

BYLAW GUIDE

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Board Officers
Dec 22

[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 181, 205, 219, and 229]

0152 BOARD OFFICERS

The Board of Education shall organize at its first regular meeting by electing one of its members as President and another as Vice President.

Any **Board** member may place a **Board** member's name in nomination **for Board President and Vice President**; a second **on the nomination** is not required. Election for each office will be conducted by a vote when the nominations for that office are closed. ~~The candidate receiving a majority vote of the members of the Board present and constituting a quorum will be elected to office.~~

Select Option 1 or 2 below

~~[Option 1 – Written Paper Ballot~~

~~Voting shall take place by written ballot after nominations are closed for each position, President and Vice President. Each Board member will be provided a paper ballot after nominations are closed for each position. Each Board member shall write the name of one Board member they wish to vote for on the paper ballot. Each Board member must print and sign their name on their paper ballot. The ballots shall be read aloud by the Board Secretary identifying the Board member and their vote. The person with the majority vote of the members of the Board present and constituting a quorum shall be elected. In the event no candidate receives a majority vote of the Board members present and constituting a quorum, the procedure shall be repeated until someone receives a majority vote of those Board members present and constituting a quorum.]~~

[Option 2 – Verbal Roll Call Vote

Voting shall take place by verbal roll call vote after nominations are closed. When more than one person has been nominated **for a single position**, the Board will vote on candidates in the order in which they were nominated. ~~In the event no candidate receives a majority vote of the members of the Board present and constituting a quorum, the procedure shall continue until someone receives a majority vote.]~~



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Select Option 1 or 2 below

[Option 1 – Elect Officers With a Majority Vote of all the Board Members Present

The person with the majority vote of the members of the Board present and constituting a quorum shall be elected. In the event no candidate receives a majority vote of the Board members present and constituting a quorum, the procedure shall be repeated until someone receives a majority vote of those Board members present and constituting a quorum.]

~~**[Option 2 – Elect Officers With a Majority of all the Members of the Board**~~

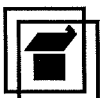
~~**The person with the majority vote of all of the members of the Board shall be elected. In the event no candidate receives a majority vote of all of the members of the Board, the procedure shall be repeated until someone receives a majority vote of all of the members of the Board.]**~~

Officers shall serve for one year and until their respective successors are elected and shall qualify, but if the Board shall fail to hold the organization meeting or to elect Board officers as prescribed by N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1, the Executive County Superintendent shall appoint from among the members of the Board a President and/or Vice President.

A President or Vice President who refuses to perform a duty imposed upon **them** ~~him/her~~ by law may be removed by a majority vote of **all of the Board members of the Board** ~~present and constituting a quorum~~. In the event the office of President or Vice President shall become vacant the Board shall, within thirty days thereafter, fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. If the Board fails to fill the vacancy within such time, the Executive County Superintendent shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

N.J.S.A. 18A:15-1; 18A:15-2

Adopted:



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Call, Adjournment, and Cancellation

Dec 22

[See POLICY ALERT No. 229]

0161 CALL, ADJOURNMENT, AND CANCELLATION

All The Board of Education **meetings** shall ~~be meet~~ in public **and each Board shall hold a meeting** session at least once every two months during the period in which the schools **in the district** are in session.

~~All meetings shall be called to commence not later than 8:00 p.m. of the day designated.~~

The Secretary of the Board shall call a special meeting of the Board whenever: requested by the President of the Board; requested by the Superintendent when the Board fails to meet within two months during the period in which the schools in the district are in session; or when presented with a petition signed by a majority of the full membership of the Board requesting the special meeting.

~~A meeting not regularly scheduled may be called by the Board Secretary at the request of the President or upon the presentation to the Board Secretary of a petition requesting a meeting and signed by a majority of the full Board.~~

The Board may at any time recess or adjourn to an adjourned meeting at a time, date, and place announced **at the time of the recess or before** the adjournment takes place. The adjourned meeting shall take up its business at the point in the agenda where the motion to adjourn was passed.

