

# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.13/page 1 of 3

School Employee Vaccination Requirements

Aug 21

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[See **POLICY ALERT No. 225**]

## 1648.13 SCHOOL EMPLOYEE VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with Executive Order No. 253 signed by the Governor of New Jersey on August 23, 2021, the Board shall adopt and maintain a policy that requires all covered workers to either provide adequate proof that they have been fully vaccinated or submit to COVID-19 testing at a minimum of one to two times each week.

This requirement shall take effect on October 18, 2021, at which time any covered workers that have not provided adequate proof to the school district that they are fully vaccinated must submit to COVID-19 testing at a minimum of one to two times each week on an ongoing basis until fully vaccinated.

For purposes of Executive Order 253 and this Policy, “covered workers” shall include all individuals employed by the Board of Education, both full and part-time, including, but not limited to, administrators; teachers; educational support professionals; individuals providing food, custodial, and administrative support services; substitute teachers, whether employed directly by the Board of Education or otherwise contracted; contractors; providers; and any other individuals performing work in the school district whose job duties require them to make regular visits to the school district, including volunteers. Covered workers do not include individuals who visit the school district only to provide one-time or limited duration repairs, services, or construction.

A covered worker shall be considered “fully vaccinated” for COVID-19 two weeks or more after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks or more after they have received a single-dose vaccine. Individuals will only be considered fully vaccinated after they have received a COVID-19 vaccine that is currently authorized for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the World Health Organization (WHO), or that are approved for use by the same.

Workers who are not fully vaccinated, or for whom vaccination status is unknown, or who have not provided sufficient proof of documentation, shall be considered unvaccinated in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 253.



# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.13/page 2 of 3

## School Employee Vaccination Requirements

Covered workers shall demonstrate proof of full vaccination status by presenting any of the following documents if they list COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for EUA by the FDA or the WHO, or that are approved for use by the same, along with an administration date for each dose:

1. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Vaccination Card issued to the vaccine recipient by the vaccination site, or an electronic or physical copy of the same;
2. Official record from the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIS) or other State immunization registry;
3. A record from a health care provider's portal/medical record system on official letterhead signed by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, registered nurse, or pharmacist;
4. A military immunization or health record from the United States Armed Forces; or
5. Docket mobile phone application record or any State specific application that produces a digital health record.

The Board of Education's collection of vaccination information from covered workers shall comport with all Federal and State laws, including, but not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act, that regulate the collection and storage of that information.

To satisfy the testing requirement of Executive Order 253 and this Policy, an unvaccinated covered worker must undergo screening testing at a minimum of one to two times each week, to be determined by the Superintendent of Schools.

An unvaccinated covered worker is required to submit proof of a COVID-19 test. The unvaccinated covered worker may choose either antigen or molecular tests that have EUA by the FDA or are operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Where a Board of Education provides the unvaccinated covered worker with on-site COVID-19 test(s), the school district may similarly elect to administer or provide access to either an antigen or molecular test.



# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.13/page 3 of 3

School Employee Vaccination Requirements

If the covered worker is not working on-site in the school district during a week when testing would otherwise be required, the Superintendent or designee may not require the worker to submit to testing for that week. This requirement shall not supplant any requirement imposed by the Board of Education regarding diagnostic testing of symptomatic workers or screening testing of vaccinated workers.

The Board of Education shall track test results required by Executive Order 253 and must report those results to the local public health department.

Nothing in Executive Order 253 and this Policy shall prevent a Board of Education from revising this Policy to include additional or stricter requirements, as long as such revisions comport with the minimum requirements of Executive Order 253.

Executive Order 253 authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Health (DOH) to issue a directive supplementing the requirements outlined in Executive Order 253, which may include, but not be limited to, any requirements for reporting vaccination and testing data to the DOH. Actions taken by the Commissioner of the DOH pursuant to Executive Order 253 shall not be subject to the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq.

This Policy shall be supplemented by Policy 1648.11 – Appendix A, which shall include the school district’s protocols implementing the provisions of this Policy.

The Superintendent is authorized to implement revisions to provisions in this Policy based on any subsequent Executive Orders or any additional mandates that affect any provisions of this Policy. Any such revisions in this Policy shall be submitted by the Superintendent to the Board of Education for ratification if the Board cannot approve such revisions before the effective date.

