

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Gloucester City Board of Education endeavors to provide an educational program adjusted to the needs of the individual child within the financial means of the district. Grouping enables a more efficient use of staff in meeting these needs. Program adaptations provide another means of using staff efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of many children.

When the needs of special individuals or groups cannot be met through adaptation or independent study, the superintendent shall investigate and propose to the board for approval alternative programs and facilities. Alternative education programs shall be approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Home Schooling

The board of education acknowledges the right of parents/guardians to educate their children at home. It should be noted that parents are subject to the New Jersey Compulsory Education Law. If a parent/guardian decides to educate their child at home, the following parameters shall be followed:

- A. The board of education requests that the parents/guardian notify the Superintendent in writing of the intention to educate their child at home. A notification for home schooling a child should be made annually until the child reaches 16 years of age;.
- B. Home schooled students do not have the right to participate in extra curricular activities, athletic teams or academic or curricular programs;
- C. Home schooled students are not entitled to a high school diploma;
- D. If a home schooled student enters or re-enters the district public schools, the district may determine, based on the child's level of academic achievement, appropriate placement.

Disruptive/Disaffected Children

The board of education recognizes that the active engagement of each student is a primary requisite for sound teaching and learning to take place. When a child is unable to benefit from the educational program because he/she is either disruptive or disaffected, then the educational goals of the district for that child will not be realized and the efforts of other students may be impeded.

In an effort to optimize the educational experience for each child, the superintendent shall develop procedures to identify and work with disruptive/disaffected students.

When it is determined by the child study team that a disruptive/disaffected student is not classifiable, the board shall consider some other program as an alternative to regular classroom attendance. When the district does not have a suitable alternative program available, the superintendent shall recommend to the board placement in a program of another district, or home instruction.

In accordance with state law and board policy, disruptive students whose continuing attendance interrupts the educational program and/or threatens harm to themselves and others may be suspended and considered for expulsion (see policy 5114).

Removal for Weapons Offenses or Assault

Any student who is convicted or found to be delinquent for the following offenses shall be immediately

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removed by the principal from the district's regular education program for a period of not less than one calendar year and placed in an alternative education school or program pending a hearing before the board of education to remove the student:

- A. Possessing a firearm on any school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function; or
- B. Committing a crime while possessing a firearm.

The superintendent shall determine at the end of the year whether the student is to return to the district's regular education program, in accordance with procedures established by the Commissioner of Education.

Any student who assaults a student, teacher, administrator, board member, or other district employee with a weapon other than a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function must be immediately removed from the school's regular education program and placed in an alternative school or program, pending a hearing before the board. The superintendent shall determine when the child shall return to the regular education program.

Potential Dropouts

While statute requires attendance of each student only until 16 years of age, it is in the best interests of both students and the community that they complete the educational program that will equip them with skills and increase their chances for a successful and fulfilling life beyond the schools.

The board directs that whenever a student wishes to withdraw, or has been identified as a potential withdrawal, effort should be made to determine the underlying reason and the resources of the district should be used to assist the student in reaching his/her career goals. No student under the age of 18 will be permitted to withdraw without the written consent of a parent/guardian.

The superintendent shall develop procedures for withdrawal from school that:

- A. Make counseling services available to any student who wishes to withdraw;
- B. Make every effort to satisfy the student's future educational needs;
- C. Help the student define his/her own educational life goals and help plan the realization of those goals;
- D. Inform the student of the high school equivalency program;
- E. Point out to the student the opportunities available in the armed forces.

To meet the needs of disruptive or disaffected youth or students who have not been successful in traditional learning environments, the board, upon approval of the state department of education, shall implement a plan for the establishment of an alternative middle and high school; as well as, a mechanism to identify students requiring placement.

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Revised:	August 9, 2005
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Readopted:	

Key Words

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (continued)

Alternative Educational Programs, Home Schooling, Dropouts, Disaffected Students, At-risk Students

Legal References:	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Discipline of students
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-2.2	
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:38-1, -25	Attendance at school free of charge ...
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:54-20	Powers of board (county vocational schools)
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-5.1	Graduation requirements
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-5.2	High school diplomas
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:14-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Special Education
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-5.5	Removal of students from general education for firearms offense
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-5.6	Removal of students from general education for assaults with weapons
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-9.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Alternative Education Programs
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-10.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Home or Out-of-School Instruction for General Education Students
	<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:32-13.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Student Behavior
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-13.2	

State v. Vaughn, 44 N.J. 142, 1965State v. Massa, 95 N.J. Super. 382, 196720 USCA Section 8921 Gun Free Schools Act**Possible**

Cross References:	*5113	Absences and excuses
	*5114	Suspension and expulsion
	5119	Transfers
	*5131	Conduct/discipline
	*5131.7	Weapons and dangerous instruments
	*5134	Married/pregnant students
	*6142.2	English as a second language; bilingual programs
	*6142.12	Career education
	*6164.2	Guidance services
	*6164.4	Child study team
	*6171.4	Special education
	*6173	Home instruction

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