When circumstances are such as to prevent the attendance of a majority or all of Board members or to frustrate the purpose of the meeting, a meeting may be canceled by the Board Secretary at the request of the President. Notice of the cancellation shall be given, by expedient means, to all Board members, to the Superintendent, and, whenever possible, to the newspapers in which notice of Board meetings is regularly given. If possible, written notice of the cancellation shall also be posted at the place where the canceled meeting was scheduled to occur. Notice of the cancellation shall include the date, time, and place of the next scheduled meeting. Notice of the cancellation shall be read at the next following Board meeting and shall be duly recorded in the official minute book.

N.J.S.A. 18A:10-6

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.1

Adopted:



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Notice of Board Meetings
Dec 22

[See POLICY ALERT No. 229]

0162 NOTICE OF BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education will give notice of all meetings in accordance with law.

Adequate Public Notice

The Board Secretary shall provide written advance notice of at least forty-eight hours, giving the time, date, location and, to the extent known, the agenda of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting, which notice shall accurately state whether formal action may or may not be taken and which shall be prominently posted in at least one public place reserved for such or similar announcements; mailed, telephoned, telegraphed, or hand delivered to at least two newspapers which newspapers shall be designated by the public body to receive such notices because they have the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the area of jurisdiction of the public body of such meetings, one of which shall be the official newspaper, where any such has been designated by the public body or if the public body has failed to so designate, where any has been designated by the governing body of the political subdivision whose geographic boundaries are coextensive with that of the public body; and filed with the clerk of the municipality when the public body's geographic boundaries are coextensive with that of a single municipality, with the clerk of the county when the public body's geographic boundaries are coextensive with that of a single county, and with the Secretary of State if the public body has Statewide jurisdiction. Where annual notice or revisions thereof in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the Open Public Meetings Act, set forth the location of any meeting, no further notice shall be required for such meeting.

~~The Board Secretary shall notify, in writing and no later than forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting, each Board member and each person who has duly requested such notification of the time, date, location, and, to the extent it is known, the agenda of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting. Forty-eight hour notice shall also be posted in the _____, delivered to two newspapers designated by the Board, and filed with the clerk of the~~



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Notice of Board Meetings

~~_____~~, except that forty eight hour notice is not required where the time, date, and location of the meeting has been published in the annual list of meetings approved by the Board in accordance with law.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-9, uUpon the affirmative vote of three-quarters of the members present, the Board may **hold a meeting meet notwithstanding the failure to provide adequate notice if:**

- 1. Such meeting is required in order to deal with matters of such urgency and importance that a delay for the purpose of providing adequate notice would be likely to result in substantial harm to the public interest; and**
- 2. The meeting is limited to discussion of and acting with respect to such matters of urgency and importance; and**
- 3. Notice of such meeting is provided as soon as possible following the calling of such meeting by posting written notice of the same in the public place described in N.J.S.A. 10:4.8.d., and also by notifying the two newspapers described in N.J.S.A. 10:4.8.d. by telephone, telegram, or by delivering a written notice of same to such newspapers; and**
- 4. Either the public body could not reasonably have foreseen the need for such meeting at a time when adequate notice could have been provided or although the public body could reasonably have foreseen the need for such meeting at a time when adequate notice could have been provided, it nevertheless failed to do so.**

~~in the absence of adequate notice, provided that discussion and action is limited to specific and unforeseen or unforeseeable matters of such urgency and importance that delay for the provision of notice would be likely to result in substantial harm to the public interest and that notice is given as soon as possible after the call of the meeting in accordance with the provisions of law and this bylaw.~~



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Notice of Board Meetings

Personal Notice of Meeting

~~The Board shall provide personal notice in writing to an adult student, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a minor student, an employee or officer of this district, or a prospective employee whose privacy may be invaded or whose employment may be affected by the Board's deliberations in private session.~~

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b.(8), the Board may exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which the Board discusses any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion, or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the Board, unless all the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that the matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.

The Board will provide notice to the affected person that ~~Such personal notice~~ will include the date and time of the **closed session** ~~private meeting~~, the subject or subjects scheduled for discussion at the **closed session** ~~private meeting~~, and the right of the **affected person** ~~individual given notice~~ to request that the discussions be conducted at a public meeting. **Such** ~~Personal~~ notice will be given no less than **forty-eight hours** _____ ~~(days or hours)~~ in advance of the **closed session** ~~private meeting~~.

~~A written request for public discussion must be signed by the person making the request and must be submitted to the Board Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting. Any such properly submitted request will be granted. In the event that one or more, but fewer than all, of a group of persons whose employment will be discussed request a public meeting, the discussion regarding the person or persons who have submitted the request will be severed from the rest and will be conducted publicly.~~

A discussion held in public by reason of the written request of an individual will be conducted at a regularly scheduled meeting for which annual notice has been given or at a meeting for which adequate public notice has been given in accordance with law.



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Nothing in this Bbylaw will permit an employee to request or the Board to grant the public discussion of tenure charges or permit the public disclosure of information regarding a disabled student.

N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.; 10:4-8d; 10:4-9b
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-11; 18A:10-6
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-3.1

Adopted:



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Bilingual and ESL Education
Dec 22
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[See POLICY ALERT Nos. 187, 191, 209, and 229]

2423 BILINGUAL AND ESL EDUCATION

The Board of Education will provide programs of bilingual education, English as a second language (ESL), and English language services **program** for English language learners (ELLs) as required by law and rules of the **New Jersey** State Board of Education. ELLs are those students whose native language is other than English and who have varying degrees of English language proficiency in any one of the domains of speaking, reading, writing, or listening and is synonymous with limited English speaking ability pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18:35-15 **through** to 26.1.

Identification of **Eligible** ELLs

The district shall use a multi-step process at the time of enrollment to determine the native language of each ELL. The district shall:

- 1. Maintain a census indicating all identified students whose native language is other than English; and**
- 2. Administer the Statewide home-language survey to determine which students in Kindergarten to grade twelve whose native language is other than English must be screened further to determine English language proficiency. The Statewide home-language survey shall be administered by a bilingual/ESL or other certified teacher and shall be designed to distinguish students who are proficient English speakers and need no further testing.**

The district shall determine the English language proficiency of all Kindergarten to grade twelve students who are not screened out and whose native language is other than English by administering an English language proficiency test, assessing the level of reading in English, reviewing the previous academic performance of students, including their performance on standardized tests in English, and reviewing the input of teaching staff members responsible for the educational program for ELLs. Students who do not meet the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) standard on a language proficiency test and who have at least one other indicator shall be considered ELLs. The district shall also use age-appropriate methodologies to identify preschool ELLs to determine their individual language development needs.



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Bilingual and ESL Education

~~The Board will conduct a screening process to determine the native language of each ELL at the time of enrollment in the school district. A census shall be maintained of all identified students whose native language is other than English. The English language proficiency of each student whose native language is not English shall be determined by a screening process that includes the administration of a New Jersey Department of Education approved English language proficiency test, an assessment of the student's level of reading in English, a review of the student's previous academic performance including their performance on standardized tests in English, and a review of the input of teaching staff members responsible for the educational program for ELLs.~~

Bilingual Programs for ELLs Program Implementation

The district shall provide the following programs:

1. An English language services program **in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.2** ~~to improve the English language proficiency of ELLs whenever there are at least one, but fewer than ten ELLs enrolled in the school district. English language services shall be provided in addition to the regular school program;~~
2. An ESL program **in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.2** ~~that provides at least one period of ESL instruction based on student language proficiency whenever there are ten or more ELLs enrolled in the school district; and~~
3. A bilingual education program **in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.2** ~~whenever there are twenty or more ELLs in any one-language classification enrolled in the school district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-18. Where the age range, grade span, and/or geographical location of eligible students makes a full-time bilingual program impractical, the Board may annually offer an instructional program alternative, provided a waiver for the alternative program has been requested and approval has been granted by the Department of Education. The Board may establish a program in bilingual education for any language classification with fewer than twenty students.~~



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Bilingual and ESL Education

All teachers in these programs shall be appropriately certified in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.9. Every student participating in a bilingual, ESL, or English language services program shall be entitled to continue such participation for a period of three years pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-19.

Bilingual, English as a Second Language, and English Language Services Program Enrollment, Assessment, Exit, and Re-entry

Students enrolled in ~~the~~ a bilingual, ESL, or English language services program shall be assessed annually using **English Language Placement (ELP) assessments** ~~a New Jersey Department of Education approved English language proficiency test~~ to determine their progress in achieving English language proficiency goals and readiness for exiting the program. **Students who meet the criteria for Statewide alternate assessments, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.10(a)2., shall be assessed annually using an alternate ELP assessment.**

ELLs enrolled in the bilingual, ESL, or English language services program shall be placed in a monolingual English program when they have demonstrated readiness to **exit a bilingual, ESL, or English language services program through a Department-established criteria on an ELP assessment and a Department-established English language observation form.** ~~A function successfully in an English-only program. The process to determine the readiness or inability of the individual student to function successfully in the English-only program shall be initiated by the student's level of English proficiency as measured by a first achieve the New Jersey Department of Education-established English proficiency standard as measured by an ELP assessment on an English language proficiency test. The student's readiness of the student shall be further assessed by on the use basis of a Department-established English language observation form multiple indicators that considers shall include, at a minimum:~~ classroom performance; the student's reading level in English; the judgment of the teaching staff member or members responsible for the educational program of the student; and performance on achievement tests in English.

In accordance with provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-22.1, a parent may remove a student who is enrolled in a bilingual education program at any time; except that during the first three years of a student's participation in a bilingual education program, the parent may only remove the student at the end of each school year.



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Bilingual and ESL Education

~~If during the first three years of a student's participation in a bilingual education program, a parent wishes to remove the student prior to the end of each school year, the removal shall must be approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools. If the Executive County Superintendent determines the student should remain in the bilingual education program until the end of the school year, t~~The parent may appeal the Executive County Superintendent's decision to the Commissioner of Education **or designee pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-19.2.**

Newly exited students who are not progressing in the mainstream English program may be considered for re-entry to bilingual and ESL programs in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.10(e)1. through (e)5.

When the review process for exiting a student from a bilingual, ESL, or English language services program has been completed, the student's parent shall be informed by mail of the placement determination. A parent or teaching staff member who disagrees with the proposed placement may appeal the decision in writing to the Superintendent of Schools or designee, who will provide a written explanation for the decision within seven working days. The complainant may appeal this decision in writing to the Board within seven calendar days of receiving the Superintendent's or designee's written explanation of the decision. The Board will review the appeal and respond in writing to the parent within forty-five calendar days of the Board's receipt of the parent's written appeal to the Board. **Upon exhausting an appeal to the Board, the A** complainant ~~not satisfied with the Board's determination of the appeal~~ may appeal to the Commissioner of Education.

Parental Involvement

The parents of ELLs will be notified in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.13 that their child has been identified as eligible for enrollment in a bilingual, ESL, or English language services **education** program. Notice shall be in writing and in the language in which the parent(s) possesses a primary speaking ability, and in English. The notice must also include a statement that the parents have the option of declining their child's enrollment in a bilingual program, and shall be given an opportunity to do so if they choose.

The district will notify the parents of ELLs by mail within thirty days of the child's identification.



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Bilingual and ESL Education

Parents shall receive progress reports of students enrolled in bilingual, ESL, or English language services programs in the same manner and frequency as progress reports are sent to parents of other students enrolled in the district.

The Superintendent or designee will provide for the maximum practical involvement of parent(s) of ELLs in the development and review of program objectives and dissemination of information to and from the district Boards of Education and communities served by the bilingual, ESL, or English language services education programs. A school district that implements a bilingual education program shall establish a parent advisory committee on bilingual education of which the majority membership **shall** ~~will~~ be parents of ELLs.

Graduation

ELLs will qualify for graduation from high school in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a) and Policy 5460.

Program Plan

The Superintendent shall prepare and submit a plan for a bilingual, ESL, or English language services program every three years to the Board and the New Jersey Department of Education for approval in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.6.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-15 through 18A:35-~~26.125~~
N.J.A.C. **6A:14-4.10**; 6A:15-1.1 et seq.

Adopted:



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Therapy Dog
Feb 23

2560.01 THERAPY DOG

The Readington Township Board of Education supports the use of therapy dogs for the benefit of its students subject to the conditions of this policy. Benefits from working or visiting with a therapy dog include reduced stress, improved physical and emotional well-being, low blood pressure, decreased anxiety, improved self-esteem and normalization of the environment, increasing the likelihood of successful academic achievement by the student. Examples of activities that students may engage in with a therapy dog include petting and/or hugging the dog, speaking to the dog, giving the dog simple commands that the dog is training to respond to, and reading to the dog. This policy has been written to allow flexibility in developing a therapy dog program with an outside provider or with an employee's therapy dog.

Animal Assisted Therapy is a goal-driven intervention, which is directed and/or delivered by a health, human, or education service professional and is meant to improve physical, social, emotional and/or cognitive function of an individual.

Animal Assisted Activities provide opportunities for motivational, educational, and/or recreational benefits to enhance quality of life. They generally consist of visits by domestic animals and their handlers in settings such as schools, clinics, hospitals, and residential facilities. In this case, it is a visit to schools to engage in activities like petting, hugging, or reading to the animal.

A therapy dog is a dog that has been individually trained, evaluated, and registered with his/her handler to provide animal assisted activities, animal assisted therapy and animal assisted interactions within a school or other facility. Therapy dogs are not the same as "emotional support animals" or "service animals".

The handler is an individual school district staff member or volunteer who has been individually trained, evaluated, and registered with the therapy dog to provide animal assisted activities, animal assisted therapy, and animal assisted interactions within a school or other facility.



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The Readington Township School District will work with established therapy dog handlers to bring the dogs into the district. The handler shall assume full responsibility for the therapy dog's care, behavior, and suitability for interacting with students and others in the school while the therapy dog is on school district property.

The following information will be kept current and submitted to the Board of Education:

- The proof of registration as a therapy dog handler with the individual therapy dog to be used (Note: Such registration shall be from an organization that requires an evaluation of the therapy dog and handler prior to registration and at least every two years).
- Proof from a licensed veterinarian that the therapy dog is in good health and has been immunized against diseases common to dogs. Such vaccinations shall be kept current and up to date at all times.
- Proof of licensure from the local dog licensing authority.
- When an employee is identified as the handler, the Board of Education will ensure it has an insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the work of the handler and therapy dog while the two are on school district property.
- The handler of the dog will provide an insurance certificate to be kept on file with the Business Office when insured by and the program is coordinated by an agency.

Therapy Dog Standards and Procedures:

Registration: The therapy dog shall have registration from an organization that requires an evaluation of the therapy dog and handler at least every two years and shall remain current and in good standing at all times. Such organizations include Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs Inc. or other similar organizations recognized by the American Kennel Club Organization.

Health and Vaccination: The handler shall submit proof from a licensed veterinarian that the therapy dog is in good health and has been immunized against diseases common to dogs. Required vaccines include but are not limited to: Canine DAPPV, Bordetella, Rabies, and Lyme Disease. Such vaccinations shall be kept current and up-to-date at all times.



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Licensing: The handler and therapy dog shall wear appropriate credentials provided by the certifying agency.

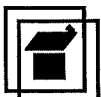
Health and Safety: The Board of Education shall ensure that the therapy dog does not pose a health and safety risk to any student, employee, or other person at school and that the therapy dog is brought to the school district only when properly groomed, bathed, free of illness or injury and of the temperament appropriate for working with children and others in the schools.

Control: The handler shall ensure that the therapy dog wears a collar or harness and a leash no longer than four feet and shall maintain control of the therapy dog by holding the leash at all times that the therapy dog is on school district property, including during breaks, unless holding such leash would interfere with the therapy dog's safe, effective performance of its work or tasks. However, the handler shall maintain control of the therapy dog at all times and shall not tether the therapy dog to any individual or object. The Board of Education supports the use of a crate, if needed.

Supervision and Care of the Therapy Dog: The handler shall be solely responsible for the supervision and humane care of the therapy dog, including any feeding, exercising, and cleaning up after the therapy dog while the therapy dog is in the school building or on school property. The handler shall not leave the therapy dog unsupervised or alone on school property at any time.

Authorized Area(s): The handler shall ensure that the therapy dog has access to only such areas of the school building or properties that have been authorized by school district administrators. These areas may be limited by the school administration.

Allergies and Aversions: Parents will be notified in advance when a therapy dog has been approved for school attendance/use. A permission slip will allow parents to identify whether or not they wish for their child to engage with the dog. The handler shall remove the therapy dog to a separate area, as designated by the school administrator, in such instances where any student or school employee who suffers dog allergies or aversion is present in an office, hallway, or classroom.



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Recordkeeping: Handlers must develop a schedule with the school contact and sign in and out of the building during visits.

Damages and Injuries: The dog handler will assume responsibility and liability for any damage to school property or injury to district staff, students, or others in the school caused by the therapy dog when the dog is provided by an agency. The Board of Education will assume responsibility and liability when the therapy dog is provided by a staff member handler.

Student Education and Expectations: The handler will be responsible for training students regarding appropriate interactions with the dog. This can be done on a one-on-one basis or in a classroom setting where the dog may be interacting with multiple students. Once trained, students will interact appropriately with the dog or student participation may be terminated.

Exclusion or removal from School District Property: A therapy dog may be excluded from school district property if a school administrator determines that: (1) The handler does not have control of the therapy dog; (2) The therapy dog is not housebroken; (3) The therapy dog presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school; or (4) The therapy dog's presence otherwise interferes with the educational program. The handler shall immediately remove his/her therapy dog from school property when instructed to do so by a school administrator.

Any employee or agency seeking to develop a therapy dog program, shall seek the approval of the school Principal and the Superintendent. Any student engaged with the therapy dog must have a waiver signed by the parent/guardian on file in the school.

Adopted: February 7, 2023



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Student Dress and Grooming
Feb 23

5511 STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING

The Readington Township School District believes it is critical that both home and school cooperate in the matter of student attire and grooming. Inappropriate dress and grooming can be disruptive to the educational process; hence, students are required to dress modestly and observe proper grooming. Students should dress in a manner that reflects good taste and decency, does not offend other members of the school community, and is neat and clean.

Each student is asked to show reasonable judgment regarding appropriate dress. **Students may not wear clothing or engage in grooming practices that present a health or safety hazard to the individual student or to others; materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program; cause excessive wear or damage to school property; or prevent the student from achieving their own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.**

~~Common sense standards apply as well. Clothing should be clean and comfortable. This policy applies to all schools in the District.~~

The Board of Education recognizes that student dress codes should support equitable educational access and should not reinforce gender stereotypes. Student dress codes and administrative enforcement should not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, household income, gender identity or cultural observance.

The Board of Education prohibits pupils from wearing, while on school property, any type of clothing, apparel or accessory which indicates that the pupil has membership in, or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities. The local law enforcement agency will advise the Board, upon request, of gangs which are associated with criminal activities.



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Student Dress and Grooming

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Dress Code Requirements/Exclusions:

- ~~Articles which can cause damage to students and/or property are not permitted.~~
- ~~Students should not wear or display any item that promotes illegal substances, weapons or gang affiliation. An item that contains offensive language or is degrading to any societal group is also prohibited. Items that can be interpreted by the staff as having explicit or implied double meanings will be in violation.~~
- ~~Footwear with backs must be worn at all times (i.e., no flip flops).~~
- ~~Proper attire includes undergarments; no part of undergarments (including underwear, sports bras, and lingerie, but excluding T-shirts and camisoles) may be exposed.~~
- ~~Extremely tight, sheer or see-through items, strapless tops or outfits are not permitted.~~
- ~~Bathing suits are not permitted.~~
- ~~Spaghetti straps, sleeveless T-shirts, and tank tops are permitted as long as they cover the undergarment.~~
- ~~Compression or bike shorts are permitted as long as they are worn under or covered by shorts, skirt or long shirt.~~
- ~~The hem of skirts should not be more than 4 inches above the top of the kneecap.~~
- ~~The hem of shorts should not be higher than mid-thigh.~~
- ~~Abdominal and breast areas must be covered. Tops must comfortably overlap the waistband of the bottom (no bare midriff or cleavage).~~
- **Clothing and accessories that endanger student or staff safety may not be worn.**
- **Attire and/or grooming depicting or advocating violence, weapons, criminal activity, gang related activity (including clothes, accessories, or colors identified gang-affiliated), use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs, pornography, foul language, hate speech, or clothing that could be considered dangerous or that could be used as a weapon are prohibited**
- **Shoes must be worn at all times and should be safe for the school environment (footwear with backs must be worn at all times).**
- **When the body is standing straight, clothing must cover the chest, back, torso, stomach, and lower extremities from armpit to armpit to mid-thigh.**



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Student Dress and Grooming

Feb 23

- **Tops must have a strap at all times, unless permission is granted by the Principal or designee for a special event.**
- **At no time may any part of a student's buttocks be exposed.**
- **Clothing must cover all undergarments. No underwear or undergarments may be visible at any time. Clothing may not be see-thru.**
- No pajamas or pajama-type clothing except on specially announced event days.
- Hoods, hats, and bandanas should be removed upon entering the building, except in the case of medically fragile students **or religious exemption.**
- Sunglasses are not permitted indoors unless medically necessary.
- Outerwear is not appropriate inside the classroom except with the consent of the classroom teacher.
- The Dress Code applies during school hours, at school-sponsored or organized activities and on trips. In addition, some restrictions on attire may be prescribed for participation or implemented for reasons of safety and will be communicated prior to the event.
- Athletic uniforms may not necessarily adhere to the Dress and Grooming policy; however, wardrobe components that may be appropriate for athletics or physical education are not necessarily appropriate for the school day.
- Students suspected of violating this policy will be sent to the Principal for final determination of compliance and, if found in violation, will be given an opportunity to change into more appropriate dress. If a student does not have a change of clothing, the student will be required to contact home for a change of clothing that is in compliance with the above regulation. Repeated infractions are subject to discipline. Parents will be notified of every violation.

Dress Code Enforcement: No list of dress and appearance guidelines for students can be written that will anticipate all potential dress and hygiene extremes. In the case of questionable dress code policy infraction that is not specifically covered in the list above, the Principal or designee will make the final decision. Appropriate action will be taken at that time, and when necessary, contact will be made seeking parental cooperation and assistance.



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Student Dress and Grooming

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The administration retains the sole discretion to make the final determination whether clothing, jewelry, accessories and/or appearance meet acceptable standards. All school certificated and classified personnel shall be responsible for reporting violations of this dress code. When a dress code violation occurs, the student will be required to change into proper attire. Continued violations of the dress code will be considered defiance and will be referred to administration for disciplinary action

Additional restrictions or modifications to the dress code policy may be applied to field trips. These will be reviewed by the Board of Education at the time the field trip is approved. However, the above remains in effect at all times.

Requested modifications to the dress code shall be submitted 60 days prior to the event to the Superintendent for discussion with the Policy Committee.

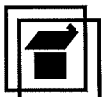
Current Dress and Grooming

The Readington Township School District believes it is critical that both home and school cooperate in the matter of student attire and grooming. Inappropriate dress and grooming can be disruptive to the educational process; hence, students are required to dress modestly and observe proper grooming. Students should dress in a manner that reflects good taste and decency, does not offend other members of the school community, and is neat and clean.

Each student is asked to show reasonable judgment regarding appropriate dress. Common sense standards apply as well. Clothing should be clean and comfortable. This policy applies to all schools in the District.

Dress Code Requirements/Exclusions:

- Articles which can cause damage to students and/or property are not permitted.
- Students should not wear or display any item that promotes illegal substances, weapons or gang affiliation. An item that contains offensive language or is degrading to any societal group is also prohibited. Items that can be interpreted by the staff as having explicit or implied double meanings will be in violation.
- Footwear with backs must be worn at all times, i.e., no flip flops.



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Student Dress and Grooming

Feb 23

- Proper attire includes undergarments; no part of undergarments (including underwear, sports bras, and lingerie, but excluding T-shirts and camisoles) may be exposed.
- Extremely tight, sheer or see-through items, strapless tops or outfits are not permitted.
- Bathing suits are not permitted.
- Spaghetti straps, sleeveless T-shirts, and tank tops are permitted as long as they cover the undergarment.
- Compression or bike shorts are permitted as long as they are worn under or covered by shorts, skirt or long shirt.
- The hem of skirts should not be more than 4 inches above the top of the kneecap.
- The hem of shorts should not be higher than mid-thigh.
- Abdominal and breast areas must be covered. Tops must comfortably overlap the waistband of the bottom (no bare midriff or cleavage).
- No pajamas or pajama-type clothing except on specially announced event days.
- Hoods, hats, and bandanas should be removed upon entering the building, except in the case of medically fragile students.
- Sunglasses are not permitted indoors unless medically necessary.
- Outerwear is not appropriate inside the classroom except with the consent of the classroom teacher.
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Student Dress and Grooming

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Requested modifications to the dress code shall be submitted 60 days prior to the event to the Superintendent for discussion with the Policy Committee.

Adopted: February 7, 2023

