

VANDALISM/VIOLENCE

Vandalism

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

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

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

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

Pupils who cause damage to school property will be subject to disciplinary measures. The Board authorizes the imposition of a fine for the loss, damage, or defacement of textbooks or other school property/equipment and reserves the right to withhold a report card or diploma from any pupil whose payment of a fine of any type is in arrears.

Violence

Physical violence including assault, against another pupil, or a staff member or board member is unacceptable conduct and will result in the disciplinary sanctions included in policies on suspension and expulsion and conduct/discipline. Disruptive behavior that is characterized by verbal or physical violence, even though not directed toward another person, should be reported by the classroom teacher to Principal, so that possible program adjustments may be identified.

The principal/designee shall be responsible for removing any pupil who is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for possession of a firearm or a crime while knowingly in possession of a firearm on any school property, or a school bus or at a school-

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sponsored function. He/she shall immediately report the removal to the chief school administrator and appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Any school employee observing or having direct knowledge from a participant or victim of an act of violence in the Rutherford Public Schools should complete the standard report form and submit it to the school principal who is responsible for preparing the official report to the chief school administrator.

The chief school administrator shall annually, at a public meeting, report to the board of education all acts of violence and vandalism in the district. He/she shall forward a copy of the annual report of violence and vandalism to the county superintendent in the manner and form required.

#### Threats of Violence

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

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

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

#### School Violence Awareness Week

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

#### Violence and Vandalism Reporting

The chief school administrator will annually submit a report utilizing the Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting system (EVVRS) accurately reporting on each incident of violence, vandalism and alcohol and other drug abuse within the school district. Any allegations of falsification of data will be reviewed by the board of education using the requirements and procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.3(g). Board action shall be based on a consideration of the nature of the conduct, the circumstances under which it occurred, and the employee's prior employment record.

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Implementation

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

Adopted: April 14, 2003  
Revised: November 13, 2006  
Revised: November 11, 2013

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2A:4A-60 <u>et al.</u>	Disclosure of juvenile information; penalties for disclosure
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2A:53A-15	Liability of parent or guardian for willful destruction of property by infant under 18
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2C:39-5	Unlawful possession of weapons
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:17-46	Act of violence; report by school employee; notice of action taken; annual report
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:25-2	Authority over pupils
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:36-5.1	School violence awareness week
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Discipline of Pupils
<u>See particularly:</u>	
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-2, -2.1 through -2.5, -3, -7 through -12	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:14-2.8	Discipline/suspension/expulsion
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Programs to Support Student Development
<u>See particularly:</u>	
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.4, -5.1, -5.2, -5.3, -5.5, -5.6, -5.7, -6.1	

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

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

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

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

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