

VANDALISM/VIOLENCE

Vandalism

The Township of Franklin 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 Superintendent. The Board will hold the pupil and 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:

1. Identify the pupils involved;
2. Call together persons, including the parents/guardians, needed to study the causes;
3. 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.
4. Take any constructive actions needed to try to guard against further such pupil misbehavior;
5. Seek appropriate restitution.

Violence

Physical violence including assault, against another pupil or a staff 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 the Principal, so that possible program adjustments may be identified.. The Principal 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 sponsored function. He/she shall immediately report the removal to the Superintendent and appropriate law enforcement agencies.

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Any school employee observing or having direct knowledge from a participant or victim of an act of violence in the Township of Franklin 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 Superintendent.

The Superintendent 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, 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. Threats of violence with a weapon 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.

Date: June 15, 1983
Revised: July 18, 2001

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2A:4A-60 <u>et seq.</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: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	

N.J.A.C. 6:29-6.5(a)7
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.8

Reporting, notification and examination procedures
Discipline/suspension/expulsion

POLICY

File Code: 5131.5

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Legal References: (continued)

New Jersey State Board of Education Resolution, September 3, 1980, encourages development of local written policy on pupil conduct.

New Jersey State Board of Education Resolution, September 4, 1985, urges boards to consider expectations for pupil behavior developed by statewide advisory panel, and to develop and adopt appropriate expectations of behavior for district pupils.

AH.A.@ v. Warren Hills Regional School District, 1976 S.L.D. 336

A Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (1999)

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*1120	Board of Education meetings
	*3250	Income from fees, fines, charges
	3517	Security
	4148	Employee protection
	4284	Employee protection
	5000	Concepts and roles in pupil personnel
	*5114	Suspension and expulsion
	*5124	Reporting to parents/guardians
	5131.4	Campus disturbances
	*5131.6	Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)
	*5131.7	Weapons and dangerous instruments
	*6114	Emergencies and disaster preparedness
	*6172	Alternative educational programs

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Key Words

Conduct, Discipline, Pupil Conduct, Student Conduct, Weapons, Vandalism