

POLICY GUIDE

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Federal Families First Coronavirus
(COVID-19) Response Act
June 20
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[See POLICY ALERT No. 220]

1649 FEDERAL FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESPONSE ACT

The Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act (FFCRA) includes the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA) and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA). The EFMLEA expands the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the EPSLA provides employees with paid sick leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19.

The provisions of the FFCRA shall apply from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

A. Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA)

1. Definitions - For the purposes of the EFMLEA:

- a. “Eligible employee” means an employee who has been employed for at least thirty calendar days by the employer with respect to whom leave is requested.
- b. “Employer” means any employer with fewer than five hundred employees.
- c. “Qualifying need related to a public health emergency” means with respect to leave, the employee is unable to work (or telework) due to a need for leave to care for the son or daughter under eighteen years of age of such employee if the school or place of care has been closed, or the child care provider of such son or daughter is unavailable, due to a public health emergency.
- d. “Public Health Emergency” means an emergency with respect to COVID-19 declared by a Federal, State, or local authority.



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- e. “Child care provider” means a provider who receives compensation for providing child care services on a regular basis, including an ‘eligible child care provider’ (as defined in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n)).
- f. “School” means an ‘elementary school’ or ‘secondary school’ as such terms are defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

2. Relationship to Paid EFMLEA Leave

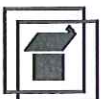
The FFCRA includes the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA) that amended the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611 et seq. to provide leave to an eligible employee because of a qualifying need related to a public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 - (U.S.C. 2612(a)(1)(F)).

a. Leave for Initial Ten Days

- (1) The first ten days of this FMLA leave for an eligible employee shall be

[Select One Option - ___unpaid ___paid.]

- (2) If the first ten days of this FMLA leave are unpaid, an employee may elect to substitute any accrued vacation leave, personal leave, or emergency paid sick leave provided by the EPSLA for the initial ten days under the EFMLEA in accordance with 29 U.S.C. 2612(d)(2)(B).



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- (3) An employee may not use sick leave under N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1 for a qualifying need related to a public health emergency. However, an employee receiving sick leave under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1 may only use sick leave because of personal disability due to illness or injury, or because the employee has been excluded from school by the school district's medical authorities on account of contagious disease or of being quarantined for such a disease in his or her immediate household.

b. Paid Leave for Subsequent Days

- (1) An employer shall provide paid leave for each day of leave under the EFMLEA that an employee takes after taking such leave for ten days.
- (2) The paid leave for an employee shall be calculated based on:
 - (a) An amount that is not less than two-thirds of an employee's regular rate of pay (as determined under section 7(e) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207(e)); and
 - (b) The number of hours the employee would otherwise be normally scheduled to work (or the number of hours calculated under A.2.(b)(4) below).
- (3) In no event shall such paid leave exceed \$200.00 per day and \$10,000.00 in the aggregate.



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(4) Varying Schedule Hours Calculation – In the case of an employee whose schedule varies from week to week to such an extent that an employer is unable to determine with certainty the number of hours the employee would have worked if such employee had not taken leave under the EFMLEA, the employer shall use the following in place of such number:

(a) Subject to A.2.b.(4)(b) below, a number equal to the average number of hours that the employee was scheduled per day over the six-month period ending on the date on which the employee takes such leave, including hours for which the employee took leave of any type.

(b) If the employee did not work over such period, the reasonable expectation of the employee at the time of hiring of the average number of hours per day that the employee would normally be scheduled to work.

c. Employee Notice to Employer

(1) In any case where the necessity for leave under the EFMLEA for the purpose of a qualifying need related to a public health emergency is foreseeable, an employee shall provide the employer with such notice of leave as is practicable.

(a) A request for such leave that is foreseeable shall be submitted to the _____ prior to commencing the leave.