Executive Order 253 – August 23, 2021

Adopted:



# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.14/page 1 of 10

Safety Plan For Healthcare Settings In  
School Buildings – COVID-19

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[See POLICY ALERT No. 225]

## 1648.14 SAFETY PLAN FOR HEALTHCARE SETTINGS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS – COVID-19

### A. Purpose and Scope

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all employees and has adopted this Policy that shall be the school district's COVID-19 Plan (Plan) that includes procedures to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19, in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) published on June 21, 2021. The ETS, 29 CFR §1910 - Subpart U, applies to all settings where any school district employee or contracted service provider provides healthcare services or health care support services. Public Employees' Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH), the agency with jurisdiction over public employers in New Jersey, has adopted the ETS in full. However, its applicability for school districts is primarily restricted to the nurse's office and any adjoining clinical areas and not the entire school building.

The Board, administration, and the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator(s) will work collaboratively with all employees in the development, implementation, monitoring, and updating of this Plan.

#### 1. Definitions

- a. "Employee" means any district employee or contracted service provider working in a healthcare setting where people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are reasonably expected to be present.

- (1) Therefore, the provisions of the ETS and this Policy only apply to employees or contracted service providers working in a nurse's office or any adjoining clinical areas.



# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.14/page 2 of 10

Safety Plan For Healthcare Settings In  
School Buildings – COVID-19

b. “Healthcare setting” means all settings in the school district where any employee or contracted service provider provides healthcare services or healthcare support services.

(1) Where a healthcare setting is embedded within a non-healthcare setting (i.e. school nurse’s office and any adjoining clinical areas in a school building), the ETS and this Policy only apply to the embedded healthcare setting and not to the remainder of a school building in accordance with 29 CFR §1910.502(a)(3)(i).

c. For the purpose of this Policy, additional definitions shall be those definitions listed in 29 CFR §1910.502(b).

2. The school district has multiple healthcare settings that are substantially similar; therefore; has developed and adopted this single Plan for these substantially similar healthcare settings, with site-specific considerations included in this Plan. The healthcare settings in the school district are listed in Appendix 1.

a. Any school district health care settings that are not substantially similar, the school district shall develop and adopt separate COVID-19 Plans for each healthcare setting and list them in Appendix 1.

## B. Roles and Responsibilities for School District Employees

1. The school district’s goal in adopting this Policy is to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in the school district’s healthcare settings. All staff members are responsible for supporting, complying with, and providing recommendations to further improve this Plan.

2. The Superintendent will designate a COVID-19 Safety Coordinator(s) who shall implement and monitor this Plan. The COVID-19 Safety Coordinator(s) shall have the school district’s full support in implementing and monitoring this Plan, and has authority to ensure compliance with all aspects of this Plan.



# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.14/page 3 of 10

Safety Plan For Healthcare Settings In  
School Buildings – COVID-19

## C. Hazard Assessment and Worker Protections

1. The Superintendent of Schools or designee will conduct a specific hazard assessment of its healthcare settings to determine potential hazards related to COVID-19.
  - a. A hazard assessment will be conducted initially and whenever changes in a healthcare setting in the school district create a new potential risk of employee exposure to COVID-19 (e.g., new work activities in the healthcare setting).
2. The Superintendent has developed and the Board has adopted this Plan that includes the procedures the school district will use to determine an employee's vaccination status as outlined in Appendix 2.
  - a. In the event the Superintendent or designee cannot or does not determine or confirm the vaccination status of an employee, the employee shall be presumed to be unvaccinated.
3. All completed hazard assessment forms and results will be attached to this Plan in Appendix 3 and will be accessible to all employees at each school district facility.
4. The school district will address the hazards identified by the assessment, and have included in this Plan the procedures to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19 for each employee. These procedures are included in the following Appendices:
  - a. Patient Screening and Management
    - (1) In healthcare settings in the school district where direct patient care is provided, the school district will include protocols addressing patient screening and management in Appendix 4.



# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.14/page 4 of 10

Safety Plan For Healthcare Settings In  
School Buildings – COVID-19

b. Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions

- (1) The school district will develop and implement procedures to adhere to Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions in accordance with CDC's "Guidelines for Isolation Precautions" which are included in Appendix 5.

5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- a. The school district will provide and ensure that employees wear approved facemasks or a higher level of respiratory protection.
- b. The school district will include protocols to address PPE for healthcare settings in Appendix 6.

6. Physical Distancing

- a. The school district will ensure that each employee is separated from all other people in the healthcare setting by at least six feet when indoors, unless it can be demonstrated that such physical distance is not feasible for a specific activity.
  - (1) Where maintaining six feet of physical distance is not feasible, the school district will ensure employees are as far apart from other people as possible.
- b. Physical distancing will be implemented, along with the other provisions required by the ETS, as part of a multi-layered infection control approach for all healthcare settings.
- c. The school district will include protocols to address physical distancing for healthcare settings in Appendix 7.



# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.14/page 5 of 10

Safety Plan For Healthcare Settings In  
School Buildings – COVID-19

7. Physical Barriers
  - a. The school district will install physical barriers at each fixed work location outside of direct patient care areas where each employee is not separated from all other people by at least six feet of distance and spacing cannot be increased, unless it can be demonstrated that it is not feasible to install such physical barriers.
  - b. Physical barriers will be implemented, along with the other provisions required by the ETS, as part of a multi-layered infection control approach for all healthcare settings.
  - c. The school district will include protocols to address physical barriers for healthcare settings in Appendix 8.
8. Cleaning and Disinfecting in the Healthcare Setting
  - a. The school district will implement policies and procedures for cleaning, disinfecting, and hand hygiene, along with the other provisions required by the ETS, as part of a multi-layered infection control approach for all healthcare settings.
  - b. The school district will include protocols to address cleaning and disinfecting for healthcare settings in Appendix 9.
9. Ventilation
  - a. The school district will implement procedures for each facility's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system and include protocols addressing ventilation for healthcare settings in Appendix 10.
  - b. Ventilation policies and procedures will be implemented, along with the other provisions required by the ETS, as part of a multi-layered infection control approach.



# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.14/page 6 of 10

Safety Plan For Healthcare Settings In  
School Buildings – COVID-19

- c. The Superintendent or designee will identify the building manager, HVAC professional, or maintenance employee who can certify that the HVAC system(s) are operating in accordance with the ventilation provisions of the ETS and list the individual(s) in Appendix 10.

## D. Health Screening and Medical Management

### 1. Health Screening

- a. “Screening” means, for the purpose of this Policy, asking questions to determine whether a person is COVID-19 positive or has symptoms of COVID-19.
- b. The school district will include protocols to address health screening for employees in Appendix 11.

### 2. Employee Notification to Employer of COVID-19 Illness or Symptoms

- a. The school district will include protocols to address employee notification to employer of COVID-19 illness or symptoms for employees in Appendix 11.

### 3. Employer Notification to Employees of COVID-19 Exposure in the Healthcare Setting

- a. The school district will include protocols to address employer notification of COVID-19 exposure to employees in Appendix 11.

### 4. Medical Removal from the Healthcare Setting

- a. The school district will include protocols to address medical removal from the healthcare setting for employees in Appendix 11.



# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.14/page 7 of 10

Safety Plan For Healthcare Settings In  
School Buildings – COVID-19

5. Return to Work Criteria
  - a. The school district will include protocols to address return to work criteria for employees in Appendix 11.
  
6. Medical Removal Protection Benefits
  - a. The school district will continue to pay employees who have been removed from the healthcare setting under the medical removal provisions of the ETS. When an employee has been removed from the healthcare setting and is not working remotely or in isolation, the school district shall pay and provide benefits in accordance with the Plan addressed in Appendix 12.
  
- E. Vaccinations
  1. The school district encourages employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccination as a part of a multi-layered infection control approach. The school district will support COVID-19 vaccination for each employee by providing reasonable time and paid leave to each employee for vaccination and any side effects experienced following vaccination.
  2. The school district will include protocols to address vaccination for employees in Appendix 13.
  
- F. Training
  1. The school district will implement policies and procedures for employee training, along with the other provisions required by the ETS, as part of a multi-layered infection control approach.
  2. The school district will include protocols to address training for employees in Appendix 14.



# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.14/page 8 of 10

Safety Plan For Healthcare Settings In  
School Buildings – COVID-19

## G. Anti-Retaliation

1. The school district will inform each employee that employees have a right to the protections required by the ETS, and that employers are prohibited from discharging or in any manner discriminating against any employee for exercising their right to protections required by the ETS, or for engaging in actions that are required by the ETS.
2. The school district will not discharge or in any manner discriminate against any employee for exercising their right to the protections required by the ETS, or for engaging in actions that are required by the ETS.

## H. Requirements Implemented at No Cost to Employees

1. The school district will comply with the provisions of ETS at no cost to its employees, with the exception of any employee self-monitoring conducted under D. above.

## I. Recordkeeping

1. The school district will retain all versions of this Policy to comply with the ETS while the ETS remains in effect.
2. The school district will establish and maintain a COVID-19 log to record each instance in which an employee is COVID-19 positive, regardless of whether the instance is connected to exposure to COVID-19 at work.
  - a. The COVID-19 log will contain, for each instance, the employee's name, one form of contact information, occupation, location where the employee worked, the date of the employee's last day in the healthcare setting, the date of the positive test for, or diagnosis of, COVID-19, and the date the employee first had one or more COVID-19 symptoms, if any were experienced.



# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.14/page 9 of 10

Safety Plan For Healthcare Settings In  
School Buildings – COVID-19

3. The school district will record the information on the COVID-19 log within twenty-four hours of learning that the employee is COVID-19 positive.
    - a. The school district will maintain the COVID-19 log as a confidential medical record and will not disclose it except as required by the ETS or other Federal law.
    - b. The school district will maintain and preserve the COVID-19 log while the ETS remains in effect.
  4. By the end of the next business day after a request, the school district will provide, for examination and copying:
    - a. All versions of this Policy which is the written Plan for all employees;
    - b. The individual COVID-19 log entry for a particular employee to that employee and to anyone having written authorized consent of that employee; and
    - c. A version of the COVID-19 log that removes the names of employees, contact information, and occupation, and only includes, for each employee in the COVID-19 log, the location where the employee worked, the last day that the employee was in the healthcare setting before removal, the date of that employee's positive test for, or diagnosis of, COVID-19, and the date the employee first had one or more COVID-19 symptoms, if any were experienced, to all employees.
- J. Reporting
1. The school district will report to PEOSH:
    - a. Each work-related COVID-19 fatality within eight hours of the school district learning about the fatality;



# POLICY GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

1648.14/page 10 of 10

Safety Plan For Healthcare Settings In  
School Buildings – COVID-19

- b. Each work-related COVID-19 in-patient hospitalization within twenty-four hours of the school district learning about the in-patient hospitalization.

## K. Monitoring Effectiveness

1. The school district and the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator(s) will work collaboratively with employees to monitor the effectiveness of this Plan so as to ensure ongoing progress and efficacy.
2. The school district will update this Policy as needed to address changes in specific COVID-19 hazards and exposures in the healthcare setting.

This Policy and its Appendices will be made available upon request.

29 CFR §1910.502

Occupational Safety and Health Administration Fact Sheet Subpart U COVID-19  
Healthcare Emergency Temporary Standard

Occupational Safety and Health Administration Model Plan

Adopted:



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 1 – Identifying the Healthcare Settings in the School District:

Location of healthcare setting in the school district buildings listed below:

Facility Location	Worksite-Specific COVID-19 Considerations



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 2 – Vaccination Status Plan:

[Include and describe the procedures that will be used to determine employees' vaccination status.]



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 3 – Completed Hazard Forms and Results:

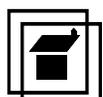
Please see the attached Hazard Assessment Forms and Results below:



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 4 – Patient Screening and Management:

[List the procedures for limiting and monitoring points of entry to the setting, screening and triaging for symptoms of COVID-19, and restricting facility access to reduce crowding (e.g., limiting visitors to only those essential for the patient’s physical or emotional well-being and care, restricting visitors to the patient’s room or other designated areas, asking patients to remain outside (if possible) until they are called into the facility for their appointment, etc.).]



