POLICY

Board of Education
Bernards Township **File Code: M 9322**

DRUG FREE SCHOOL ZONES

The Board of Education is committed to providing the children of this district with a school environment conducive to learning, free of drugs and drug trafficking. To that end the Board will cooperate with law enforcement agencies in accordance with law and rules of the State Board of Education.

No law enforcement operation, program, or activity shall be permitted to interfere with educational goals and prerogatives; educational objectives must take precedence over traditional law enforcement objectives.

The Board appoints the Business Administrator to serve as liaison officer to the Bernards Township Police Department and the Somerset County Prosecutor in the matter of providing drug free school zones.

The Board may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Bernards Township Police Department or other law enforcement agency of the State. This Memorandum of Agreement will identify the roles and responsibilities of school employees and law enforcement officers in planning and conducting law enforcement activities occurring on school property. Any such Memorandum will be reviewed periodically and revised by the Board as necessary to comply with the law and meet the changing needs of our School District. The Memorandum of Agreement shall be consistent with the School Zone Enforcement Code (N.J.A.C. 6:3-6.1-6.6), Statewide Action Plan for Narcotics Enforcement and the Attorney General's Executive Directive 1988-1.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in conducting such undercover operations as may be necessary to identify and apprehend persons engaged in the illegal distribution of controlled dangerous substances on school premises. An undercover operation may be initiated at the request of the law enforcement agency or the Superintendent and will be planned and conducted in such a manner so as to minimize the interruption to the educational program. The Superintendent is not obliged to reveal to the Board or to Board members individually the existence of any undercover operation. At the completion of an undercover operation in a school, and after notifying the appropriate law enforcement authority, the Superintendent shall report to the Board regarding the operation.

The Superintendent shall plan and implement such inservice training programs as may be required to instruct school employees in the Board's policy and procedures on this subject.

To implement this policy with the Somerset County Prosecutor, a Memorandum of Agreement shall be approved annually and shall include:

1. The roles and responsibilities of the liaison officer;

2. Staff cooperation with arrests made by law enforcement officers;

3. Searches on school premises;

4. Interviews of pupils suspected of possessing, using, or distributing a controlled dangerous substance;

5. The planning and conduct of undercover operations;

6. The handling of drugs and drug paraphernalia;

7. Notification of law enforcement authorities of suspected violations of the drug abuse laws;

8. Requesting uniformed police at extra-curricular events;

9. Notification of parents;

10. The resolution of disputes concerning law enforcement activities occurring on school property; and

11. Confidentiality.

The Board will annually review and assess the effectiveness of this policy and the procedures set forth in implementing administrative regulations. The annual review may be conducted in consultation with the County Superintendent, the County Prosecutor, and members of the community.

The policy, procedures, and the Memorandum of Agreement on drug free school zones will be available to all school employees, pupils, and parents.

LEGAL: N.J.S.A. 2C:29-1 et seq.; 2C:35-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6:3-6

ADOPTED: June 24, 2002