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- (b) A need for such leave that is not foreseeable shall be submitted to the _____ within one business day of the first day of the leave being taken by the employee.
 - (c) The employee shall provide to the _____ the name of the employee's child, the name of the school, place of care, or child care provider that has closed or become unavailable, and a statement that no other suitable person is available to care for the child.
- d. Restoration to Position
- (1) The employee shall be restored to the same or equivalent position held by the employee when the leave commenced pursuant to 29 CFR 825.214. The requirement to restore the employee to the same or equivalent position held when the leave commenced does not apply to an employer who employs fewer than twenty-five employees if all four of the following conditions are met:
 - (a) The employee takes leave under the EFMLEA.
 - (b) The position held by the employee when the leave commenced does not exist due to economic conditions or other changes in operating conditions of the employer:
 - i. That affect employment; and
 - ii. Are caused by a public health emergency during the period of leave.



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- (c) The employer makes reasonable efforts to restore the employee to a position equivalent to the position the employee held when the leave commenced with equivalent employment benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.
- (d) If the reasonable efforts of the employer under A.2.d.(1)(c) above fail, the employer makes reasonable efforts during the period described in A.2.d.(2) below to contact the employee if an equivalent position described in A.2.d.(1)(c) above becomes available.

(2) Contact Period

- (a) The period described under A.2.d. above is the one-year period beginning on the earlier of:
 - i. The date on which the qualifying need related to a public health emergency concludes; or
 - ii. The date that is twelve weeks after the date on which the employee's leave under the EFMLEA commences.

B. Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA)

The FFCRA includes the EPSLA, which provides paid sick time to an employee to the extent the employee is unable to work or (telework) due to a need related to COVID-19. The paid sick time provided by the EPSLA and outlined in B.1. below cannot be taken with any other paid leave time provided by the employer.



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1. Definitions

a. For purposes of the EPSLA and this Policy:

(1) “Employee” means an individual who is employed by a private employer with fewer than five hundred employees and public employers with at least one employee.

(2) “Employer” means a private person or entity that employs fewer than five hundred employees and public employers that employ at least one employee.

(a) “Covered employer” includes any person engaged in commerce or in any industry or activity affecting commerce that:

i. In the case of a private entity or individual, employs fewer than five hundred employees; and

ii. In the case of a public agency or any other entity that is not a private entity or individual, employs one or more employees.

(b) “Covered employer” also includes:

i. Any person acting directly or indirectly in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee (within the meaning of such phrase in section 3(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(d)); and



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- ii. Any successor in interest of an employer; and any “public agency”, as defined in section 3(x) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(x)).
- (c) “Covered employer” also includes any “public agency” as defined in section 3(x) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(x)).
- (3) “Employ” and “State” have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203).
- (4) “Health care provider” and “son or daughter” have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611).
- (5) “Paid sick time” means an increment of compensated leave that:
 - (a) Is provided by an employer for use during an absence from employment for a reason described in any paragraph of B.2.a. below; and
 - (b) Is calculated based on the employee’s required compensation under B.1.a.(6) below and the number of hours the employee would otherwise be normally scheduled to work (or the number of hours calculated under (B.1.a.(7) below), except that in no event shall such paid sick time exceed:



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- i. \$511.00 per day and \$5,110.00 in the aggregate for a use described in B.2.a.(1), (2), or (3) below; and
 - ii. \$200.00 per day and \$2,000.00 in the aggregate for a use described in B.2.a.(4), (5), or (6) below.
- (6) “Required Compensation” subject to B.1.a.(5)(b) above, the employee’s “required compensation” shall be not less than the greater of the following:
 - (a) The employee’s regular rate of pay (as determined under section 7(e) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207(e)).
 - (b) The minimum wage rate in effect under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).
 - (c) The minimum wage rate in effect for such employee in the applicable State or locality, whichever is greater, in which the employee is employed.

Subject to B.1.a.(5)(b) above, with respect to any paid sick time provided for any use described in B.2.a.(4), (5), or (6) below, the employee’s required compensation shall be two-thirds of the amount described in B.1.a.(6) above.
- (7) “Varying Schedule Hours Calculation” means in the case of a part-time employee described in B.3.b.(2) below whose schedule varies from week to week to such an extent that an employer is unable to determine with certainty the number of hours the



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employee would have worked if such employee had not taken paid sick time under B.2.a. below, the employer shall use the following in place of such number:

- (a) Subject to clause B.1.a.(7)(b) below, a number equal to the average number of hours that the employee was scheduled per day over the six-month period ending on the date on which the employee takes the paid sick time, including hours for which the employee took leave of any type.
- (b) If the employee did not work over such period, the reasonable expectation of the employee at the time of hiring of the average number of hours per day that the employee would normally be scheduled to work.

2. Paid Sick Leave Requirement

- a. An employer shall provide to each employee employed by the employer paid sick time to the extent that the employee is unable to work (or telework) due to a need for leave because:
 - (1) The employee is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19.
 - (2) The employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.
 - (3) The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis.
 - (4) The employee is caring for an individual who is subject to an order as described in B.2.a.(1) above or has been advised as described in B.2.a.(2) above.



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- (5) The employee is caring for a son or daughter of such employee if the school or place of care of the son or daughter has been closed, or the child care provider of such son or daughter is unavailable, due to COVID-19 precautions.
 - (6) The employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor.
3. Duration of Paid Sick Time
- a. An employee shall be entitled to paid sick time for an amount of hours determined under B.3.b. below.
 - b. The amount of hours of paid sick time to which an employee is entitled shall be as follows:
 - (1) For full-time employees, eighty hours.
 - (2) For part-time employees, a number of hours equal to the number of hours that such employee works, on average, over a two-week period.
 - c. Paid sick time under the EPSLA shall not carry over from one year to the next.
4. Employer's Termination of Paid Sick Time
- a. Paid sick time provided to an employee under the EPSLA shall cease beginning with the employee's next scheduled work shift immediately following the termination of the need for paid sick time under B.2.a. above.



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5. Prohibition

- a. An employer may not require, as a condition of providing paid sick time under the EPSLA, that the employee involved search for or find a replacement employee to cover the hours during which the employee is using paid sick time.

6. Use of Paid Sick Time

- a. The paid sick time under B.2.a. above shall be available for immediate use by the employee for the purposes described in the EPSLA, regardless of how long the employee has been employed by an employer.
- b. Sequencing Leave Time
 - (1) An employee may first use the paid sick time under B.2.a. above for the purposes described in the EPSLA.
 - (2) An employer may not require an employee to use other paid leave provided by the employer to the employee before the employee uses the paid sick time under B.2.a. above.

7. Notice

- a. Each employer shall post and keep posted, in conspicuous places on the premises of the employer where notices to employees are customarily posted, a notice, to be prepared or approved by the Secretary of Labor, of the requirements described in the EPSLA.
- b. Not later than seven days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall make publicly available a model of a notice that meets the requirements of B.7.a. above.



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8. Prohibited Acts

- a. It shall be unlawful for any employer to discharge, discipline, or in any other manner discriminate against any employee who:
- (1) Takes leave in accordance with the EPSLA; and
 - (2) Has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding under or related to the EPSLA (including a proceeding that seeks enforcement of the EPSLA), or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding.

9. Enforcement

- a. Unpaid Sick Leave - An employer who violates B.2. through B.6. of this Policy shall:
- (1) Be considered to have failed to pay minimum wages in violation of section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206); and
 - (2) Be subject to the penalties described in sections 16 and 17 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216; 217) with respect to such violation.
- b. Unlawful Termination - An employer who willfully violates B.8. above shall:
- (1) Be considered to be in violation of section 15(a)(3) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 215(a)(3)); and
 - (2) Be subject to the penalties described in sections 16 and 17 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216; 217) with respect to such violation.



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10. Rules of Construction

a. Nothing in the EPSLA shall be construed:

(1) To in any way diminish the rights or benefits that an employee is entitled to under any:

(a) Other Federal, State, or local law;

(b) Collective bargaining agreement; or

(c) Existing employer policy; or

(2) To require financial or other reimbursement to an employee from an employer upon the employee's termination, resignation, retirement, or other separation from employment for paid sick time under the EPSLA that has not been used by such employee.

