

POLICY

Lower Cape May Regional
Board of Education

Section: Operations

8461. REPORTING VIOLENCE, VANDALISM, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE
(M)

Date Created: December, 2008

Date Edited: December, 2011

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The Board of Education shall observe “School Violence Awareness Week” during the week beginning with the third Monday in October of each year by organizing activities to prevent school violence. Activities shall include, but are not limited to, age-appropriate opportunities for pupil discussion on conflict resolution, issues of pupil diversity, and tolerance. The Board shall invite law enforcement personnel to join members of the teaching staff in the discussions and provide programs for school employees that are designed to help them recognize warning signs of school violence and to instruct them on recommended conduct during an incident of school violence.

Any school employee who observes or has direct knowledge from a participant or victim of an act of violence or the possession and/or distribution of alcohol or other drugs on school grounds, and any school employee who reports a pupil for being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, according to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3, shall file a report describing the incident to the school Principal, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. The report shall be on a form adopted by the Board to include all of the incident detail and offender and victim information that are reported on the Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System (EVRVS).

A report alleging an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be made in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13.1 and Policy 5512.

The Building Principal, for each incident report of violence, vandalism, harassment, intimidation, bullying, alcohol, or other drug abuse, shall review the incident report for accuracy; forward a copy of the incident report to the Superintendent; and notify the Superintendent of the action taken regarding the incident. The Board shall not discharge or subject to any manner of discrimination any school employee who files a report pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3.

The Association Representative of the school employees’ bargaining units shall have access monthly to the number and disposition of all reported acts of school violence, vandalism, harassment, intimidation, or bullying pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. Personally identifying information may be provided to the Association Representative of the school employees’ bargaining units only in instances when school administrators have reason to believe that the safety of a school staff member is at risk.

Two times each school year, between September 1 and January 1 and between January 1 and June 30, at a public hearing held pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, the Superintendent shall report to the Board all acts of violence, vandalism, harassment, intimidation, bullying, and incidents of alcohol and other drug abuse that occurred during the previous reporting period in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3. The report shall include the number of reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the status of all investigations, the nature of the bullying based on one of the protected categories identified in section 2 of P.L.2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-14), the names of the investigators, the type and nature of any discipline imposed on any pupil engaged in harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and any other measures imposed, training conducted, or programs implemented, to reduce harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The information shall also be reported once during each reporting period to the Department of Education. The report must include data broken down by the enumerated categories as listed in section 2 of P.L.2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-14), and data broken down by each school in the district, in addition to district-wide data. It shall be a violation to improperly release any confidential information not authorized by Federal or State law for public release.

The report shall be used to grade each school for the purpose of assessing its effort to implement policies and programs consistent with the provisions of P.L. 2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-13 et seq.). The district shall receive a grade determined by averaging the grades of all the schools in the district. The Commissioner shall promulgate guidelines for a program to grade schools for the purposes of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. The grade received by a school and the district shall be posted on the homepage of the school's website. The grade for the district and each school of the district shall be posted on the homepage of the district's website. A link to the report shall be available on the district's website. The information shall be posted on the websites within ten days of the receipt of a grade by the school and district.

Whenever it is alleged a school employee has knowingly falsified the report on violence, vandalism, harassment, intimidation, or bullying required under N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, the Board shall make a determination regarding whether the employee committed the act. The Board shall provide written notice of the allegations to the employee and the employee shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3(g)2. Upon a determination by the Board that an employee has knowingly falsified the report, the Board may take appropriate action as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3(g)3. Any action taken by the Board shall be based on its consideration of the nature of the conduct, the circumstances under which it occurred, and the employee's prior employment record. Any employee having been found responsible for the falsification of the report by the Board shall have the right to file a grievance under their respective bargaining agreements, appeal the Board's determination to the Commissioner of Education and subsequently to the State Board of Education, or appeal the decision to the Superior Court of New Jersey. The availability of appeal options shall be based upon the action taken by the Board.

A Board of Education shall submit and implement corrective action plans for high incidences of violence, vandalism, or alcohol or other drug abuse upon notification by the Commissioner of Education.

The Board shall provide ongoing staff training, in cooperation with the Department of Education, in fulfilling the reporting requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46.

