a classroom visit may be admitted to the classroom at the discretion of the Principal.
6. The Principal may arrange visits to classrooms by educators and student teachers with the cooperation and consent of the classroom teachers.
7. Teachers may invite guest speakers or observers to their classrooms with the approval of the Principal. Each such guest speaker and observer must sign the school logbook.
8. The Principal has the authority to evaluate all requests to visit a classroom. A denied request will be accompanied by an explanation of the denial. The parent (s) or legal guardian(s) who has been denied access to his/her child's classroom may appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent, whose determination may be appealed to the Board of Education in accordance with Policy No. 9130.

D. Limitations on Visits to School

1. Visitors are permitted in the schools only during school hours.
2. A visitor may remove a pupil from school only in strict accordance with Policy No. 5230.
3. A visitor may confer with a pupil in the school only with the approval of the Principal and in the presence of a teaching staff member.
4. A visitor to a classroom shall not interrupt the instructional program, speak to or disturb pupils, or distract the teacher. A visitor who wishes to confer with the teacher must make arrangements for a conference at a later date.
5. A visitor may not bring a child or children to a classroom without the express permission of the teacher and the Principal.
6. A classroom visit may ordinarily not exceed sixty minutes without the express permission of the teacher and the Principal.
7. The Principal may restrict the number of visitors to any classroom at any one time. Preference will be given to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of pupils in the classroom.

E. Disruptive Visitors

1. The Principal has complete authority to exclude from school premises any person whom he/she believes may:
 - a. Disrupt the instructional program;
 - b. Disturb teachers or pupils; or
 - c. Commit an illegal act.
2. A visitor whose presence or conduct is disruptive or whose conduct in the past suggests that he/she may be disruptive may be requested to leave the school premises. If the visitor so requested does not withdraw, the Principal may summon assistance from the West New York Police Department.
3. A visitor who presents a serious and immediate threat to the health and safety of persons in the school may be subdued by appropriate means pending the arrival of law enforcement officers.
4. If the Principal has been alerted to dangerous persons in the vicinity of the school or has been informed that a person intends to enter the school with the intent of doing harm, the Principal may, in his/her discretion:
 - a. Assign personnel to patrol entrances to the school and deny entrance to any person not properly identified or personally known to them;
 - b. Secure the services of professional security personnel to monitor entrances; and/or
 - c. Lock all school entrances other than the main entrance so that doors cannot be opened from the outside (taking all necessary steps to ensure that doors can be opened from the inside by pressure on crash bars).

Adopted: 2 March 2011

POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9160. PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9161. CROWD CONTROL
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: June, 2008

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: 25 June 2008

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REGULATION

West New York School District

Section: Community
9161. CROWD CONTROL
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: June, 2008

9161. CROWD CONTROL

The Building Principal and/or Athletic Director or designee will be responsible for carrying out the following procedures to prepare for and supervise each district and school event that will attract substantial numbers of the public to school premises.

A. Preparation

1. The West New York Police Department will be notified of the date and time of the event and the anticipated public. The Building Principal will cooperate with the police department in planning adequate police protection for the event.
2. All necessary arrangements for traffic flow, parking, accommodations for visitors' buses, and reservation of "no parking" areas will be made. Parking areas must be sufficient in size, well lighted, and adequately policed throughout the event.
3. The following persons will be assigned and trained as necessary for the event:
 - a. Game officials, scorers, and timers;
 - b. District employees, pupils, and/or volunteers to monitor the event and supervise spectators, each to be issued distinctive identification, such as badges or armbands;
 - c. Ticket takers, who may be directed to screen for troublemakers; and
 - d. An announcer, who should be impressed with the importance of his/her role in affecting and inspiring spectator behavior and the necessity for being neutral and respectful at all times.
4. The visiting school will be informed of directions to the event, seating, provisions for the athletes, parking, and security for the athletes' possessions. District rules for spectators will be sent to the visiting school for review prior to the event.
5. Seating sections will be reserved for school bands, teams, cheerleaders, and special guests. Rival pupil groups should be separately accommodated in spectator areas, rest rooms, and concessions.
6. Rules for spectators' conduct will be posted at the event and/or included in the program prepared for the event.
7. All appropriate persons should become familiar with Regulation No. 2431.1, Emergency Procedures for Athletic Competition. An ambulance and/or physician should to be present as required by the regulation.

8. Cheerleaders will be instructed to:
 - a. Keep cheering positively and not antagonistic, provocative, or suggestive;
 - b. Respect the cheers and efforts of visitors in a sportsmanlike manner;
 - c. Discourage booing and negative demonstrations by intercepting them with a positive cheer; and
 - d. Accept with responsibility their role in guiding spectator behavior.
9. Arrangements will be made for any communication system that may be necessary among officials, coaches, and administrators.