11. Guidelines

a. Not later than fifteen days after the date of the enactment of the EPSLA, the Secretary of Labor shall issue guidelines to assist employers in calculating the amount of paid sick time under the EPSLA.

12. Reasonable Notice

a. After the first workday (or portion thereof) an employee receives paid sick time under the EPSLA, an employer may require the employee to follow reasonable notice procedures in order to continue receiving such paid sick time.

b. The request for such leave shall be submitted to the _____, who may request documentation from the employee in support of the emergency paid sick leave.



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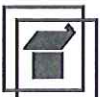
- c. The documentation shall include a signed statement containing the following information: the employee's name; the date(s) for which leave is requested; the COVID-19 qualifying reason for leave; and a statement representing that the employee is unable to work or telework because of the COVID-19 qualifying reason.
- d. An employee requesting to take emergency paid sick leave under the EPSLA or the EFMLEA to care for his or her child must provide the following information: the name of the child being care for; the name of the school; place of care; or child care provider that closed or became unavailable due to COVID-19 reasons; and a statement representing that no other suitable person is available to care for the child during the period of requested leave.

13. Regulatory Authorities

- a. The Secretary of Labor shall have the authority to issue regulations for good cause under sections 553(b)(B) and 553(d)(A) of Title 5, United States Code:
 - (1) To exempt small businesses with fewer than fifty employees from the requirements of B.2.a.5. when the imposition of such requirements would jeopardize the viability of the business as a going concern; and
 - (2) As necessary, to carry out the purposes of the EPSLA, including to ensure consistency between the EPSLA and Division C and Division G of the FFCRA.

H.R. 6201: Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act
N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1

Adopted:



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Student Assessment
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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 120, 135, 147, 153, 168, 170, 197,
205, 209, 211, and 220]

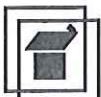
2622 STUDENT ASSESSMENT

The Commissioner of Education, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 et seq. and 18A:7E-2 and 3, may implement assessments of student achievement in any grade(s) and by such assessments as he or she deems appropriate. The Commissioner shall report to the State Board of Education the results of such assessments.

The Commissioner shall implement a system and related schedule of Statewide assessments to evaluate student achievement of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS). The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, shall define the scope and level of student performance on Statewide assessments that demonstrate thorough understanding of the knowledge and skills delineated by the NJSLS at grade levels three through twelve. After consultation with the Commissioner, the State Board of Education shall establish by resolution uniform Statewide criteria defining adequate school district progress toward meeting the NJSLS.

State assessments provide parents with important information about their child's progress; detailed diagnostic information about each individual student's performance that educators, parents, and students can utilize to enhance foundational knowledge and student achievement; and include item analysis which will clarify a student's level of knowledge and understanding of a particular subject or area of a subject. The data derived from State assessments will be utilized by teachers and administrators to pinpoint areas of difficulty and customize instruction accordingly. Such data can be accessed and utilized as a student progresses to successive school levels.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(b) and (c), all students at grade levels three through twelve, and at any other grade(s) designated by the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(a), shall take all appropriate Statewide assessments as scheduled. There is no provision for a student to opt-out of Statewide assessments. If a student is absent on a testing date, the student will be expected to take the missed test on another school day. Parents and students will be informed of all scheduled testing dates, including make-up testing dates for students who missed the initial testing date.



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Statewide Assessment System

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop and annually present to the Board for its approval an assessment program that complies with the rules of the State Board of Education.

The Board of Education shall, according to a schedule prescribed by the Commissioner, administer the applicable Statewide assessments, including the following major components: the elementary assessment component for grades three through five; the middle school assessment component for grades six through eight; the high school end-of-course PARCC assessments; and the alternative assessment for students with disabilities; and provide notification to each student entering grades three through twelve of the Statewide assessment schedule.

The Department of Education shall implement the elementary component of the Statewide assessment of the NJSLs consisting of continued administration of mathematics and English language arts in grades three, four, and five, and of science in grade ~~four~~ **five**.

