

POLICY

Board of Education Bernards Township

File Code: M 5550
DISAFFECTED/DISRUPTIVE PUPILS

The Bernards Township School District is committed to developing each student's learning potential to the fullest extent possible. The Board of Education believes that the pupils of this District are entitled to an education free from undue disruption. The school system recognizes that a single system of education and one approach to learning is not appropriate for all students. The District wishes to serve students whose performance is hindered by disaffection from school. However, pupils who willfully disrupt the educational program shall be subject to the discipline, procedures of this District. The Board will make reasonable efforts to identify, remediate the cause of a chronically disruptive pupil's unacceptable behavior, and serve disaffected and disruptive students' needs.

A disaffected student may be a student with difficulty functioning properly within a traditional school program; a student of average or above average intelligence and ability who achieves below his or her potential; a student who is unable to establish and achieve short-term and long-term goals; a student with a pattern of behavior problems; a student who lacks interest, motivation, direction, and problem-solving skills; or a student who has very low self-esteem. The Board of Education recognizes that factors unrelated to school often impinge on the student's ability to learn and make the learning process of secondary importance to that individual.

Disruptive pupils may be appropriately disciplined. A pupil who continually and willfully disobeys persons in authority and violates school rules shall be provided with counseling services to explore the cause of his or her unacceptable conduct, assess his or her educational needs and, if appropriate, plan an instructional program to meet those needs.

The Board of Education recognizes that the disaffected/disruptive student may be helped by focused counseling, as well as ongoing intervention and support to meet with success in an academic program. The delivery of these services will focus on student accountability for academic performance.

The Superintendent shall report regularly to the Board the incidence of acts of violence and vandalism in the School District and shall prepare a remedial plan whenever appropriate.

The Superintendent is directed to develop a program which identifies and provides ongoing support to disaffected students through focused counseling and through reasonable intervention.

LEGAL: N.J.A.C. 6:8-4.3(a)3vii
N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46 et seq.: 18A:37-1 et seq.

ADOPTED: July 30, 2001
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