B. During the Event

1. Persons assigned to supervise spectators should be consulted frequently for problems before they worsen.
2. Lines of communication should be kept open.
3. Supervision will be provided during half-time or intermission periods.
4. Rules for spectator conduct (see paragraph D) will be enforced.

C. After the Event

1. Spectators will be directed out of the facility in an orderly flow.
2. Supervision will be provided until all spectators have dispersed. No loitering will be permitted on school premises.
3. Visiting team members, rooters, cheerleaders, and band members will be assisted in their departure.
4. The Athletic Director or designee will consult with representatives of the visiting team to ensure that all details have been settled.

D. Spectator Rules

All spectators at a school sponsored event are expected to know and observe the following rules. A spectator who violates any of these rules may be evicted from the event. Persistent disregard of these rules may cause a spectator to be barred from future events.

Spectators must:

1. Conduct themselves with decorum and with respect for the rights and property of others at all times, at the school event and while traveling to and from the school event;
2. Respect and obey those in authority--school officials and police--and the persons

assigned by the school to act for those in authority;

3. Respect the efforts of the pupils involved in the event, for whom the event may mark the culmination of many hours of preparation and hard work;
4. Respect the seating arrangements provided by the school and remain seated in assigned seats during the event;
5. Respond enthusiastically to pupil efforts and accomplishments by cheering and applauding and refrain from boos, disrespectful remarks, and other loud negative expressions;
6. Stay off the stage, arena, or athletic playing area on which pupils are performing or competing;
7. Respect the property of the school by causing no litter and leaving the premises as clean as they were found; make proper use of lavatory facilities and food and drink concessions;
8. Not bring and/or consume alcoholic beverages or narcotics or drugs of any kind on school premises and stay away from school premises if under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
9. Use no tobacco product in a school building or in any place on school premises;
10. Park as directed, obey traffic rules, and drive with extreme care on school property; and
11. Out of concern for the comfort and safety of all spectators and respect for the efforts of performing or competing pupils, report any violation of these rules to a person in authority.

Issued: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9180. SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: June, 2008

9180- SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The Board encourages volunteers and/or residents of the community who are especially qualified because of training, experience, or personal characteristics to take an active part in school affairs. Such persons may be invited to act as advisers both as groups and individually in:

- A. Clarifying the general ideas and attitudes held by our residents regarding school;
- B. Determining the purposes of courses of study and special services to be provided for pupils; evaluating the extent to which these purposes are being achieved by present practices;
- C. Giving active assistance to the professional staff in the actual operation of classes and services where the Superintendent and staff deem such aid valuable;
- D. Offering suggestions on a specific problem or set of closely related problems about which the Board must make a decision;
- E. Coordinating the delivery of social services to pupils.

Volunteers carrying out prescribed functions under the supervision of designated professional staff members shall be covered by the Board's liability insurance policy. Community volunteers who will be in contact with pupils on a regular basis must pass the required tuberculosis screening.

The Board may require criminal history record checks for individuals who, on an unpaid voluntary basis, provide services that involve regular contact with pupils. If the Board requires a criminal history record check for an unpaid volunteer, the Board shall reimburse the applicant for the cost of the check.

The Superintendent shall supervise development of programs and procedures to enlist community participation in school events and deliberations. He/She shall keep on file information on all volunteers and documentation that requirements of law have been fulfilled.

The Board, Superintendent, and the staff shall give substantial weight to the advice which they receive from individuals and community groups interested in the school, especially those individuals and groups which have been invited or created to advise them regarding selected problems. The Board, Superintendent, and staff shall use their own best judgment in arriving at decisions.

The Superintendent shall report to the public annually on all aspects of community support of the educational program.

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

Adopted: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9181. VOLUNTEER ATHLETIC COACHES

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9181- VOLUNTEER ATHLETIC COACHES

There shall be no volunteer athletic coaches used in the school district athletic programs.

The Board may use school district employed substitute teachers as coaches in the athletic program.

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

Adopted: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9190. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9190- COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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: 25 June 2008

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REGULATION

West New York School District

Section: Community

9190. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9190. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The Superintendent directs each Building Principal to:

1. Establish and maintain a file of community resources.
2. Recommend which instructional program and/or district operations would profit by the involvement of community resources personnel.

Issued: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9191. BOOSTER CLUBS
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: June, 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: 25 June 2008

POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9200. COOPERATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOL

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9210. PARENT ORGANIZATIONS
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: June, 2008

9210- PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board will encourage the work of a general, voluntary, school-connected organization of parent(s) or legal guardian(s), school staff and friends of the school in each school. Such organizations may not establish educational policy, participate in the administration of the school, or authorize management and direction of school affairs.

Such organizations shall have as their objectives the promotion of pupil welfare; the development of close relationships between the home and the school; and the development between educators and the public of such united efforts as will secure for every pupil in the schools the best kind of educational program possible.

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.

Permission to hold regular meetings of such associations in school facilities will be extended by the Board of Education for a particular school year, in accordance with Board policy.

The school Principal or another professional staff member designated by the Principal 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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9230. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: June, 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) and 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 seek to involve parent(s) or legal guardian(s) as much as possible in the planning of the individual program. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must, by law, be included in the development of certain educational programs for their children.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are requested to keep the school apprised of changes in factors in the home situation which may affect pupil 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.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are responsible for their child's punctuality, attendance, cleanliness and propriety of dress. The building administrator is responsible for informing the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the district's dress and conduct code. The building administrator has the authority to discipline a pupil for inappropriate dress.

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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9240. RIGHTS OF PARENTS
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: June, 2008

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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9260. PARENTAL LIABILITY FOR VANDALISM

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9270. HOME SCHOOLING AND EQUIVALENT EDUCATION (M)

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9270- HOME SCHOOLING AND EQUIVALENT EDUCATION (M)

M

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.

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: 25 June 2008

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REGULATION

West New York School District

Section: Community

9270. HOME SCHOOLING AND EQUIVALENT EDUCATION (M)

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9270. HOME SCHOOLING AND EQUIVALENT EDUCATION (M)

M

Home schooling is an educational program provided at home, usually by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the child. Children are taught using their own curriculum or published home school curriculum. The Board of Education recognizes that home schooling is an option for parent(s) or legal guardian(s) under the compulsory education law.

A. Legal Requirement for Compulsory Attendance

1. N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25 requires all children six to 16 years to attend the public schools or a day school in which there is given instruction equivalent to that provided in the public school for children of similar grades and attainments or to receive equivalent instruction elsewhere other than school.
2. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a child that is home schooled is responsible to ensure their child receives instruction equivalent to that provided in the public school for children of similar grades and attainments or to receive equivalent instruction elsewhere other than school.
3. The Superintendent may report to the appropriate municipal authorities those 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.
4. If the Superintendent makes a 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.
5. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a home schooled pupil are not required to seek approval from the district or to submit materials to the Superintendent in order to permit it to make a determination as to the equivalency of the instruction.

B. Truancy/Violations of Compelling Attendance

1. When a Superintendent and Board believe a person is not complying with the compulsory education law (N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25 et seq.) they must initiate truancy proceedings in municipal court where a parent may be found guilty of a disorderly persons offense and fined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-27 and N.J.S.A. 18A:38-31.
2. If the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are challenged in court by the Superintendent or Board, the district must demonstrate, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the parents are not providing a curriculum that is academically equivalent to that

provided in the public school for a child of similar grade and attainment.

C. District Requirements for Home Schooled Pupils

1. Unless requested by the parents, and agreed to by the school district, the school district is not required or permitted to:
 - a. Test a child educated at home;
 - b. Review the quality of instruction received at home; or
 - c. To monitor the results of home instruction.
2. When children are educated at home and are not enrolled in a school, the school district will not provide entitlements or privileges of pupils enrolled in the school district unless specifically provided in the federal special education laws.
3. A child educated at home shall not receive a state endorsed high school diploma from the Board of Education.

D. Pupils With Disabilities

1. The Superintendent will consider requests for evaluation of all potentially disabled home schooled children and make determinations whether or not to conduct evaluations.
 - a. If the school district's Child Study Team (CST) determines that an evaluation is required, the procedures as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14 are followed.
 - b. If the child is eligible for special education, the CST will determine a classification category and develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14.
 - c. Home schooled children with disabilities may be provided a special education program including related services.
 - d. If a home schooled child with disabilities re-enrolls in the public school, the school district must implement the special education program described in the IEP. The school district will also review the IEP annually and be ready to conduct re-evaluation every three years.
 - e. The school district will notify the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a classified child who is being educated at home to offer services as required by law. The documentation of this notice will be maintained in the child's record file.
 - f. Any determination by the school district CST regarding the provision of a special education program to a classified child who is being educated at home may be challenged by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

E. Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities

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.

1. Curricular activities - Home schooled children will not be permitted to participate in school curricular activities, (e.g. field trips).
2. Co-Curricular activities - Home schooled children will not be permitted to participate in school co-curricular activities, (e.g. clubs and athletics).
3. Textbooks - The school district will not loan books or materials to home schooled children.
4. Home schooled pupils are permitted to enroll in shared time vocational programs, and once enrolled they become public school pupils and are entitled to payments of tuition and are eligible for transportation.

Home Schooling in New Jersey

PTM NO. 1400.66 New Jersey Department of Education, 30 April 1997

Commissioner of Education Correspondence dated 9 April 1998

Issued: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9280. PARENT CONFERENCES
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: June, 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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9320. COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (M)

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9320- COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (M)

M

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: 25 June 2008

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REGULATION

West New York School District

Section: Community

9320. COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (M)

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9320. COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (M)

M

A. Relations with Local Police Department

1. The Principal of each school will endeavor to establish a continuing cooperative relationship with the law enforcement officers that serve the area in which the school is located.
2. Local police officers will be encouraged to visit the school on regular tours of duty so that their presence in the school is helpful and non-threatening.
3. Police should be encouraged to take active roles as resource persons in school programs in order to bring them into direct contact with pupils and to impress pupils with the positive aspects of police protection and security. Police officers may be invited to participate in such programs as driver education, substance abuse, and health/family life education.
4. At the same time that he/she works toward a liaison with the police and assists the police in the necessary performance of their responsibility to enforce the law, the Principal will impress upon the police his/her role as protector of the rights and interests of the pupils enrolled in the school.
5. For the purposes of this Regulation:
 - a. "Police Department" means the law enforcement agency designated by the County Prosecutor to receive such information.
 - b. "Principal" means the Principal and/or designee.
 - c. "Superintendent" means the Superintendent and/or designee.
 - d. "School staff member" means any school employee.

B. Summoning the Police onto School Property for the Purpose of Conducting Law Enforcement Investigations, Searches, Seizures, Arrests and in Emergencies

1. Police may be summoned to the school by the Principal or, in the absence of the Principal, the staff member in charge of the school building. If the Principal or staff member in charge is not immediately available in an emergency situation, the police may be summoned by any staff member with direct knowledge of the emergency, who shall report his/her call to the Principal at the earliest possible time.
2. The telephone number by which police can be summoned shall be prominently

displayed at telephones in the school that have an outside line.

3. Police officers should be summoned to the school:
 - a. When an incident involving the suspected or actual use, possession, or distribution of alcohol or a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, drug paraphernalia or a firearm or other deadly weapon occurs, in accordance with Regulation No. 5530;
 - b. When evidence indicates that a crime has been committed, that a break and entry has occurred, that a deadly weapon is on school premises, or that a breach of the peace has occurred, in accordance with Regulation No. 7440;
 - c. When an act of vandalism has occurred, in accordance with Regulation No. 7610;
 - d. When fire is detected and immediately after the fire department has been summoned, in accordance with Regulation No. 8420.1;
 - e. When a bomb threat has been received, in accordance with Regulation No. 8420.2;
 - f. When the school is threatened by toxic hazard, in accordance with Regulation No. 8431;
 - g. In a serious medical emergency, in accordance with Regulation No. 8441;
 - h. When a visitor to the school is seriously disruptive and/or refuses to obey the Principal's order to leave the premises, in accordance with Regulation No. 9150; and
 - i. In any other instance in which the Principal or staff member in charge has cause to believe the health, safety and welfare of the building occupants and/or property are in jeopardy.
4. An emergency call to the police should include the:
 - a. The name and title of the caller;
 - b. The name and location of the school building in which law enforcement is needed; and
 - c. A brief description of the nature of the situation, including an accurate assessment of the seriousness of the situation.
5. If possible, a staff member or responsible pupil should be dispatched to meet and guide responding officers.
6. If offenders are to be arrested, a staff member should be prepared to assist the police in obtaining the necessary warrants.

C. Planned Security Protection at School Events and Extra-Curricular Activities

1. Each September or before, the Principal will provide the local police department with a calendar of events scheduled at the school for the school year just beginning. The calendar will be updated as necessary during the year.
2. The Principal will review with the police the events for which the need for police assistance and/or security is anticipated. Their review will include:
 - a. The number of officers required,
 - b. The responsibilities to be assumed by the officers, and
 - c. The remuneration, if any, each is to receive.