The Department of Education shall implement the middle school component of the Statewide assessment of the NJSLs consisting of the following: continued administration of mathematics and English language arts in grades six, seven, and eight; and of science in grade eight.

The Department of Education shall implement a high school assessment program component of the NJSLs that assesses, at a minimum, English language arts, mathematics, and science with the exception that students may receive a waiver from the Board of Education from taking the high school end-of-course PARCC assessment in ELA 11 due to the student's participation in another English language/literature college placement assessment during the same school year.

The Board shall provide appropriate accommodations or modifications to the Statewide assessment system as specified by the Department of Education for English Language Learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 or eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as determined by the IEP or 504 Team in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d)1. The Board may administer the Statewide assessments in mathematics to ELLs in their native language, when available, and/or English. The Board of Education



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shall have the option for a first-year ELL of substituting a Department of Education-approved language proficiency test only for the English language arts section of the elementary or middle school component of the Statewide assessment, when the student has entered the United States after July 1 of the calendar year prior to the test administration.

The Board of Education shall ensure students with disabilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 participate in Statewide assessments in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10.

At specific times prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education shall administer the alternative assessment for students with disabilities to students with severe disabilities who cannot participate in other assessments due to the severity of their disabilities. The Department of Education shall implement the alternative assessment for students with disabilities according to the schedules in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(c)1, 2, and 3. The alternative assessment for students with disabilities measures the progress of students who have been determined eligible for the alternative assessment for students with disabilities by the IEP team in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10.

The Boards of Education shall implement alternative ways for students to demonstrate graduation proficiency in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(f).

Test Administration Procedures and Security Measures

The Board of Education shall be responsible for ensuring the security of all components of the Statewide assessment system that are administered within the school district. All Statewide assessments shall be administered in accordance with the Department of Education's required test administration procedures and security measures. Any breach of such procedures or measures shall be immediately reported to the Superintendent or designee.

Documentation of Student Achievement

The Department of Education shall provide the Superintendent with documentation of student performance after each test administration in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2(a). ~~The Board shall maintain an accurate record of each student's performance on Statewide assessments in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2.~~ Information regarding individual student test scores shall only be released in accordance with Federal and State law.



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The Board of Education shall transmit within ten business days any official records, including transcripts, of students who transfer to other school districts or institutions.

The Board of Education shall maintain an accurate record of each student's performance on Statewide assessments.

The Board of Education shall maintain for every student a ninth grade through graduation transcript that contains the following, as available:

1. Results of all applicable State assessments, including assessments that satisfy graduation requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)6;
2. Results of any English language proficiency assessments according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(h);
3. Evidence of instructional experience and performance in the NJSLs;
4. Evidence of technological literacy;
5. Evidence of career education instructional experiences and career development activities;
6. Evidence of State-issued occupational licenses and credentials, industry-recognized occupational credentials, and/or technical skill assessments for students enrolled in Department of Education-approved career and technical education programs pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:19-3.2; and
7. Any other information deemed appropriate by the Board of Education.

Accountability

The Superintendent shall report preliminary and final results of annual assessments to the Board of Education **within sixty days of receipt of information from** ~~as required by~~ the New Jersey Department of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.3(a). The Board of Education will provide parents, students, and citizens with results of annual assessments according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2.



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The Board shall provide appropriate instruction to improve skills and knowledge for students performing below the established levels of student proficiency in any content area either on Statewide or local assessments. All students shall be expected to demonstrate the knowledge and skills of the NJSLs as measured by the Statewide assessment system.

Annual Review and Evaluation of School Districts

The Department of Education shall review the performance of schools and school districts in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.4.

