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VANDALISM/VIOLENCE

Vandalism

The board of education views vandalism against school property by pupils as reprehensible. The causes of such misbehavior often are complex, calling for careful study by parents/guardians, school staff and appropriate community officials.

The board believes that pupils should respect property and take pride in the schools of this district. Whenever a pupil has been found to have done willful and malicious damage to property of the board, the principal of the school shall notify the chief school administrator. The board will hold the pupil or his/her parents/guardians liable for the damage caused by him/her.

When vandalism is discovered, the administration is directed to take such steps as are necessary to identify the vandals. If pupils have taken part in the vandalism, the appropriate administrator shall:

- A. Identify the pupils involved;
- B. Call together persons, including the parents/guardians, needed to study the causes;
- C. Decide upon disciplinary and/or legal action possibly including suspension. Should parents/guardians fail to cooperate in the discussions, the administration may charge the pupil with being delinquent by a petition stating the offense and requesting appearance in juvenile court;
- D. Take any constructive actions needed to try to guard against further such pupil misbehavior;
- E. Seek appropriate restitution.

Violence

Physical violence including assault with or without a weapon, against another pupil, a staff member or board member is prohibited and will result in the disciplinary sanctions included in policies on suspension and expulsion and conduct/discipline. Disruptive behavior that is characterized by violence, even though not directed toward another person, should be reported by the classroom teacher to the school principal, unless instructed otherwise, so that possible program adjustments may be identified.

Any pupil who is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for possession of a firearm or a crime while armed with a firearm or found knowingly in possession of a firearm or any school property or on a school bus or at a school-sponsored function shall be immediately removed from the school's regular education program for a period of not less than one calendar year. The chief school administrator may modify this suspension on a case-by-case basis. Each pupil so removed shall be placed in an alternative educational program or on home instruction and shall be entitled to a hearing before the board.

Any school employee observing or having direct knowledge from a participant or victim of an act of violence in the district public school(s) should complete the standard report form and submit it to the school principal who is responsible for preparing the official report to the chief school administrator. Staff will report accurately and not falsify information.

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

Two times each school year between September 1 and January 1 and between January 1 and June 30, the

school board shall hold a public hearing at which the chief school administrator reports to the board of education all acts of violence, vandalism, and harassment, intimidation, or bullying (HIB) which occurred during the previous reporting period. The report shall include the number of HIB reports in the schools, the status of all investigations, the nature of the HIB, and other data required by law.

### Threats of Violence

The board is committed to promoting healthy relationships and a safe learning environment. Therefore, it shall not tolerate pupil threats of harm to self or others or other threatening behaviors, including threats to damage school property. Threatening behaviors shall not be tolerated on school property or at activities under the jurisdiction of the board of education.

Pupils shall inform a teacher, guidance counselor or principal when he/she is in possession of knowledge of such threats. Staff shall immediately notify the principal of any threat or threatening behavior that he/she has knowledge of, has witnessed or received. All such threats shall be promptly reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Pupils who perpetrate threatening behaviors shall be disciplined in accordance with policy and regulations on suspension and expulsion and conduct/discipline.

### School Violence Awareness Week

This school district shall observe School Violence Awareness Week, the week beginning on the third Monday in October of each year. Organized activities focused on the prevention of school violence will be offered to students, employees and board members. Local law enforcement personnel will be invited to participate.

### Violence and Vandalism Reporting

The chief school administrator will biannually submit a report utilizing the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) accurately reporting on each incident of violence, vandalism and alcohol and other drug abuse and harassment, intimidation and bullying within the school district. Any allegations of falsification of data will be reviewed by the board of education using the requirements and procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3(f). Board action shall be based on a consideration of the nature of the conduct, the circumstances under which it occurred, and the employee's prior employment record.

### Implementation

The chief school administrator shall oversee the development of implementing regulations on all aspects of this policy, including the establishment of procedures for cooperation between school staff and law enforcement officials for all situations involving firearms or other deadly weapons.

**Date: First Reading: December 21, 1988; January 18, 1989**

**Review and Revision Date: March 17, 2008, May 15, 2008, October 5, 2010**

**Review and Adoption Date: October 28, 2010**

**Review Date: March 14, 2011 – No Changes**

**Review Date: July 11, 2011**

**Revision and Adoption: August 25, 2011**

**Review Date: July 26, 2012 – No Changes**

**Revision and Adoption: April 27, 2017**

**Review Date: April 4, 2018**

**Revision and Adoption: April 26, 2018**

**Review Date: February 16, 2020 – No Changes**

**Legal References:**

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2A:4A-60 <u>et al.</u>	Disclosure of juvenile information; penalties for disclosure
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2A:53A-15	Liability of parent or guardian for willful destruction of property by infant under 18
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2C:39-5	Unlawful possession of weapons
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:17-46	Act of violence; report by school employee; notice of action taken; annual report,
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:25-2	Authority over pupils
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:36-5.1	School violence awareness week
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Discipline of Pupils
<u>See particularly:</u>	
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-2, -2.1 through -2.5, -3, -7 through -12	
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-13 <u>et seq.</u>	<u>Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act</u>
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:14-2.8	Discipline/suspension/expulsion
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Programs to Support Student Development
<u>See particularly:</u>	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-5.1, -5.2, -5.3, -5.5, -5.6, -5.7, -6.1	

"H.A." v. Warren Hills Regional School District, 1976 S.L.D. 336

See also Commissioners' Decisions indexed under "Pupils – Punishment of" in Index to N.J. School Law Decisions

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. 114-95. 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

A Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials

Unsafe School Choice Option Policy, New Jersey Department of Education, June 30, 2003

**Possible**

<b><u>Cross References:</u></b>	1120	Board of education meetings
	3250	Income from fees, fines, charges
	3517	Security
	4131	Staff Development, In-service Education, Visitations, Conferences
	4148	Employee protection
	4248	Employee protection
	5114	Suspension and expulsion
	5119	Transfers
	5124	Reporting to parents/guardians
	5131	Conduct/discipline
	5131.4	Campus disturbances
	5131.6	Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)
	5131.7	Weapons and dangerous instruments
	6114	Emergencies and disaster preparedness
	6172	Alternative educational programs

Key Words: Conduct, Discipline, Pupil Conduct, Student Conduct, Vandalism, Violence