

**Policy**

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LIABILITY FOR PUPIL WELFARE

Teaching staff members are responsible for supervision of pupils in the classroom and must discharge that responsibility with the highest levels of care and prudent conduct. In addition all non-teaching staff members and support staff are responsible for the safety and welfare of the students while at school or school related activities. All staff members of this district shall be governed by the following rules in order to protect the well-being of pupils and to avoid any assignment of liability to this Mount Laurel Township School District Board of Education or to a staff member personally in the event a pupil is injured.

The chief school administrator shall ensure that necessary supervision and training are available to staff members as may be required to enforce the following rules:

- A. Each instructional staff member must maintain a standard of care for supervision, control, and protection of pupils commensurate with the member's assigned classroom duties and responsibilities;
- B. A staff member should not voluntarily assume responsibility for duties he or she cannot reasonably perform. Such assumed responsibilities carry the same potential for liability as do assigned responsibilities;
- C. A staff member must provide proper instruction in safety wherever a situation or course guides so provide;
- D. A staff member must report immediately to the building principal any accident or safety hazard the member detects;
- E. A staff member must not send pupils on personal errands;
- F. A staff member must never transport pupils in a personal vehicle without the approval of the building principal;
- G. A staff member must not require a pupil to perform tasks that may be detrimental to the health or well-being of the pupil or other pupils;
- H. A staff member will refrain from the use of personal furnishings and equipment in the classroom or other areas in the school building or on school property without the express permission of the principal;
- I. A staff member must immediately report any instance of substance abuse, violence, vandalism, accidents, or suspected child abuse in accordance with board policies 5131.6 Substance Abuse, 5131.5 Vandalism/Violence, 5141.1 Accidents, and 5141.4 Child Abuse and Neglect.

Adopted: June 10, 1986 (formerly 5142.2)  
Revised: April 30, 1997, May 24, 2005  
NJSBA Review/Update: June 2013  
Readopted: January 28, 2014

Key Words

Pupil Welfare, Student Welfare, Staff Responsibility

**Legal References:** N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.8 et seq. Health, safety of child paramount concern

STAFF LIABILITY FOR PUPIL WELFARE (continued)

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:25-2	Authority over pupils
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 59:1-1 <u>et seq.</u>	New Jersey Tort Claims Act

**Possible**

**Cross References:** \*4119.21/4219.21 Conflict of interest  
\*4119.22/4219.22 Conduct and dress  
\*4119.23/4219.23 Employee substance abuse  
\*4138 Nonschool employment  
\*4138.2 Private tutoring  
\*6144 Controversial issues

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