

# POLICY GUIDE

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Education of Homeless Children

## 5116 EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN

The Board of Education will admit and enroll homeless children in accordance with Federal and State laws and New Jersey Administrative Code. The Board of Education adopts this Policy to be in compliance with law and administrative code to ensure the enrollment of homeless children in school and to respond to appeals made by parents or other parties related to the enrollment of homeless children.

The Board of Education shall determine that a child is homeless when he or she resides in a publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including: hotels or motels; congregate shelters, including domestic violence and runaway shelters; transitional housing; and homes for adolescent mothers. A child is also determined homeless when he or she resides in a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation, including: cars or other vehicles including mobile homes; tents or other temporary shelters; parks; abandoned buildings; bus or train stations; temporary shelters provided to migrant workers and their children on farm sites; and the residence of relatives or friends where the homeless child resides out of necessity because his or her family lacks a regular or permanent residence of its own. A child is also determined homeless when he or she resides in substandard housing.

The school district of residence for a homeless child is responsible for the education of the child and shall assume all responsibilities as required in N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.3. The school district of residence for a homeless child means the school district in which the parent of a homeless child resided prior to becoming homeless.

The school district liaison designated by the Superintendent of Schools for the education of homeless children is the school psychologist. The liaison will facilitate communication and cooperation between the school district of residence and the school district where the homeless child resides and shall assume all responsibilities as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.4(a).



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When a homeless child resides in a school district, the school district liaison shall notify the liaison of the school district of residence within twenty-four hours of receiving notification from the parent, the Department of Human Services or the Department of Children and Families, a shelter director, an involved agency, or a case manager. Upon notification of the need for enrollment of a homeless child, the liaison in the school district of residence shall coordinate enrollment procedures immediately based upon the best interest of the child pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.5(b).

The Superintendent of the school district of residence or designee shall decide in which school district the homeless child shall be enrolled in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.5.

Unless parental rights have been terminated by a court of competent jurisdiction, the parent retains all rights under N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.1 et seq.

When a dispute occurs regarding the determination of homelessness or the determination of the school district of enrollment made by the school district of residence, the Superintendent(s) or the designee(s) of the involved district(s) or the child's parent(s) shall immediately notify the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, who, in consultation with the Department of Education's McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Coordinator or designee, shall immediately decide the child's status. If a dispute remains between the parent and the involved school district(s) following the Executive County Superintendent's determination, the parent or the involved district Board(s) of Education may appeal to the Commissioner of Education for determination pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes.

When a school district designated as the school district of residence disputes its designation as the school district of residence, or where no designation can be agreed upon by the involved school districts, the Superintendent(s) or designee(s) of the involved school districts shall immediately notify the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, who shall immediately make a determination, if possible, but no later than within forty-eight hours.

If the dispute regarding determination of district of residence does not involve the determination of homelessness and/or district enrollment, the school district disputing the Executive County Superintendent's determination may appeal to the Department of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-19.2(d), (e), and (f) and



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request a determination from the Division of Administration and Finance. If an appeal of a determination of district of residence also includes an appeal of the determination of homelessness and/or school district of enrollment, the appeal shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes.

Any dispute or appeal shall not delay the homeless child's immediate enrollment or continued enrollment in the school district. The homeless child shall be enrolled in the school district in which enrollment or continued enrollment is sought by the parent, pending resolution of the dispute or appeal. Disputes and appeals involving the services provided to a homeless child with a disability shall be made pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

Financial responsibility, including the payment of tuition for the homeless child, will be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.8. The school district of residence shall list the child on its annual Application for State School Aid (ASSA) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-33 until the parent establishes a permanent residence or is deemed domiciled in another jurisdiction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.d. At that time, the school district of residence shall no longer list the student on its ASSA. The State shall assume fiscal responsibility for the tuition of the child pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12.1 and shall pay the tuition to the school district in which the child is currently enrolled until the parent establishes a permanent residence or is deemed domiciled in another jurisdiction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.d. under the circumstances outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.8(c).

On or before December 31 of each year, the district shall report to the Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs an accounting of each instance in which the district is made aware that a student enrolled in the district because the student's parent moved to the district as a result of being homeless.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12; 18A:7B-12.1; 18A:38-1  
N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.1 et seq.

Adopted:





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## R 7432 EYE PROTECTION

### A. Eye Protection - N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.5(a)

The Board of Education requires each student, staff member, and school visitor, including individuals present for evening adult-school programs, to wear appropriate eye protective devices while participating in educational activities and programs as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.3 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.5.

### B. Eye Protection Devices - N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.5(e)

The following types of eye protective devices shall be used to fit the designated activities or processes

Potential Eye Hazard	Protective Devices
Caustic or explosive	Goggle, flexible fitting materials, hooded ventilation; add plastic window face shield for severe exposure
Dust producing operations	Goggle, flexible fitting, hooded ventilation
Electric arc welding	Welding helmet in combination with spectacles with eye cup or semi- or flat-fold side shields
Oxy-acetylene welding	Welding goggle, eye cup type with tinted lenses; welding goggle, coverspec type with tinted lenses or tinted plate lens



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Potential Eye Hazard	Protective Devices
Hot liquids and gases	Goggle, flexible fitting, hood ventilation; add plastic window face shield for severe exposure
Hot solids	Clear or tinted goggles or spectacles with side shields
Molten materials	Clear or tinted goggles and plastic or mesh window face shield
Heat treatment or tempering	Clear or tinted goggles or clear or tinted spectacles with side shields
Glare operations	Tinted goggles; tinted spectacles with side shields or welding goggles, eye cup or coverspec coverage type with tinted lenses or tinted plate lens
Shaping solid materials	Clear goggles, flexible or rigid body; clear spectacles with side shields; add plastic window face shield for severe exposure
Laser device operation or experimentation	Appropriate for specific hazard
Vehicle repair or servicing	Clear goggles, flexible or rigid body; clear spectacles with side shields
Other potentially hazardous processes or activities	Appropriate for specific hazard



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Eye Protection

C. Eye Protective Policy and Program – N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.5(f)

1. The Board of Education establishes and implements Policy and Regulation 7432 to assure:
  - a. No staff member, student, or visitor shall be subjected to any hazardous environmental condition without appropriate eye protection;
  - b. The detection of eye hazardous conditions shall be continuous;
  - c. Eye protection devices shall be inspected regularly and adequately maintained;
  - d. Shared eye protective devices shall be disinfected between uses by a method prescribed by the local school medical inspector;
  - e. All eye protective devices shall meet or exceed the appropriate specifications for the various types of devices and suppliers of eye protective devices shall certify, in writing, that the devices meet or exceed said specifications;
  - f. Specific policy and procedures shall be established to deal with individuals who refuse to abide by established eye-safety practices and procedures;
    - (1) A student who refuses or persistently neglects to wear an eye protective device when required to do so or fails to observe established eye safety practices shall be dismissed from the day's class by his/her teacher. Any such dismissal from class will be considered to be an absence, in accordance with Board policy on student attendance, and an accumulation of such absences may result in loss of course credit;



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- (2) A staff member who refuses or persistently neglects to wear an eye protective device when required to do so or fails to observe established eye safety practices may be disciplined for insubordination for failing to obey the rules established by this Board. The proper implementation of eye protection practices shall be a criterion in the evaluation of every staff member required to observe such practices; and
  - (3) A visitor to the schools who refuses or persistently neglects to wear an eye protective device when required to do so or fails to observe established eye safety practices may be requested to leave the school premises;
- g. The use of contact lenses shall be restricted in learning environments that entail exposure to chemical fumes, vapors, or splashes, intense heat, molten metals, or highly particulate atmospheres. When permitted, contact lenses shall be worn only in conjunction with appropriate eye protective devices, and the lens wearer shall be identified for appropriate emergency care in eye hazardous learning environments;
  - (1) Staff members in these learning environments shall identify the students in his/her class who wear contact lenses. A list of such students shall be kept by the staff member in order that appropriate emergency eye care may be given; the list shall be destroyed at the end of the course of study;
- h. All spectacle-type eye protective devices shall have side shields of the eye-cup, semi- or flat-fold type; and





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- i. Students, staff members, or visitors wearing personal corrective eyewear shall be required to wear cover goggles or similar devices unless a competent authority can certify the personal eyewear meets or exceeds standards identified in N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.5(b).

## Eye Wash Fountains - N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.5(d)

1. Emergency eye wash fountains, or similar devices capable of a minimum fifteen minutes continuous flow of eye-wash solution, shall be provided in classrooms, shops, laboratories, or other areas where students or instructors are exposed to caustic materials that can cause damage to the eyes in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.5(d).
2. Eye wash fountains shall be routinely checked by the responsible staff member and any fountain that does not operate properly shall be promptly reported to the Principal.

## Inspection

The Principal or designee shall annually inspect the school premises for the existence of conditions potentially hazardous to the eyes, for the placement of signs requiring appropriate eye protective devices, and for an adequate supply of appropriate eye protective devices in satisfactory condition. Conditions potentially hazardous to the eyes include, in addition to the activities listed in paragraph A.1. above, the likelihood of flying objects and spilled liquids and the presence of protruding and sharp objects.

## Training and Supplies - N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.5(g)

The school district shall provide annual training and appropriate supplies and equipment to all school personnel responsible for implementing the eye safety policies and program. The training shall include all aspects of eye protection as defined in this Policy and Regulation 7432 and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.5(g).

Adopted:





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Fire and Fire Drills  
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## R 8420.1 FIRE AND FIRE DRILLS

### A. Fire Drills

1. The Principal of each school building will conduct at least one fire drill each month within school hours, including any summer months during which the school is open for instructional programs. The Principal shall require all teachers to keep all doors and exits of their respective rooms and buildings unlocked during school hours. Where school buildings have been provided with fire escapes, they shall be used by a part or all of the students performing every fire drill

Attempts should be made to conduct drills in various weather conditions and at various times of the school day. Fire drills should be unannounced to school staff and students. The Principal shall inform local firefighting officials whenever a fire alarm is for drill purposes.

An actual fire that occurs at a school building during the month and includes activities which are the equivalent of a drill shall be considered a drill for the purposes of meeting the requirements of this Regulation and N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1.

2. The fire alarm shall be by a building-wide audible signal. Alarm signals should be tested regularly.
3. When the fire alarm rings, each staff member supervising students will:
  - a. Direct students to form into a single file line and proceed along the evacuation route to the nearest exit designated for evacuation;
  - b. Close the windows of the room and turn off all lights and audio-visual equipment;
  - c. Take the class register or roll book;



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- d. Ascertain that all students have left the room and that any student who may have left the classroom prior to the fire drill is located and escorted from the building;
  - e. Close all doors to the room when the room is empty and keep all doors and exits of their respective rooms and buildings unlocked during the school hours, except during an emergency lockdown or an emergency lockdown drill;
  - f. Ensure their assigned students have left the school along the route prescribed in the school evacuation plan. In the event a school building has been provided with fire escapes, they shall be used by a part or all of the students performing every fire drill;
  - g. Direct students to a location not less than a distance twice the height of the building walls and keep the students in a single file line facing the building;
  - h. Take attendance to determine all students who reported to class have been evacuated from the building and report immediately to the Principal any student who is unaccounted for; and
  - i. When the recall signal is given, conduct his/her students back to the classroom.
4. Evacuation of the school in a fire drill must be conducted quickly and quietly and in an orderly fashion. Students must be silent, refrain from talking and running, and remain in closed, single file lines. Any student or staff member whose behavior disrupts the conduct of the fire drill shall be reported to the Principal and will be subject to discipline.
5. All persons in the school must leave the building during a fire drill, including all aides, visitors, volunteer workers, and all office, cafeteria, custodial, and maintenance employees, except those employees who have been assigned specific duties to be performed in the school building during a fire drill.



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6. Physical education classes in progress outside the building should stop the game activity and line up in place or in their regularly assigned drill position.
7. Students will be instructed not to gather belongings to take outside on the fire drill. In inclement or cold weather, students may pick up their coats and put them on as they exit the building, provided no time is lost in that activity.
8. The office employee responsible for keeping the central attendance register, or a designated substitute, must carry the register out of the building during the drill.
9. Each Principal shall report monthly to the Superintendent on the conduct of fire drills. Their report will include the date, weather conditions, and time to evacuate for each drill conducted, as well as any comments that could assist in improving the conduct of future drills.
10. Every fire drill will be conducted with seriousness and with the assumption that prompt evacuation is actually required for the safety and survival of persons in the school.
11. Principals are encouraged to change the circumstances of fire drills so that staff members and students are subjected to various conditions and learn to respond to them quickly, constructively, and safely. Any such variations should take into account the ages and abilities of children.
  - a. One or more exits may be designated as “blocked” so that students are required to use alternative evacuation routes.
  - b. A fire drill may be designated as a “smoke drill” so that students learn to avoid the hazards of smoke by walking in a low or crouching position (not a crawling position).

## B. Fire

1. A school staff member or any building occupant who detects a fire in a school building or on school grounds shall immediately report



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the fire by calling 911 and/or by activating a fire alarm pull station in accordance with law.

2. The school staff member or building occupant shall also report the fire to the school Principal, if possible.
3. In the event of a fire in a school building, the school Principal shall immediately sound the fire alarm, in the event the fire alarm had not been previously activated, for the evacuation of all students, staff members, visitors, and volunteers.
4. Evacuation shall be conducted in accordance with the fire drill procedures established in paragraph A. above, except that no employee may remain in the building to perform specific duties.
5. As a precaution, the Principal or designee will maintain a record of disabled students who may require special attention in the event of fire or other evacuation. Fire fighters will be promptly informed of the location and special circumstances of each such student.
6. As soon as practicable after the incident, the Principal shall submit a report to the Superintendent on the appropriate form.
7. The school district shall immediately notify the appropriate local fire department of any fire which occurs in a school building or on school property in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:41-5.

## C. Fire and Smoke Doors

Every Principal and custodian/janitor in each school building in the district which has a furnace room, hallway, or stair-tower fire or smoke doors shall keep them closed during the time the school building is occupied by teachers and students pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:41-2.

Adopted:



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## 8600 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

The Board of Education shall transport eligible students to and from school and school related activities in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1 et seq., and Board policy. Transportation shall be provided only to eligible public and nonpublic school students, authorized school staff members, and adults serving as approved chaperones.

Nonpublic school transportation or aid in lieu of transportation shall be provided for resident students in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.1 et seq.

Charter or renaissance school transportation or aid in lieu of transportation shall be provided for resident students in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-3.1 et seq.

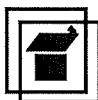
The Board may provide transportation to and from school for public school students less than remote.

The Board will transport students certified by a physician as temporarily disabled regardless of the distance between their home and school.

Students with special needs shall be provided transportation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq., and with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-5.1.

The Board will approve all bus routes each school year. Bus routes for all non-remote students who must walk to and from school along hazardous routes will be designated and approved by the Board. The Board may consider, but shall not be limited to, the criteria outlined in N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5 in determining "Hazardous Routes."

The Board will not be responsible for the transportation of nonresident students to or from school, except that transportation to and from school will be provided for homeless students; students residing in group homes; students residing in resource family homes; and students residing in shared custody homes pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:27-6.2, 6.3, 6.4, and 6.5.



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Transportation services will be provided in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.2(c)1, and this Policy to a nonpublic school located outside the State not more than twenty miles from the student's home.

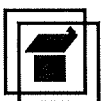
The Board will require the compilation of a list of the names of students being transported by a school bus to a school-sponsored activity, including but not limited to, field trips or interscholastic sports programs. The staff member(s) supervising the school-sponsored activity shall create a list of students on each school bus and submit it to the Principal or designee, and the Principal or designee shall maintain the list for use in the case of an emergency in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.5.

When the schools of this district are closed for inclement weather or other conditions, no transportation will be provided for students enrolled in any public, nonpublic, charter school, and/or renaissance school.

The Board shall utilize cooperative/coordinated transportation services in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:39-11.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:27-10.1 et seq. The Board shall utilize one of the agencies prior to determining to pay aid in lieu of transportation if in the prior year payments in lieu of transportation were provided. The Board will provide to the cooperative/coordinated transportation services any unique limitations or restrictions of the required transportation.

Vehicles used to transport students to and from school or school related activities shall meet standards, registration, and inspection requirements of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC), and any applicable Federal regulations. The operation and fiscal management of the district's transportation system shall be conducted in strict accordance with rules of the New Jersey State Board of Education and the NJDOE.

In addition to the provisions of any State law, rule, or regulation containing more stringent requirements, provided that those requirements are compatible with Federal law, and notwithstanding the provisions of any State law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, school bus operations in the State shall comply with the requirements outlined in N.J.S.A. 39:3B-27.





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N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.; 18A:39-1 et seq.; 18A:39-11.1 et seq.  
N.J.S.A. 27:15-16  
N.J.S.A. 39:3B-1 et seq.; 39:3B-2.1; 39:3B-10; 39:3B-27  
N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1 et seq.; 6A:27-2.1 et seq.; 6A:27-3.1 et seq.;  
6A:27-4.1 et seq.; 6A:27-5.1; 6A:27-6.2 through 6.5;  
6A:27-7.1 et seq.; 6A:27-9.1 et seq.; 6A:27-10.1 et seq.;  
6A:27-11.1 et seq.; 6A:27-12.1 et seq.

Adopted:



