

# POLICY

## Board of Education Bernards Township

File Code: 9321

### FINGERPRINTING and/or DNA SAMPLING of PUPILS

The Board of Education recognizes the potential advantage to both parents and law enforcement agencies of a means of identifying children who have become lost or been abducted. Accordingly, the Board will cooperate with the Sheriff of Somerset County and the Bernards Township Police Department in the voluntary fingerprinting and/or DNA sampling of District children. Children eligible for the fingerprinting and/or DNA sampling program include all pupils enrolled in Kindergarten through twelfth grade in this District. N.J.S.A. 18A:38-29.

The Board will make school facilities available for the fingerprinting and/or DNA sampling of children by law enforcement officers and will provide personnel to assist in the process. If any costs are incurred by the District in this process, a fee of one dollar will be charged for each child fingerprinted and/or those who have had DNA sampling to defray the actual costs.

The Board directs the Superintendent to give notice, at least two weeks in advance, to the parent, guardian, or temporary caretaker of each eligible child of the date on which fingerprinting and/or DNA sampling will be made available. The notice will clearly state that fingerprinting and/or DNA sampling is voluntary.

The Board will permit the fingerprinting and/or DNA sampling of only those children who present the written consent of their parent, guardian, or temporary caretaker. An adult pupil may submit his/her own consent.

An orientation program may be provided for pupils for whom fingerprinting and/or DNA sampling has been requested to assist them in understanding the purpose of fingerprinting and/or DNA sampling.

The program will be conducted by the local law officer.

Fingerprint and/or DNA sampling records shall be given to the parent, guardian, or temporary caretaker of the child fingerprinted and/or has had DNA sampling or the adult pupil.

No record of fingerprints and/or DNA sampling shall be retained by the Board of Education and no record shall be made or retained to identify those children who were fingerprinted and/or those who have had DNA sampling or of those who declined to be fingerprinted and/or have DNA sampling.

The Board will annually make the fingerprinting and/or DNA sampling service available for newly eligible children.

LEGAL: N.J.S.A. 18A:38-29 et seq

**ADOPTED:** November 28, 2005