Public Reporting

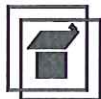
In accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.5, the Department of Education shall report annually to the State Board of Education and the public on the progress of all students and student subgroups in meeting the NJSLs as measured by the Statewide assessment system by publishing and distributing the Department of Education's annual New Jersey School Report Card in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7E-2 through 5. After each test administration, the Department of Education shall report to the Board of Education on the performance of all students and of student subgroups. The Department of Education shall report performance on the APA with the same frequency and in the same detail as it reports on other Statewide assessments, including school and school district means, and the number and percentage of participating students. In public reporting of school and district performance data, the Department of Education shall not compromise the confidentiality of individual students.

Parental Notification

Parents shall be informed of the district assessment system and of any special tests that are to be administered to their children.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-1 et seq.; 18A:7E-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1 et seq.; 6A:8-5.1; 6A:14-1.1 et seq.; 6A:14-3.7;
6A:14-4.10

Adopted:



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Attendance
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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 95, 96, 139, 172, 176, 203, 205, and 220]

5200 ATTENDANCE

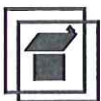
In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25, every parent, guardian, or other person having control and custody of a child between the ages of six and sixteen shall cause the child to regularly attend school. The Board of Education requires students enrolled in the school district attend school regularly in accordance with the laws of the State.

Notwithstanding the requirement of reporting student absences in the school register for State and Federal reporting purposes, “excused” and “unexcused” student absences, for the purpose of expectations and consequences regarding truancy, student conduct, promotion, and the award of course credit is a local Board decision outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 and Policy and Regulation 5200. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 and for the purposes of this Policy and Regulation 5200, a student’s absence from school will **either** be excused or unexcused. ~~that~~ **Unexcused absences will** counts toward truancy.

A parent or adult student shall provide advance notice to the school prior to the student being absent from school. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-25.6, if a student is determined to be absent from school without valid excuse, and if the reason for the student’s absence is unknown to school personnel, the Principal or designee shall immediately attempt to contact the student’s parent to notify the parent of the absence and determine the reason for the absence.

Students that are absent from school for any reason are responsible for the completion of assignments missed because of their absence. **In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14,** a student who is absent from school for observing a religious holiday shall not be deprived of any award, eligibility, or opportunity to compete for any award, or deprived of the right to take an alternate test or examination that was missed because of the absence provided there is a written excuse of such absence signed by the parent.

Prolonged or repeated absences, excused or unexcused, from school or from class, deprive students of the educational and classroom experiences deemed essential to learning and may result in retention at grade level



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Attendance

[For districts with secondary school(s)]

or loss of credit or removal from a course that would count toward the high school diploma in accordance with policies of this Board.]

Students shall be subjected to the school district's response for unexcused absences that count toward truancy during the school year as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)4 and Regulation 5200.

Unexcused absences from school or from classes within the school day may subject a student to consequences that may include the denial of a student's participation in co-curricular activities and/or athletic competition. Repeated absences from school interfere with efforts of ~~the~~ this Board and its staff in the maintenance of good order and the continuity of classroom instruction and such absences may result in the removal of the student from a class or course of study.

The Superintendent shall calculate and monitor the average daily attendance rate for the district and for each school in the district. Whenever the average daily attendance rate does not meet the New Jersey Department of Education requirements the Superintendent or designee shall develop a district improvement plan to improve student attendance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.2.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14; **18A:36-25.6**; 18A:38-25
N.J.S.A. 34:2-21.1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6; **6A:30-5.2**; 6A:32-8.3

Adopted:



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Immunization
June 20

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 106, 156, 183, and 220]

5320 IMMUNIZATION

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases and in recognition that prevention is a means of combating the spread of disease, the Board of Education requires the immunization of students against certain diseases in accordance with State statute and rules of the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services.

A student shall not knowingly be admitted or retained in school if the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) has not submitted acceptable evidence of the child's immunization, according to schedules specified in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 – Immunization of Pupils in School. **However, a child may be admitted to school on a provisional basis in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5 and Regulation 5320.**

Medical or religious exemptions to immunizations shall be in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3 and 4.4. ~~A child may be admitted to school on a provisional basis in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5.~~ **For students with a medical exemption pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.3, the school nurse shall annually review student immunization records to confirm the medical condition for the exemption from immunization continues to be applicable in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3(b)3.v.**

Optional

[The Board will provide, at school district expense, the necessary equipment, materials and services for immunizing students against _____.]

