

**Policy**

ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

The Gloucester City Board of Education believes that the education of children is a joint responsibility, one it shares with the parents/ guardians and the school community. To ensure that the best interests of the child are served in this process, a strong program of communication between home and school must be maintained and parental involvement in district concerns encouraged.

The board recognizes the vital role of parents/guardians in the welfare and education of their children and the pivotal part they play in shaping character and values. Because parents/guardians are familiar with the needs, problems, gifts and abilities of their children, staff should seek to involve parents/guardians as much as possible in the planning of the individual program. Parents/guardians must, by law, be included in the development of certain educational programs for their children.

Parents/guardians are requested to keep the school apprised of changes in factors in the home situation which may affect student conduct or performance. Parents/guardians are specifically requested to inform the school of any changes in legal custody of the child.

Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's punctuality, attendance, cleanliness and propriety of dress.

The superintendent shall develop procedures and regulations to implement this policy. These regulations shall include use of the parent/guardian's native language when necessary.

Rights and Obligations of 18 Year Old Students

New Jersey law does provide for the rights and obligations of persons 18 years of age and older.

With regard to the school, this means that 18 year olds will no longer need parent/guardian consent regarding absences from school, participation in athletics, receipt of report cards, or attendance on field trips. With regard to these matters an 18 year old student must be treated as any other adult.

However, school rules and practice applicable to students will still be applicable to 18 year old students.

The school will continue its cooperation with parents/guardians of 18 year old students, providing parents/guardians with copies of correspondences, keeping the parent/guardians informed regarding their children.

Rights of Parents

The board of education recognizes that the parents of each child are ultimately responsible for the care and custody of that child and that both parents share that responsibility equally. The board recognizes as well that where only one parent has legal custody of a child the custodial rights and responsibilities of the other parent may be limited. The board believes that the interests of each child are best served by the continuing involvement of both parents in the child's life and well-being.

The board will presume that each natural or adoptive parent or legal guardian of a student enrolled in this district possesses full parental rights of access to the student and to information about the student, not withstanding any separation of the parents or dissolution of marriage. Accordingly and in the absence of notice to the contrary, the board directs that school administrators accommodate the needs of both parents for access to their child, to their child's teachers, and to information about their child.

ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS (continued)

The board's presumption of the equal rights and responsibilities of parents may be set aside only upon the presentation to the superintendent of proper notice that custody of a pupil resides in only one parent and that the custodial rights of the other parent have been limited. When such notice is duly presented, the superintendent will be directed by the terms of that notice to limit the access of the noncustodial parent to the child or to information about the child. Proper notice consists of the custodial parent's sworn affidavit or certification supported by a copy of the pertinent portion of a legal agreement or court order that awards custody and establishes the rights and limitations of the noncustodial parent or terminates the parental rights of the noncustodial parent.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting in any way the rights of the noncustodial parent whose parental rights have not been terminated to full access to his/her child's records and to full participation, in accordance with law, in the decisions regarding his/her disabled child's evaluation, classification, and placement.

The superintendent shall develop procedures and regulations to implement this policy. These regulations shall include use of the parent/guardian's native language when necessary.

Adopted: No date  
 NJSBA Review/Update: January 2011  
 Readopted:

Key Words

Role of Parents/Guardians, Parents/Guardians

|                                 |  |   |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <b><u>Legal References:</u></b> | <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-4.9               | Student promotion and remediation; policies and procedures  |
|                                 | <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-22                | Notice to parents that child identified as eligible for enrollment; option of declining enrollment; involvement of parents in program |
|                                 | <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-4.3                 | Accountability  |
|                                 | <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:14-1.1 <u>et seq.</u> | Special Education   |
|                                 | <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:30-1.1 <u>et seq.</u> | Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts   |
|                                 | <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-12.1               | Reporting requirements  |
|                                 | <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-12.2               | School-level planning   |

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

**Possible**

|                                 |         |  |
|---------------------------------|---------|--|
| <b><u>Cross References:</u></b> | *1220   | <u>Ad hoc</u> advisory committees                  |
|                                 | *1230   | School-connected organizations                     |
|                                 | *1250   | Visitors   |
|                                 | *5113   | Absences and excuses                               |
|                                 | *5114   | Suspension and expulsion                           |
|                                 | *5120   | Assessment of individual needs                     |
|                                 | *5124   | Reporting to parents/guardians                     |
|                                 | *5125   | Student records                                    |
|                                 | *5131.5 | Vandalism/violence                                 |
|                                 | *5131.6 | Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)          |
|                                 | *6142.2 | English as a second language; bilingual/bicultural |
|                                 | *6146   | Graduation requirements                            |

ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS (continued)

- \*6146.2 Promotion/retention
- \*6147.1 Evaluation of individual student performance
- \*6162.4 Community resources
- \*6171.1 Remedial instruction
- \*6171.3 At-risk and Title 1
- \*6171.4 Special education

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