

VANDALISM/VIOLENCE

Vandalism

The 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 chief school administrator. The board will hold the pupil or 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:

- A. Identify the pupils involved;
- B. Call together persons, including the parents/guardians, needed to study the causes;
- C. 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;
- D. Take any constructive actions needed to try to guard against further such pupil misbehavior;
- E. Seek appropriate restitution.

VANDALISM/VIOLENCE (continued)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 building principal, so that possible program adjustments may be identified. The principal/designee 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 chief school administrator and appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Any school employee observing or having direct knowledge from a participant or victim of an act of violence in the Pennsville 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 chief school administrator.

The chief school administrator 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.

Date: February 10, 1998

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2A:4A-60 <u>et al.</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:37-2, -2.1, -3	Causes for suspension or expulsion of pupils ...
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-2.1 through -2.5	Discipline of Pupils
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-7 through -12	Zero Tolerance for Guns Act
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:29-6.5(a)7	Reporting, notification and examination procedures

VANDALISM/VIOLENCE (continued)

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.

"H.A." v. Warren Hills Regional School District, 1976 S.L.D. 336

Cross References:

1120	Board of education meetings
3250	Income from fees, fines, charges
3517	Security
4148	Employee protection
4248	Employee protection
5114	Suspension and expulsion
5124	Reporting to parents/guardians
5131	Conduct/discipline
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

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