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 5 – Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions:

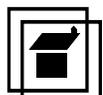
[List the standard and transmission-based infection control precautions.]



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 6 – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- [1. Describe how employees will be provided facemasks and instruction about when and how they should be worn or used.
2. Identify job tasks, if any, in which the use of a facemask presents a hazard of serious injury or death.
3. Describe the procedures for providing employees PPE in accordance with Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions in healthcare settings in accordance with CDC’s “Guidelines for Isolation Precautions.”
4. Describe employer procedures for providing PPE to employees with exposure to people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.]



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 7 – Physical Distancing:

- [1. Describe how healthcare setting flows, such as signs and floor markings to indicate where employees and others should be located or their direction and path of travel, will be adjusted to ensure physical distancing.
2. Describe physical healthcare setting changes, such as increased distance between workstations, check-in and checkout stations, etc., that will be implemented to ensure physical distancing.
3. Describe how people in the healthcare setting will be prevented from gathering in groups in common areas and “bottlenecks,” including corridors, meeting rooms, stairways, breakrooms, entrances, exits, and elevators.
4. Describe how aisles, tables, counters, check-in and checkout stations, etc. will be arranged and how the flow will be directed to allow for physical distancing between people.
5. Identify protocols such as telehealth, telework, flexible work hours, staggered shifts, or additional shifts that can be used to reduce the number of employees in the healthcare setting at one time.]



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 8 – Physical Barriers:

[Describe where and how physical barriers will be installed when physical distancing cannot be consistently maintained and spacing cannot be increased.]



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 9 – Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- [1. Describe the schedule for cleaning and disinfecting, the persons responsible for conducting cleaning and disinfecting, the products that are used to clean and disinfect the healthcare setting, how the school district will clean patient care areas, resident rooms, and medical devices and equipment, and how the school district will clean and disinfect the healthcare setting if a COVID-19 positive person has been in the healthcare setting within the last twenty-four hours. A copy of cleaning logs to be used shall be attached.
  
2. Describe how necessary hand washing and/or sanitizer facilities will be provided, supplied, and maintained; and how employees will be allowed to perform hand hygiene to meet this requirement. Describe how hand washing and/or sanitizer facilities will be provided for use by other persons entering the healthcare setting.]



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 10 - Ventilation:

**The following individual(s) is responsible for maintaining the HVAC system(s) and can certify that it is operating in accordance with the ventilation provisions of OSHA’s COVID-19 ETS.**

*(e.g., Maintenance employee, HVAC service contractor(s))*

<u>Name/Contact Information:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
<u>Name/Contact Information:</u>	<u>Location:</u>

[Describe additional measures to improve building ventilation in accordance with “CDC’s Ventilation Guidance”.]



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 11 – Health Screening and Medical Management for Employees:

- [1. Describe how employees will be screened (e.g., in-person when reporting to work, or by asking employees to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms before reporting to work). OSHA’s *Sample Employee COVID-19 Health Screening Questionnaire* may be useful. If the school district chooses to require COVID-19 testing, it must be done at no cost to employees.
2. Describe how employees will communicate with the school district if they are sick or experiencing symptoms while at home or at work.
3. Describe any leave policies (e.g., sick leave, Family Medical Leave Act, or other policies) the school district will implement to promote employees staying at home when they are sick, when household members are sick, or when required by a healthcare provider to isolate or quarantine themselves or a member of their household.
4. Describe how you will notify employees of COVID-19 exposure.
5. Describe district procedures for removing employees from the healthcare setting.
6. Describe district procedures for employees returning to work following removal from the healthcare setting.
  - a. The school district will only allow employees who have been removed from the healthcare setting to return to work in accordance with guidance from a licensed healthcare provider or in accordance with the CDC’s “Isolation Guidance” and “Return to Work Healthcare Guidance.”]



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 12 – Medical Removal Protection Benefits:

- [1. Describe district policy for pay and benefits to employees removed from the healthcare setting and not working remotely. Note the following requirements under OSHA’s COVID-19 ETS:
  - Employers must continue to provide the benefits to which the employee is normally entitled and pay the employee the same regular pay the employee would have received had the employee not been absent from work, up to \$1,400 per week per employee. For employers with fewer than 500 employees, the employer must pay the employee up to the \$1,400 per week cap but, beginning in the third week of an employee’s removal, the amount is reduced to only two-thirds of the same regular pay the employee would have received had the employee not been absent from work, up to \$200 per day (\$1000 per week in most cases).
  - The ETS also provides that the employer’s payment obligation is reduced by the amount of compensation the employee receives from any other source, such as a publicly or employer-funded compensation program (e.g., paid sick leave, administrative leave), for earnings lost during the period of removal or any additional source of income the employee receives that is made possible by virtue of the employee’s removal.]



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 13 – Vaccinations:

[Describe district procedures for providing reasonable time and paid leave for vaccinations and side effects.]



# POLICY GUIDE

## Appendix 14 – Training:

[Describe how training will be conducted (e.g., online education, department meetings and tool talks, discussion with supervisors, and/or other specific methods).

Describe any other healthcare setting-specific training topics.

1. The school district will ensure that each employee receives training, in a language and at a literacy level the employee understands, on the following topics:
  - a. COVID-19, including:
    - (1) How COVID-19 is transmitted (including pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic transmission);
    - (2) The importance of hand hygiene to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 infections;
    - (3) Ways to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 through proper covering of the nose and mouth;
    - (4) The signs and symptoms of COVID-19;
    - (5) Risk factors for severe illness; and
    - (6) When to seek medical attention.
  - b. The school district's procedures on patient screening and management;
  - c. Tasks and situations in the healthcare setting that could result in COVID-19 infection;
  - d. Healthcare setting-specific procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 that are applicable to the employee's duties (e.g., policies on Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions, physical distancing, physical barriers, ventilation, aerosol-generating procedures);
  - e. Employer-specific multi-employer healthcare setting agreements related to infection control policies and procedures, the use of common areas, and the use of shared equipment that affect employees at the healthcare setting;



# POLICY GUIDE

- f. The school district's procedures for PPE worn to comply with the ETS, including:
  - (1) When PPE is required for protection against COVID-19;
  - (2) Limitations of PPE for protection against COVID-19;
  - (3) How to properly put on, wear, and take off PPE;
  - (4) How to properly care for, store, clean, maintain, and dispose of PPE; and
  - (5) Any modifications to donning, doffing, cleaning, storage, maintenance, and disposal procedures needed to address COVID-19 when PPE is worn to address healthcare setting hazards other than COVID-19.
- g. Healthcare setting-specific procedures for cleaning and disinfection;
- h. The school district's procedures on health screening and medical management;
- i. Available sick leave policies, any COVID-19-related benefits to which the employee may be entitled under applicable Federal, State, or local laws, and other supportive policies and practices (e.g., telework, flexible hours, etc.);
- j. The identity of school district's Safety Coordinator(s) specified in this Plan; and
- k. The ETS.
  - (1) How the employee can obtain copies of the ETS and any employer-specific policies and procedures developed under the ETS, including this Policy, which is the school district's written Plan.



# POLICY GUIDE

2. The school district will ensure that the training is overseen or conducted by a person knowledgeable in the covered subject matter as it relates to the employee's job duties, and that the training provides an opportunity for interactive questions and answers with a person knowledgeable in the covered subject matter as it relates to the employee's job duties.
3. The school district will provide additional training whenever changes occur that affect the employee's risk of contracting COVID-19 at work (e.g., new job tasks), policies or procedures are changed, or there is an indication that the employee has not retained the necessary understanding or skill.]



# POLICY GUIDE

PROGRAM  
2425/page 1 of 4  
Emergency Virtual or Remote  
Instruction Program  
Oct 21  
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[See POLICY ALERT No. 225]

## 2425 EMERGENCY VIRTUAL OR REMOTE INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

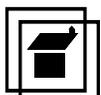
The Board of Education is committed to providing a high quality educational program, virtually or remotely, in the event a school or the schools of the district are required to close for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure. The district's virtual or remote program of instruction shall be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

In the event the school district is required to close a school or the schools of the district for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure, the Commissioner of Education shall allow the district to apply to the 180-day requirement established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9, one or more days of virtual or remote instruction provided to students on the day or days the schools of the district were closed if the program of virtual or remote instruction meets such criteria as may be established by the Commissioner Education.