D. Police Investigations in the School

1. The Principal shall demand proper identification of any individual who represents him/herself as a police officer before the Principal permits any investigation to go forward. The Principal may verify this identification with the Police Department or the law enforcement agency that the individual claims to represent.
2. A police officer's request for access to school records will be responded to as follows:
 - a. A request for access to the public records of this district will be granted only in accordance with Regulation No. 8310.
 - b. A request for access to district or Board of Education records that are classified as confidential by Policy No. 8310 shall be reported to the Superintendent or Board Secretary, who will determine, in consultation with the Board Attorney, whether or not to release the record.
 - c. A request for access to personnel records that are classified as confidential by Policy No. 8320 shall be reported to the Superintendent and shall be released only if:
 - (1) The employee concerned has consented to inspection of his/her file, or
 - (2) The law enforcement officer presents a warrant authorizing a search or certain confidential records from the file.
 - (3) The Superintendent may consult with the Board Attorney prior to releasing any personnel records that are classified as confidential.
 - d. A request for access to pupil records that are classified as confidential by law and by Policy No. 8330 shall be reported to the Superintendent and shall be released only if:
 - (1) The adult pupil concerned or parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the minor pupil concerned has consented in writing to the inspection; or

- (2) The police officer presents to the Superintendent a court order authorizing access to the record; or
 - (3) The adult pupil concerned or parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the minor pupil concerned has been given at least three days written notice of the name of the requesting agency and the records requested and has not obtained a judicial order barring access.
 - (4) The Superintendent may consult with the Board Attorney prior to releasing any pupil records that are classified as confidential.
3. A request by law enforcement officials to interrogate pupils, on school premises or while under the protection of the school, shall be handled as follows:
- a. The police officer shall be required to ask the Principal for access to the pupil, regardless of the pupil's location in or about school premises or on a school-sponsored trip or at a school-sponsored event.
 - b. The Principal shall ask the police officer to delay the interrogation or conduct the interrogation away from school. In general, it should not be necessary to conduct an interrogation in school unless the matter involves:
 - (1) A crime committed in school; or
 - (2) An investigation that would be compromised without the interrogation in school; or
 - (3) An endangerment to the lives or safety of pupils or other persons; or
 - (4) Other reasons law enforcement officials believe an interrogation must be conducted in school and cannot wait until the pupil is away from school.
 - c. The Principal shall make every reasonable effort to notify the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the request by law enforcement officials to interrogate the pupil while in school to receive the parent's or legal guardian's consent to permit the pupil to be interrogated before the interrogation.
 - (1) The Principal will permit the interrogation if the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) consents to the interrogation.
 - (2) The Principal will delay the interrogation in the event the parent (s) or legal guardian(s) requests to be present during the interrogation.
 - (3) The Principal will deny the law enforcement official an interrogation if the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) cannot be contacted or if the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) does not consent to the interrogation.
 - (4) In the event the interrogation is not denied by the Principal for

- the reasons in (3) above, the Principal will immediately contact the Superintendent, who will contact the Board Attorney to determine the Principal's and school district's legal responsibilities under the circumstances of law enforcement's request for the pupil to be interrogated in school.
- d. A pupil shall not be removed from school for interrogation unless:
- (1) The pupil has been lawfully arrested; or
 - (2) The adult pupil or the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a minor pupil has consented to the removal.
4. All searches and seizures of pupils, their property and personal effects conducted by school staff must comply with the standards prescribed by the United States Supreme Court in *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* 469 U.S. 325 (1985) and in compliance with Policy No. 5770.
- a. Any questions concerning searches conducted by school officials shall be directed to the County Prosecutor.
 - b. A school official may request that law enforcement authorities assume responsibility for conducting any search or seizure.
 - c. No school staff member will impede any law enforcement officer engaged in a lawful search, seizure or arrest whether pursuant to a warrant or otherwise.
 - d. School staff will permit law enforcement authorities upon their arrival to assume responsibility for conducting any search or seizure.
 - e. All inspections of lockers, desks or other objects or personal property on school grounds involving the use of law enforcement, drug-detection canines may only be undertaken with the express permission of the County Prosecutor or the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety.
 - f. Any questions concerning the legality of any contemplated or ongoing search, seizure or arrest conducted by a law enforcement officer on school grounds shall be directed to the County Prosecutor or, in the case of search, seizure or arrest undertaken by the Division of Criminal Justice, to the assigned Assistant Attorney General.
5. The Superintendent and Building Principal will cooperate with law enforcement authorities in the planning and conduct of undercover school operations.
- a. The Superintendent shall approve such undercover operations without prior notification to the Board of Education in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(a)6.i.
 - b. All information relative to any undercover school operation shall be kept strictly confidential by the Superintendent and the Building Principal and may not be divulged to any person without the express approval of the County Prosecutor.

- anabolic steroids or drug paraphernalia, on or within 1,000 feet of the outermost boundary of the school property pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7, shall report the matter as soon as possible to the Principal or, in the absence of the Principal, to the staff member responsible at the time of the alleged violation.
- a. Either the Principal or the responsible staff member shall notify the Superintendent, who in turn shall notify the Police Department as soon as possible.
 - b. The Superintendent will provide to the Police Department and/or County Prosecutor all known information concerning the matter, including the identity of the pupil or staff member involved.
 - c. The Superintendent and/or Principal will 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 drug distribution activities.
 - d. An admission by a pupil or staff member in response to questioning initiated by the Principal or teaching staff member, or following the discovery of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids or drug paraphernalia by the Principal or teaching staff member, shall not constitute a voluntary, self-initiated request for counseling and treatment.
2. The Principal, or in the absence of the Principal the staff member responsible at the time of the alleged violation, will report to the police department. Whenever any staff member develops reason to believe that a firearm, as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1(f) and 18 U.S.C. section 921, or other deadly weapon, whether enumerated in N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1(r) or not, except a firearm as defined by N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1(f) and 18 U.S.C. section 921, has unlawfully been brought onto school property, or that any pupil or other person is in unlawful possession of a firearm or other deadly weapon, whether on or off school property, or that any pupil or other person has committed an offense with or while in possession of a firearm, whether or not such offense was committed on school property or during school operating hours.
- a. Either the Principal or the responsible staff member shall notify the Superintendent, who shall notify the Police Department as soon as possible.
 - b. The Superintendent will provide to the Police Department all known information concerning the matter, including the identity of the pupil or staff member involved.
3. The Superintendent and/or the Principal will immediately notify the Police Department whenever any school staff member in the course of his or her employment develops reason to believe that a pupil has threatened, is planning, or otherwise intends to cause death, serious bodily injury or significant bodily injury to another person under circumstances in which a reasonable person would believe the pupil genuinely intends at some time in the future to commit the violent act or carry out the threat.
4. The Superintendent and/or the Principal will immediately notify the Police

Department whenever any school employee in the course of his or her employment develops reason to believe that a crime involving sexual contact or criminal sexual conduct has been committed on school property, or by or against a pupil during school operating hours or during school-related functions or activities.

5. School employees will immediately notify the Principal and/or Superintendent when in the course of their employment they develop reason to believe that a hate crime has been committed or is about to be committed on school property, or has been or is about to be committed by any pupil, whether on or off school property. This notification is required whether or not such offense was or is to be committed during school hours. This notification is also required if a pupil enrolled in the school has been or is about to become the victim of a hate crime, whether committed on or off school property or during school hours.
 - a. The Principal and/or Superintendent will promptly notify the Police Department and the Bias Investigation Officer for the County Prosecutor's office in the instances described above.
 - b. The Principal and/or Superintendent will immediately notify the Police Department and the Bias Investigation Officer for the County Prosecutor's office where there is reason to believe that a hate crime that involves an act of violence has been or is about to be physically committed against a pupil, or there is otherwise reason to believe that a life has been or will be threatened.

F. Handling of Substances, Firearms and Other Items

1. Any school employee who seizes or discovers any substance or item believed to be a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, or drug paraphernalia, shall immediately notify and turn the substance or item over to the Principal or designee.
 - a. The Principal or designee shall immediately notify the Superintendent or designee who shall notify the Police Department.
 - b. The school employee, Principal or designee shall safeguard the substance or paraphernalia against further use or destruction and shall secure the substance or paraphernalia until such time as the substance or paraphernalia can be turned over to the appropriate law enforcement officials.
 - c. The Principal will provide to the County Prosecutor or designee all information concerning the manner in which the substance or paraphernalia was discovered or seized, including:
 - (1) The identity of all persons who had custody of the substance or paraphernalia following its discovery or seizure; and
 - (2) The identity of any pupil or staff member believed to have been in possession of the substance or paraphernalia.
 - d. The Principal will not disclose the identity of any pupil or staff member who on his or her own initiative turned over the substance or paraphernalia to a school employee, provided that there is reason to

believe that the pupil or staff member was involved with the substance or paraphernalia for the purpose of personal use, not distribution activities, and further provided that the pupil or staff member agrees to participate in an appropriate treatment or counseling program.

An admission by a pupil or staff member in response to questioning initiated by the Principal or teaching staff member, or following the discovery of a controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, or drug paraphernalia by the Principal or teaching staff member will not constitute a voluntary self-initiated request for counseling and treatment.

2. Whenever a school employee seizes or comes upon any firearm or dangerous weapon, school officials will:
 - a. In the case of a firearm, immediately advise the Police Department and secure the firearm pending the response by the Police Department to retrieve and take custody of the firearm; and
 - b. In the case of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm, immediately advise the Police Department and secure the weapon pending the response by the Police Department to retrieve and take custody of the dangerous weapon.
3. School employees having custody of a firearm or dangerous weapon shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the theft, destruction or unlawful use of the firearm or dangerous weapon by any person.

G. Confidentiality of Pupil or Staff Involvement in Substance Abuse Intervention and Treatment Programs

1. All information concerning a pupil's or staff member's involvement in a school intervention or treatment program for substance abuse shall be kept strictly confidential, according to the requirements of 42 CFR Part 2 and N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-7.1 and 7.2.
2. Nothing in this Regulation shall be construed in any way to authorize or require the transmittal of any information or records which are in the possession of a substance abuse counseling or treatment program.
3. The Principal will not disclose to law enforcement officials or to any person other than a member of the local district's comprehensive alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse program that a pupil or staff member has received or is receiving services through the local district's comprehensive alcohol and other drug abuse program. The Principal will not disclose any information, including the pupil's or staff member's identity or information about illegal activity, where such information was learned in the course of or as a result of services provided through the local district's comprehensive alcohol and other drug abuse program.
4. Nothing in this Regulation shall be construed to preclude the disclosure of information about illegal activity that was learned by any school employee outside of the local district's comprehensive alcohol and other drug abuse program.

Any such information about illegal activity shall be reported according to the requirements of this Regulation and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3 and 6.4.

H. Records

1. The Principal shall report to the Superintendent each incident involving an interrogation, search, or arrest of a pupil by a law enforcement agent.
2. The Principal shall record in writing and enter in the pupil's file:
 - a. The date, time, place, and circumstances of the incident;
 - b. The name of the officer and the law enforcement agency he/she represents;
 - c. The name of the pupil;
 - d. The notification or attempt to notify the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s); and
 - e. An anecdotal description of the incident, including such information regarding its conduct as may be necessary to show that the pupil was fairly or unfairly treated.

I. In-Service Training

The Superintendent will develop, in conjunction with the Building Principal(s), the County Prosecutor's Office and the Police Department, in-service training for school staff regarding Policy and Regulation 9320.

J. Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding With Law Enforcement

1. The Superintendent and Police Department will meet on a regular basis, or at least annually, to discuss the implementation and need for revising the Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding and to review the effectiveness of the policies and procedures implemented in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1 et seq.
2. Any Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Education and Law Enforcement Officials will be approved by the Board of Education and will be submitted to the Police Department, County Prosecutor and County Superintendent of Schools.

Issued: 25 June 2008

POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9323. NOTIFICATION OF JUVENILE OFFENDER CASE DISPOSITION

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 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
 - 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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9324. SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9324- SEX OFFENDERS 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 West New York 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 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: 25 June 2008

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REGULATION

West New York School District

Section: Community

9324. SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9324. SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION

A. Definitions

1. Tier One Offender - An offender that is 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.
2. Tier Two Offender - An offender who is 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.
3. Tier Three Offender - An offender who is 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.
4. Likely To Encounter - Law enforcement agencies, community organizations or members of the community who are in a location or in close geographic proximity to a location which the offender visits or can be presumed to visit on a regular basis.
5. Fair Chance to Encounter - The types of interaction which ordinarily occur at that location and other attendant circumstances demonstrate that contact with the offender is reasonably certain.

B. Notification To School District From the Law Enforcement Agency/County Prosecutor’s Office

1. The Superintendent and the Building Principal(s) of the targeted schools will be notified by the Prosecutor’s Office, without the need to register to be notified, for all sex offenders classified as Tier Two or Tier Three Offenders. Local law enforcement agencies and/or the County Prosecutor’s Office will determine there is a “fair chance to encounter” the offender in determining community notification. In any event the Superintendent and the Building Principal(s) will be notified for all Tier Two and Tier Three Offenders.
2. The Building Principal(s) are 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.
3. The County Prosecutor’s Office determines the specific schools, community organizations and residences to receive notification.

4. 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 school in the notification area has been inadvertently omitted.

C. School District Procedure Upon Notification From the Law Enforcement Agency/County Prosecutor's Office

1. The Building Principal(s) 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 Building Principal will 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 staff members in the protection of their charges, not to provide notification to the community at large.
2. The Building Principal, in conjunction with the appropriate law enforcement agency and the County Prosecutor's Office will provide information, along with appropriate advice regarding the safeguarding of the school's children.
3. All school district staff are prohibited from releasing any of this information to the public at large. All inquiries from community members, non-affected school staff, all parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and other members of the general public shall be directed to the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or the County Prosecutor's Office.

Issued: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9340. COOPERATION WITH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9400. NEWS MEDIA RELATIONS
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: June, 2008

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 Superintendent 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.

The Superintendent and/or designee must approve in advance interviews between staff members or pupils and media representatives and authorize the release of photographs, video or digital images of district subjects, personnel, or pupils. Photographs, video or digital images of disabled children shall not be disseminated or used in print or media in any way if they are identified as disabled unless permission is granted by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Photographs, video or digital images of children placed in the district by DYFS shall not be published without the permission of the Division case worker. Where the release of a photograph may violate the privacy of a pupil or staff member, the Superintendent and/or designee must first secure the written permission of the staff member or the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Adopted: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9500. COOPERATION WITH EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9500- COOPERATION WITH EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

The Board believes that cooperation between the schools and other organizations concerned with youth, career development and mental health will enhance the opportunities of the district's pupils. Such cooperation will also enable the district to serve its pupils better through appropriate referrals as in substance abuse programs, special needs, etc. The Superintendent is encouraged to explore areas of mutual concern with the administrative officers of such organizations and to 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 student teaching, inservice staff development and advanced placement.

It is of particular importance to establish and maintain close-working relations with trades, businesses and industries that provide members for advisory committees and are possible sources of career placements for our 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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9541. STUDENT TEACHERS/INTERNS
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: April, 2009

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.

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: 22 April 2009

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9550. EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9560. ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOL SURVEYS

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 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:

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 of Curriculum 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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community
9700. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: June, 2008

9700- SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Board of Education recognizes that the contributions of persons and organizations outside the schools may from time to time take the form of materials, activities, and awards that tend to serve the interests of the contributor as well as benefit the school district generally and pupils individually.

The Board reserves the right to review all such proposed contributions and to reject those 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 agency outside the schools shall not under any circumstances be construed as an endorsement by this Board of any interest, cause, or organization.

Permission to solicit funds on school premises will be granted only to those persons and organizations whose purposes are consonant with the goals of this district and the interests of the community. Solicitation 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 nor may any such funds be deposited in any district account.

The Board forbids the distribution of political literature to or through the pupils of this district; further, no pupil under the jurisdiction of this Board shall be requested or directed to engage in any activity that tends to promote, favor, or oppose a candidate for political office or a public question submitted at any election.

Distribution of Materials by Pupils and Staff

Material being sent home with pupils should relate to school matters or pupil-related community activities. Except when it pertains to the individual pupil, all such material must be approved in advance by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Pupils shall not be used to distribute partisan materials or partisan information pertaining to a school or general election, budget or bond issue, or negotiations. Pupils shall not be exploited for the benefit of any individual, group, or profit-making organization.

No staff member may distribute any materials on school property without prior approval of the Superintendent.

All surveys, questionnaires or other similar items requiring pupil or parent(s) or legal guardian (s) response shall be reviewed and approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee prior to distribution.

The Board will only prohibit the distribution of literature or material to pupils on school premises that tends to advance or is inimical to the interests of a religious sect or religion if the distribution method is inconsistent with the governing principles of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

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 Building Principal and includes consultation with appropriate staff members, the nature of the prize or award is approved by the Superintendent, and the Board determines the manner of presentation.

Contests for Pupils

The Superintendent shall approve participation in extracurricular contests sponsored by organizations outside the schools, as long as participation does not interfere with the instructional program. When such contests involve promotional aid, school time, or faculty assistance to pupils in essay writing, poster making, or other activities, the Superintendent shall determine whether the experiences are closely enough allied to and in support of the instructional work of the school and will clearly serve to advance the educational aims of the district. The worthiness of the sponsoring agency's cause or the opportunity for individuals to win prizes shall not in themselves constitute sufficient reason for approving a contest.

Contests and awards whether local, State, or national shall be:

- A. For the benefit of the pupil;
- B. Open to all pupils regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age or sex;
- C. Consistent with district objectives;
- D. Judged by disinterested parties;
- E. Properly supervised with safety precautions in place;
- F. Voluntary for pupils and teachers.

Contests and awards shall not place undue time or financial burdens on pupils, teachers and parent(s) or legal guardian(s). They shall not promote commercial products or partisan viewpoints. Participation shall not be dependent on the financial status of the pupil.

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

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

Adopted: 25 June 2008

POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9713. RECRUITMENT BY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (M)

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

9713- RECRUITMENT BY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (M)

M

The Board of Education prohibits recruitment activities by outside organizations on school premises, regardless of the purpose of the recruitment or the nature of the recruitment agency. Except as required and referenced below, no information about individual pupils will be released for the purpose of approaching pupils for educational, occupational, military, or any other recruitment purpose.

However, a school district that receives funds under ESEA, on request from a military recruiter or an institution of higher education, must provide access to the names, addresses, and telephone listings for secondary pupils. Parent(s), legal guardian(s) and/or the adult pupil may request that such information not be released for the child without the prior written parental, legal guardian and/or adult pupil approval. The district will give military recruiters the same right of access to secondary pupils as generally provided to post-secondary institutions and prospective employers.

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: 25 June 2008

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POLICY

West New York Board of Education

Section: Community

9720. SOLICITATIONS BY VENDORS

Date Created: June, 2008

Date Edited: June, 2008

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: 25 June 2008

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