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46; 18A:36-5.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.2; 6A:16-5.3

Adopted: 21 October 2008
Revised: 29 April 2010
Revised: 22 September 2011
Revised: 15 December 2011

REGULATION

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School District

Section: Operations

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Any school employee who observes or has direct knowledge from a participant or victim of an act of violence or the possession or distribution of alcohol or other drugs on school grounds, and any school employee who reports a pupil for being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, according to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3, shall file a report describing the incident to the school Principal, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. The report shall be on a form to include all of the incident detail and offender and victim information that are reported on the Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System (EVVRS). A report alleging an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be made in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13.1 and Policy 5512.

A. Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Alcohol or Other Drug Use

1. For each incident report of violence, vandalism, or alcohol or other drug abuse, the Principal shall:

a. Review the incident report for accuracy in indicating the incident type,

offender information, victim information, pupil demographics, and incident location;

- b. Forward a copy of the incident report to the Superintendent; and
 - c. Notify the Superintendent of the action taken regarding the incident.
2. The Board shall not discharge or subject to any manner of discrimination any school employee who files a report pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3.
 3. The Association Representative of the school employees' bargaining units shall have access monthly to the number and disposition of all reported acts of school violence, vandalism, harassment, intimidation, or bullying pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46.
 - a. Personally identifying information may be provided to the Association Representative of the school employees' bargaining units only in instances when school administrators have reason to believe that the safety of a school staff member is at risk.

B. Reporting Requirements

1. The Superintendent shall:
 - a. Submit a report to the Department of Education in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46 of each incident of violence, vandalism and alcohol and other drug abuse in the school district utilizing the EVVRS;
 - (1) Prior to submission, the Superintendent shall review the report to verify that it is an accurate and final report of all incidences of violence and vandalism in all of the schools in the school district;
 - (2) Verify that the data entered onto the EVVRS are correct and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(a)6; and
 - (3) Provide for the annual training of staff to prepare them to fulfill the reporting requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3.

C. Hearing Requirements

The Superintendent shall report to the Board all acts of violence, vandalism, harassment, intimidation, bullying, and incidents of alcohol and other drug abuse that occurred during the previous reporting period in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46.

D. Knowingly Falsifying The Annual Violence and Vandalism Report Required Under

N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46

1. Whenever it is alleged that a school employee has knowingly falsified the report, the Board shall make a determination regarding whether the employee committed the act.
2. Any employee alleged to have knowingly falsified the report shall be notified in writing of such allegation and shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board.
 - a. The hearing shall take place within thirty business days of the date on which the employee is notified of the allegation;
 - b. The employee shall be entitled to be represented by a person of his or her choosing and to present witnesses on his or her behalf; and
 - c. The Board shall notify the employee of its determination in writing within five school days of the hearing.
3. Upon determination by the Board that an employee has knowingly falsified the report, it shall take one or more of the following actions:
 - a. Impose minor discipline on a tenured or non-tenured employee notwithstanding any other law to the contrary and if negotiated with the Association Representative of the employees in the appropriate collective bargaining unit;
 - b. Withhold a tenured or nontenured employee's increment for predominantly disciplinary reasons, which shall be subject to the grievance procedures established pursuant to law and shall be subject to the grievance procedures of section 8 of N.J.S.A. 34:13A-29;
 - c. File tenure charges with the Secretary of the Board in writing and with a written statement of evidence under oath to support such charges;
 - d. Terminate employment for an employee:
 - (1) For tenured employees, the termination shall be in accordance with the outcome of the proceedings in D.3.c. above; or
 - (2) Impose such other disciplinary sanctions as may be authorized by law.
4. Any action taken by the Board pursuant to D.3. above shall be based on its consideration of the nature of the conduct, the circumstances under which it occurred, and the employee's prior employment record.

5. Any employee having been found responsible for the falsification of the report by the Board shall have the right to:
 - a. File a grievance under their respective bargaining agreements;
 - b. Appeal the Board's determination to the Commissioner of Education in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.3 through 1.17 and subsequently to the State Board of Education; or
 - c. Appeal the decision to the Superior Court of New Jersey.
6. The availability of appeal options shall be based upon the action taken by the Board.

A Board of Education shall submit and implement corrective action plans for high incidences of violence, vandalism, or alcohol or other drug abuse upon notification by the Commissioner of Education.

Issued: 21 October 2008
Revised: 22 September 2011
Revised: 15 December 2011