No immunization program, other than that expressly required by the rules of the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services or by order of the New Jersey State Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, may be conducted in district schools without the express approval of the Board.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-20

N.J.S.A. 26:4-6

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3

N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1 et seq.

Adopted:



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Suspension
June 2020
M

[See POLICY ALERT No. 140, 144, 147, 176, 203, 212, and 220]

5610 SUSPENSION

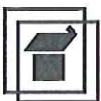
The Board of Education recognizes that even the temporary exclusion of a student from the educational program of this district is a severe sanction and one that cannot be imposed without due process.

Any student who is guilty of continued and willful disobedience, or of open defiance of the authority of any teacher or person having authority over him, or of the habitual use of profanity or of obscene language, or who shall cut, deface or otherwise injure any school property, shall be liable to punishment and to suspension or expulsion from school. Conduct which shall constitute good cause for suspension or expulsion of a student guilty of such conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the conduct as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2 and the school district's Student Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation in accordance with the N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1 et seq.

For the purposes of this Policy, "suspension" means the temporary removal of a student from the regular instructional program.

For the purposes of this Policy, "short term suspension" means a suspension for one, but not more than ten consecutive school days and "long term suspension" means a suspension for more than ten consecutive school days.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-4, a student may be suspended only by the Principal, who shall report any suspension to the Superintendent as soon as possible. The Superintendent shall report the suspension to the Board at its next regular meeting. The suspended student may be reinstated by the Principal or by the Superintendent prior to the second regular meeting of the Board following the suspension, unless the Board reinstates the student at the first regular meeting. No student suspended for reasons of assault upon a person in authority may be reinstated before the Board has held a hearing, within thirty calendar days of the suspension, to consider that student's expulsion from school. At its second regular meeting after the suspension and thereafter, the Board alone may reinstate the student or continue the suspension.



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Suspension

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2a, a student in Kindergarten through grade two shall not receive an out-of-school suspension, except when the suspension is based on conduct that is of a violent or sexual nature that endangers others. Students in preschool shall not receive an out-of-school suspension except as provided pursuant to the “Zero Tolerance for Guns Act,” N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.

The district shall implement an early detection and prevention program to identify students in preschool through grade two who are experiencing behavioral or disciplinary problems and provide behavioral supports for these students which may include, but not be limited to, remediation of problem behaviors, positive reinforcements, supportive interventions, and referral services. An early detection program may be incorporated into the intervention and referral services required to be established in each school pursuant to State Board of Education regulations.

Optional

[The Board’s failure to take any such action at its second regular meeting after the suspension or at any regular meeting thereafter will terminate the suspension, and the student shall be readmitted to school.]

In each instance of a short-term suspension, the student will be provided oral or written notice of the charges and an informal hearing conducted by the Principal or designee in accordance with the procedures outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2. To the extent the student’s presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the educational process, the student may be immediately removed from the student’s educational program and the informal hearing shall be held as soon as practical after the suspension.

In each instance of a long-term suspension, the district shall assure the rights of the student pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3.

The district will comply with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2 and 7.3, in addition to all the procedural protections set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:14, for each student with a disability who is subject to a short-term or long-term suspension.

In each instance of a short- or long-term suspension, the district shall provide academic instruction, either in school or out of school, that addresses the New Jersey Student Learning Standards pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1 et seq., which



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Suspension

may include a public education program provided in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9 or 10. These services shall be provided within five school days of the suspension. Educational services provided to a student with a disability shall be provided consistent with the student's Individualized Education Program, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14.

In the event a student has experienced multiple suspensions or may be subject to a proposed expulsion from school, the Principal shall convene a meeting, as soon as practicable, between the student and a school psychologist, a school counselor, a school social worker, a student assistance coordinator, or a member of the school's intervention and referral services team in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c.

Student records are subject to challenge by parents and adult students in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.7 and Policy and Regulation 8330. The name of a disciplined student will not appear in the agenda or minutes of a public meeting or in any public record of this district; any such student will be designated by code.

N.J.S.A. 18A:37-1; 18A:37-2 et seq.; 18A:37-4; 18A:37-5
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20g [vocational districts]
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2; 6A:16-7.3; 6A:32-7.7; 6A:14-2.8

Adopted:



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Expulsion
June 20
M

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 101, 140, 147, 166, 170, 176, 203, 212, and 220]

5620 EXPULSION

The Board of Education recognizes that expulsion from this district is the most severe sanction that can be imposed upon a student.

The Board may expel a general education student from school, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, only after the Board has provided the following:

1. The procedural due process rights set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(c) 3 and 7.3, and as outlined in Policy and Regulation 5610, subsequent to a long-term suspension pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3; and
2. An appropriate educational program or service, based on the criteria set forth under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3(f) and as outlined in Regulation 5610.
 - a. The educational program or service shall be consistent with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.2 - Program Criteria; N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.2 - Home or Out-of-School Instruction for General Education Students; N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.1 et seq. - Special Education, Procedural Safeguards; and N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.3 et seq. - Special Education, Program Options, whichever are applicable; or
 - b. The educational services provided, either in school or out-of-school, shall be comparable to those provided in the public schools for students of similar grades and attainments, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25.

An appeal of the Board's decision regarding the cessation of the student's general education program shall be made to the Commissioner of Education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.3 through 1.17. The Board shall continue to provide an appropriate educational program or service in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4(a)2 until a final determination has been made on the appeal of the Board's action to expel a student.



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Expulsion

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2a, a student in Kindergarten through grade two shall not be expelled from school, except as provided pursuant to the “Zero Tolerance for Guns Act,” N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq. Students in preschool shall not be expelled, except as provided pursuant to the “Zero Tolerance for Guns Act,” N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.

The district shall implement an early detection and prevention program to: identify students in preschool through grade two who are experiencing behavioral or disciplinary problems; and provide behavioral supports for these students which may include, but not be limited to, remediation of problem behaviors, positive reinforcements, supportive interventions, and referral services. An early detection program may be incorporated into the intervention and referral services required to be established in each school pursuant to State Board of Education regulations.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c, in the event a student may be subject to a proposed expulsion from school, the Principal shall convene a meeting, as soon as practicable, between the student and a school psychologist, a school counselor, a school social worker, a student assistance coordinator, or a member of the school’s intervention and referral services team. The purpose of the meeting shall be to identify any behavior or health difficulties experienced by the student and, where appropriate, to provide supportive interventions or referrals to school or community resources that may assist the student in addressing the identified difficulties.

The requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c shall not apply when a student’s immediate removal or suspension from the school’s regular education program is required pursuant to: the provisions of the “Zero Tolerance for Guns Act,” (N.J.S.A. 18A:37-7 et seq.); N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.1 – Assault by Pupil Upon Teacher, etc; Suspension; Expulsion Proceedings; N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.2 – Offense by Pupil Involving Assault, Removal from Schools Regular Education Program; or in any other instance in which the safety and security of other students or school staff requires the student’s immediate removal from school. In these instances, the meeting required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c shall take place as soon as practicable following the student’s removal from the school’s regular education program.



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Expulsion

The provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2c shall be construed in a manner consistent with the “Individuals with Disabilities Act,” 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.

[Charter Schools Only

Except as otherwise provided in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2a, a student may be expelled from a charter school based on criteria determined by the Board of Trustees, which is consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, and approved by the Commissioner of Education as part of the school’s charter. Any expulsion shall be made upon the recommendation of the charter school Principal, in consultation with the student’s teachers.]

A student with a disability shall only be expelled from his or her current program in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14 et seq. An expulsion of a student with a disability from a receiving school shall be handled in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36A-9; 18A:37-2 et seq.; ~~18A:37-2a; 18A:37-2b;~~
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4; 6A:14 et seq.

Adopted:

