

DRUG FREE SCHOOL ZONE

The Board of Education is committed to providing the children of this district with a school environment conducive to learning, free of drugs and drug trafficking. To that end the Board will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies in accordance with law and rules of the State Board of Education.

No law enforcement operation, program, or activity shall be permitted to interfere with educational goals and prerogatives, which must always take precedence over traditional law enforcement objectives.

The Board appoints the Superintendent of Schools to serve as liaison officer to the Mount Laurel Township Police Department in the matter of providing drug free school zones.

The Board may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Mount Laurel Township Police Department governing the roles and responsibilities of school employees and law enforcement officers with respect to controlled dangerous substances and to the planning and conduct of law enforcement activities and operations occurring on school property. Any such memorandum will be reviewed periodically and revised as necessary to comply with the requirements of law and meet the changing needs of the district.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to approve such undercover operations as may be necessary to identify and apprehend persons engaged in the illegal distribution of controlled dangerous substances on school premises. Any undercover operation must be planned and conducted in such a manner so as to minimize the risk of interruption to the educational program. The Superintendent is not obliged to reveal to the Board or to Board members individually the existence of any undercover operation.

The Superintendent shall plan and implement such in-service training programs as may be required to instruct school employees in the Board's policy and procedures regarding cooperation with law enforcement activities in the provision of drug free school zones.

In implementation of this policy, the Superintendent shall develop and present procedural regulations to the Board for its approval. Such regulations will cover the following areas to the extent they are not provided for in an approved memorandum of understanding:

1. The roles and responsibilities of the liaison officer;
2. Staff cooperation with arrests made by law enforcement officers;
3. Searches on school premises;

DRUG FREE SCHOOL ZONE (Continued)

4. Interviews of pupils suspected of possessing, using, or distributing a controlled dangerous substance;
5. The planning and conduct of undercover operations;
6. The handling of drugs and drug paraphernalia;
7. Notification of law enforcement authorities of suspected violations of the drug abuse laws;
8. Requesting uniformed police at extra-curricular events;
9. Notification of parents;
10. The resolution of disputes; and
11. Confidentiality.

The Board will annually review and assess the effectiveness of this policy and the procedures set forth in implementing administrative regulations. The annual review will be conducted in consultation with the County Superintendent, the County Prosecutor, and members of the community.

Both policy and procedures on drug free school zones will annually be made available to all school employees, pupils, and parents.

N.J.S.A. 2C:29-1 et seq.; 2C:35-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6:3-6

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Return to Section Index

Return to Main Index