

Policy

ILLNESS

The Haworth Board of Education recognizes that control of the spread of contagious disease is essential to the well-being of the school community and to the efficient operation of the schools.

When pupils are taken suddenly ill in school, they shall be sent or escorted to the nurse's office. If the nurse is not in the medical office, the pupil shall be sent or taken to the superintendent's office. In general, the same procedures that apply to accidents shall apply to sudden pupil illness. The superintendent, in cooperation with the medical inspector, shall implement this policy. Parents will be notified so that they may arrange to come to the school to pick up their child. If a parent/guardian is not available to pick up the child, the person designated as the secondary contact in case of emergency shall be contacted.

Control of Contagious Diseases or Conditions

In order to protect the health of the pupils in our schools, all regulations of the state department of education, the state department of health and the local board of health shall be scrupulously observed, particularly those dealing with contagious or infectious diseases or conditions. Pupils who have been absent because of contagious or infectious diseases or conditions must present a certificate of recovery from a licensed physician or be examined by the medical inspector.

The school nurse shall observe pupils who show evidence of communicable disease and recommend their exclusion to the superintendent. Recommendations shall be consistent with reporting requirements on communicable diseases as set forth in the New Jersey Health Code. Such pupils shall be isolated in the nurse's office until a parent/guardian picks them up, and any necessary measures have been taken to prevent spread of the infection. The school nurse, under the direction of the medical inspector, shall instruct all teachers in the symptoms of the most common diseases or conditions at least once a year. Such instruction may help teachers to identify potential illness of their pupils at an early stage so that medical assistance can be provided.

In order to forestall the spread of contagious disease among kindergarten and elementary students, hand washing is encouraged as part of a proper hygiene regime.

Any student with HIV infection or AIDS or who lives with or is related to someone with HIV or AIDS shall not be excluded from general education, transportation services, extracurricular activities, athletic activities, assigned to home instruction or classified as eligible for special education because of the HIV infection. The school nurse shall recommend the exclusion of any individual with weeping skin lesions that cannot be covered.

In addition to the review of health and safety measures required by law, the school nurse shall individually instruct teachers from whose classrooms a pupil has been excluded in the symptoms of the disease for which the pupil was excluded. Student rights and confidentiality shall be protected in accordance with law. No teacher shall attempt to diagnose any illness of a pupil, but shall refer suspected cases to the nurse immediately.

Handling Blood and Body Fluids

The superintendent and medical inspector shall develop detailed routine procedures based on New Jersey administrative code and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control for proper handling of blood and body fluids resulting from illness/accidents in the schools. These procedures shall be disseminated to all district staff and volunteers.

The medical inspector shall report all cases of communicable disease to the local board of health as required by law.

Policy

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The Haworth Board of Education believes that a child's physical and mental well-being must be maintained as a prerequisite to achievement through the formal educational process. Therefore, the board believes that it is important to identify and investigate suspected child abuse or neglect immediately. The school district will cooperate with the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) in identifying and reporting all such cases, whether institutional or noninstitutional.

The Superintendent/Principal shall act as liaison between DYFS and the district. The liaison shall facilitate communication and cooperation between the district and DYFS and act as primary contact between the schools and DYFS. The Superintendent/Principal will maintain a relationship with DYFS to facilitate intervention when suspicion of child abuse has been reported.

The board directs the Superintendent/Principal to gather, maintain, secure and make available to DYFS the relevant confidential district records of any pupil alleged either by school personnel or DYFS to be the victim of abuse or neglect as defined by law. The board also directs the Superintendent/Principal or his or her designee to cooperate with DYFS in scheduling interviews with any employee, volunteer or pupil who may have information relevant to an investigation of child abuse.

In order to increase school employees' and volunteers' awareness of the symptoms of child abuse and neglect and cause them to be better informed on all aspects of abuse and neglect, the board directs the Superintendent/Principal to provide information and inservice training on the subject to all school employees and volunteers. Specialists and outside consultants may be contracted to aid in the dissemination of the vital information about child abuse and neglect.

The Superintendent/Principal is therefore directed to develop procedures for compliance with statutory requirements that child abuse and neglect be reported. All procedures as well as this policy shall be reviewed by the county superintendent. Procedures shall:

- A. Impress on all staff members and volunteers having contact with pupils of their responsibility to report directly and immediately to DYFS all cases of suspected abuse, abandonment, cruelty or neglect resulting in physical or mental injury, and the penalties for failing to do so. Institutional abuse--abuse alleged to have taken place in the school or other institutional setting by paid school staff or a volunteer--must be reported on the same basis as noninstitutional abuse. Information reported shall include the name, age, and grade of the child, as well as the name and address of the child's parents/guardians. The report shall also include a description of the child's condition, nature and extent of his/her possible injuries, and any other information pertinent to the child abuse or neglect or identification of the suspected perpetrator;
- B. Require all school personnel and volunteers to report suspected instances of child abuse or neglect to the Superintendent/Principal after reporting to DYFS, unless the reporting personnel believes that he/she may be endangering the welfare of the child or himself/herself or causing retaliation or discrimination against the child or himself/herself by such notice to the Superintendent/Principal;
- C. Provide for the annual delivery of information and inservice training to all school staff members and volunteers concerning child abuse and neglect. This shall include instruction on child abuse and neglect, identification and reporting procedures;
- D. Provide for the delivery of information and inservice training to all new school district employees, both paid and voluntary, as part of their orientation;

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (continued)

- E. Require prompt action to facilitate treatment options for the children injured by abuse or neglect in order to protect their health and wellbeing;
- F. Provide for cooperation with DYFS in scheduling interviews with any school personnel or volunteers who may have information relevant to the investigation;
- G. Provide for DYFS investigators to interview alleged victims in the presence of the Superintendent/Principal, his/her designee, or any staff member with whom the child is comfortable;
- H. Permit DYFS to remove pupils from school during the course of the school day when it is necessary to protect the child or take the child to a service provider. Removal shall take place when the Superintendent/Principal is provided, either in advance or at the time removal is sought, with appropriate authorization as specified in N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.27 through -8.30;
- I. Require that a report of each case of unexplained absence which might be a cause of child abuse or neglect be reported to DYFS as the law provides, and to other appropriate school staff;
- J. Require that appropriate school staff be assigned as a liaison to facilitate communication and cooperation, and act as the primary contact between the district and DYFS in order to ensure continuance of shared information and training development;
- K. Release all pupil records of the child(ren) under investigation that are deemed relevant and maintain, secure and release all confidential information about child abuse cases, according to law;
- L. Fulfill other procedural requirements of the law pertaining to district response to child abuse, neglect and missing children.

The board assures all school personnel and volunteers that no one will be discharged from employment or discriminated against in any way as a result of making in good faith any reports of child abuse and neglect.

Due process rights will be provided to school personnel or volunteers who have been reassigned or suspended as a result of an accusation of child abuse or neglect. Temporary reassignment or suspension of school personnel or volunteers alleged to have committed an act of child abuse or neglect shall occur if there is reasonable cause to believe that the life or health of the alleged victim or other children is in imminent danger due to continued contact between the school personnel and a child.

All references to a report of child abuse or neglect against school personnel shall be removed from employee personnel records immediately following the receipt of an official notice from DYFS that such allegations were unfounded.

Adopted: January 29, 2002
 NJSBA Review/Update: September 2009
 Readopted: May 2010

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 9:6-1 et seq.
 See particularly:
N.J.S.A. 9:6-3.1; -8.9
 through -8.14; -8.21;
 -8.27 through -8.30;
 -8.34 through -8.36; -8.40;
 -8.46; -8.56
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7a, -10, -11,

Abuse, abandonment, cruelty and neglect of child;
 what constitutes

Removal from personnel files of reference to

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (continued)

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|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -13, -14, -18.1, -30, -30.1 | complaint of child abuse or neglect determined to be unfounded |
| <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:25-1 | Transfer of teaching staff members |
| <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:25-6, -7 | Suspension of assistant superintendents, superintendent/principals and teachers ... |
| <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:36-19 | Pupil records; creation; maintenance and retention, security and access; regulations; nonliability |
| <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:36-19a | Newly enrolled students; records and identification |
| <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:36-24 <u>et seq.</u> | Missing children; legislative findings and declarations |
| <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:17B-9.8a <u>et seq.</u> | Marking of missing child's school record |
| <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-1.4(a)21 | District policies and procedures |
| <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-11.1 <u>et seq.</u> | Reporting Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect |
| <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-7.1 <u>et seq.</u> | Student records |

Possible

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| <u>Cross References:</u> | *5113 | Absences and excuses |
| | *5125 | Pupil records |
| | *5141.1 | Accidents |
| | *5142 | Pupil safety |

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