

PROGRAMS FOR PUPILS AT RISK

The Board of Education recognizes that certain conditions place children at risk of not acquiring the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary for school success, school completion, and successful functioning as an adult in society.

A pupil at risk means a pupil who is in danger of failure or dropping out of school because of specific cognitive, affective, economic, social, and/or health needs. The conditions that may place a pupil at risk include the pupil's failure to acquire the essential skills needed to stay on grade level or the pupil's performance below minimum levels of placement on long-term suspension for violation of school rules; pregnancy or parenthood; failure to qualify for promotion or graduation; condition of poverty as defined by his or her eligibility for free meals or free milk; history of poor school attendance; limited English proficiency; performance well below his or her social or academic capacity because his or her instructional needs are not met by the regular instructional program; difficulty in establishing good relationships with peers and adult authority figures; and any other conditions identified by the Board's plan for pupils at risk.

The Board shall annually approve a plan for utilizing at risk state and federal aid as may be available for pupils at risk. The plan shall include the identification of conditions that place pupils at risk, an assessment of pupil needs resulting from those conditions, and the programs and services the district will offer to address those conditions and meet those needs, including assistance to parents in promoting school success. Programs and services shall meet the goals of

1. Enhancing the health, self-esteem, and acquisition of the life skills necessary for age-appropriate development and productive functioning in the school setting and society;
2. Identifying and assisting pupils who are not meeting standards for behavior and achievement in areas such as attendance, conduct, and mastery of the Curriculum, as well as performing below state minimum levels of proficiency; and
3. Improving the school climate so that pupils experience school as a safe, supportive, and disciplined place where academic and interpersonal growth and learning can take place.

Programs and services for pupils at risk may be offered during the regular school day, beyond the regular school day, or during the summer. Any such programs and services that do not require the services of a teaching staff member or cannot be reasonably accommodated in the school setting may be delivered by qualified persons who are not necessarily certified but are supervised by appropriately certified teaching staff members.

The Board shall provide staff training necessary to implement the programs and services for pupils at risk specified in the annual plan.

## PROGRAMS FOR PUPILS AT RISK (Continued)

The district shall comply with all state and federal requirements in developing, implementing, administering and evaluating funded compensatory education programs and programs for pupils determined to be at risk.

Such instructional services and activities shall be designed to improve the level of proficiency in reading, writing, mathematics and other skills of pupils whose academic, social or environmental needs prevent them from succeeding in regular school programs, and to prevent their regression in such skills when regular programs are not in session. Parents/guardians shall be kept informed of their children's progress and shall be invited to consult with staff on ways to give their children the maximum benefits of such programs.

At least once annually, a public meeting shall be held for the express purpose of informing parents/guardians of the programs and activities provided with Title 1 funds. The agenda shall include:

- A. Informing parents/guardians of their right to consult in the design and implementation of the Title 1 project;
- B. Providing parents/guardians with information about the Title 1 law, regulations and instructional programs;
- C. Soliciting parents/guardians' input about basic skills improvement programs and related activities;
- D. Providing parents/guardians an opportunity to establish mechanisms for maintaining ongoing communication among parents/guardians, staff, and the board.

The parents/guardians of all eligible children shall be invited to attend.

### Mandated Policy Statements in Addition to Parent Consultation

#### A. Comparability of personnel

To be in compliance with the requirements of federal law, the board of education of Mount Laurel (05-3440) directs the chief school administrator to assign teachers, administrators, and auxiliary personnel to the schools in such a way that equivalence of personnel is ensured among the schools.

#### B. Comparability of materials and supplies

To be in compliance with the requirements of federal law, the board of education of Mount Laurel (05-3440) directs the chief school administrator to distribute curriculum materials and instructional supplies to the schools in such a way that equivalence is ensured among the schools.

#### C. Supplement not supplant

## PROGRAMS FOR PUPILS AT RISK (Continued)

The Mount Laurel Township School District shall use Title 1 funds only to supplement and to the extent practical increase the level of funds that would, in the absence of Title 1 funds, be made available for the education of pupils participating in Title 1 or state compensatory education projects. In no case shall Title 1 funds be used to supplant those non-Title 1 or non-state compensatory education funds.

### D. Maintenance of effort

The board of education will maintain a combined fiscal effort per pupil or aggregate expenditures of state and local funds with respect to the provision of the public education for the preceding fiscal year that is not less than the required amount of the combined fiscal effort per pupil or the aggregate expenditures for the second preceding fiscal year.

### Eligibility for State and Federal Funds

The chief school administrator shall ensure that all requirements for receiving state and federal funds shall be fulfilled in an accurate and timely manner.

Control over such funds and title to all equipment and supplies purchased with such funds shall remain with the board of education. Procurement, control, use and disposition of equipment and supplies purchased with state/federal funds shall be in full compliance with the law.

### General

The chief school administrator shall direct appropriate administrative personnel to pursue vigorously all possible sources of funding, either state or federal, that support such compensatory services, and shall keep abreast of all changes in the law which restrict or expand the district's use of state or federal funds.

Programs especially designed for migrant children shall be provided as necessary.

### Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:7D-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6:8-1.1 et seq., 6:8-6.1; 6:39-1.2 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.9 Pupil promotion and remediation; policies and procedures

N.J.S.A. 18A:59-1

through -3

Apportionment and distribution of federal funds; exceptions ...

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-14.1 Review of mandated programs and services

42 U.S.C.A. 2000d - 2000d4 - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Hawkins-Stafford Elementary and Secondary School Improvement Amendments of 1988 (P.L. 100-297)

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

Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts

## PROGRAMS FOR PUPILS AT RISK (Continued)

### **Possible**

<b><u>Cross References:</u></b>	3220/3230	State funds; federal funds
	3514	Equipment
	5120	Assessment of individual needs
	5200	Nonpublic school pupils
	6122	Articulation
	6141	Curriculum design/development
	6142.2	English as a second language; bilingual/bicultural
	6142.6	Basic skills
	6171.1	Remedial instruction
	6171.4	Special education

**Date:** Revised: 11/14/89; 6/22/93

**Date:** Adopted: 4/30/97

Second Reading and Final Adoption – May 24, 2005

Revised:

**Date:** Revised – First Reading – December 19, 2006

Second Reading and Final Adoption – January 30, 2007

[Return to Section Index](#)

[Return to Main Index](#)