The Superintendent of Schools shall submit, with Board approval, the school district's program of virtual or remote instruction to the Commissioner of Education by no later than October 29, 2021 and annually thereafter.

A day of virtual or remote instruction, if instituted under the district's Commissioner of Education's approved program of virtual or remote instruction, shall be considered the equivalent of a full day of school attendance for the purposes of meeting State and local graduation requirements, the awarding of course credit, and other such matters as determined by the Commissioner of Education.

Any district program of virtual or remote instruction implemented for the general education students shall provide the same educational opportunities to students with disabilities. Special education and related services, including speech language services, counseling services, physical therapy, occupational therapy,



# POLICY GUIDE

PROGRAM

2425/page 2 of 4

Emergency Virtual or Remote  
Instruction Program

and behavioral services, may be delivered to students with disabilities through the use of electronic communication or a virtual or online platform and as required by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), to the greatest extent practicable.

In the event the State or local health department determines it is advisable to close or mandates closure of the schools of the district due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure, the Superintendent shall have the authority to implement the school district's program of virtual or remote instruction. The Superintendent shall consult with the Board prior to such decision, if practicable. The Superintendent shall ensure that students, parents, staff, and the Board are informed promptly of the Superintendent's decision.

Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9 and this Policy shall be construed to limit, supersede or preempt rights, privileges, compensation, remedies, and procedures afforded to public employees or a collective bargaining unit under Federal or State law or any provision of a collective bargaining agreement entered into by the school district.

In the event of the closure of a school or the schools of the district due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure for a period longer than three consecutive school days:

1. District employees shall be entitled to compensation, benefits, and emoluments pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(1) and (2).
2. The district shall continue to make payments of benefits, compensation, and emoluments pursuant to the terms of a contract with a contracted service provider in effect on the date of the closure as if the services for such benefits, compensation, and emoluments had been provided, and as if the school facilities had remained open pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(3).



# POLICY GUIDE

PROGRAM

2425/page 3 of 4

Emergency Virtual or Remote  
Instruction Program

3. The district shall be obligated to make payments for benefits, compensation, and emoluments and all payments required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-51 et seq., to an educational services commission, county special services school district, and a jointure commission, and under any shared services agreement and cooperative contract entered into with any other public entity pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(4).
4. An educational services commission, county special services school district, and a jointure commission shall continue to make payments of benefits, compensation, and emoluments pursuant to the terms of a contract with a contracted service provider or a shared services agreement in effect on the date of the closure as if the services for such benefits, compensation, and emoluments had been provided, and as if the school facilities had remained open pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(4).

The provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(1) through (4) shall not apply to any employee whose weekly hours of work are reduced, and to whom unemployment benefits are provided, pursuant to a shared work program approved pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:21-20.3 et seq. A contracted service provider, educational services commission, county special services school district, or jointure commission shall notify the district with which it has entered into a contract to provide services of its intent to reduce the hours of work of its employees pursuant to a shared work program approved pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:21-20.3 et seq.

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(3), if a contracted service provider reduces the amount that it pays to its employees providing services to a school district, and that reduction is the result of a reduction of workhours of those employees made pursuant to a shared work program approved pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:21-20.3 et seq., then the amount paid by the district to the contracted service provider shall be reduced by the same amount.



# POLICY GUIDE

PROGRAM

2425/page 4 of 4

Emergency Virtual or Remote  
Instruction Program

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.e.(4), if an educational services commission, county special services school district, or jointure commission reduces the amount that it pays to its employees providing services to a school district, and that reduction is the result of a reduction of workhours of those employees made pursuant to a shared work program approved pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:21-20.3 et seq., then the amount paid by the district to the educational services commission, county special services school district, or jointure commission shall be reduced by the same amount.

This Policy may be revised as necessary by the Superintendent in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. The school district's emergency virtual or remote instruction program shall be available on the school district's website.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9

Adopted:



# POLICY GUIDE

STUDENTS

5751/page 1 of 3

Sexual Harassment **of Students**

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[See **POLICY ALERT No. 225**]

## 5751 SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS

The Board of Education will not tolerate sexual harassment of students by school employees, other students, or third parties. Sexual harassment of students is a form of prohibited sex discrimination. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 34 CFR §106, the school district adopts this Policy and implement practices to investigate and resolve allegations of sexual harassment of students engaged in by school employees, other students, or third parties pursuant to 34 CFR §106.3(c). In addition, reports of sexual harassment shall also be investigated in accordance with the requirements of New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and Policy 5512.

For the purposes of Policy 5751 and in accordance with 34 CFR §106:

1. "Sexual harassment" (34 CFR §106.30(a)) means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:
  - a. An employee of the school district conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the school district on a student's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
  - b. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a student equal access to the school district's education program or activity; or
  - c. "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. §1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(30).

Sexual harassment may take place electronically or on an online platform used by the school, including, but not limited to, computer and internet networks; digital platforms; and computer hardware or software owned or operated by, or used in the operations of the school.



# POLICY GUIDE

STUDENTS

5751/page 2 of 3

Sexual Harassment **of Students**

In accordance with 34 CFR §106.8(a), any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report.

A school district with "actual knowledge" of sexual harassment in the educational program or activity of the school district against a student, must respond promptly in a manner that is not "deliberately indifferent".

Any school employee who receives a complaint of sexual harassment or is aware of behavior that could constitute sexual harassment is required to report that information to the Title IX Coordinator in accordance with the provisions of 34 CFR §106.8(a) and B.1. of Regulation 5751. The district must report any potential child abuse in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-24; N.J.S.A. 18A:36-25; N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1; and Policy and Regulation 8462.

The Title IX Coordinator shall notify persons entitled to a notification pursuant to 34 CFR §106.8(a)(1) that the school district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activity that it operates, and that it is required by Title IX and Policy and Regulation 5751 not to discriminate in such a manner in accordance with 34 CFR §106.8(b)(1).

The Title IX Coordinator shall prominently display the contact information required to be listed for the Title IX Coordinator pursuant to 34 CFR §106.8(b)(2)(i) on the school district's website and in each handbook or catalog the school district makes available to persons entitled to a notification in accordance with 34 CFR §106.8(a). Policy and Regulation 5751 shall be prominently displayed on the district's website and accessible to anyone.

Supportive measures shall be available to the Complainant, Respondent, and as appropriate, witnesses or other impacted individuals.

The school district shall use the grievance process outlined in 34 CFR §106.45 and Regulation 5751 to address formal complaints of sexual harassment. The school district shall offer both parties an appeal process as outlined in 34 CFR §106.45 and Regulation 5751 from a determination regarding responsibility for sexual harassment and from the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations of sexual harassment.



# POLICY GUIDE

STUDENTS

5751/page 3 of 3

Sexual Harassment **of Students**

The Title IX Coordinator shall be responsible for effective implementation of any remedies in accordance with 34 CFR §106.45(b)(7)(iv). The appropriate school official designated by the Superintendent, after consultation with the Title IX Coordinator, will determine sanctions imposed and remedies provided, if any.

Consistent with the laws of New Jersey a student's parent must be permitted to exercise the rights granted to their child under this Policy, whether such rights involve requesting supportive measures, filing a formal complaint, or participating in a grievance process.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, appeal officer, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process, receive training in accordance with 34 CFR §106.45(b)(1)(iii).

The school district or any employee of the school district shall not intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or Policy 5751, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this Policy, in accordance with 34 CFR §106.71(a).

For each school district response to sexual harassment required under 34 CFR §106.44, the school district shall create and maintain for a period of seven years, records in accordance with 34 CFR §106.45(b)(10).

The Superintendent or designee shall consult with the Board Attorney to ensure the school district's response to allegations of sexual harassment and the school district's grievance process are in accordance with 34 CFR §106.44 and 34 CFR §106.45.

Any time a report is made to the Title IX Coordinator or formal complaint is filed pursuant to this Policy and in accordance with 34 CFR §106, the Title IX Coordinator shall forward the report or complaint to the Principal of the school building attended by the alleged victim for the Principal to follow the requirements of New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and Policy 5512.

34 CFR §106

United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights – Questions and Answers on the Title IX Regulations on Sexual Harassment (July 20, 2021)

Adopted:

