

POLICY

Board of Education Bernards Township

File Code: M 8601

PUPIL SUPERVISION AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL

GRADES K - 5

The Board of Education adopts this Pupil Supervision After School Dismissal Policy as a result of the New Jersey Supreme Court's decision in *Joseph Jerkins, an infant by his Guardian Ad Litem, Charles Jerkins; Charles Jerkins and Toni Jerkins, individually, v. Soweto Anderson; Kemba N. Anderson; John Does 1-10 (fictitious individuals) and ABC Corporations 1-10 (fictitious entities), and Board of Education of Pleasantville Public Schools and Rosemay Clarke*.

The New Jersey Supreme Court, in *Jerkins*, indicated dangers exist for younger pupils at dismissal as children are susceptible to numerous risks, including negligent conduct, when leaving school property. Because of these risks, the Board of Education adopts and requires the implementation of Policy 8601 for the supervision of younger pupils after dismissal. The supervision provisions of Policy Guide 8601 are applicable to parents or legal guardians of pupils attending district-operated schools or programs in grades k to 5 who are not eligible for district-provided transportation after dismissal or are eligible and elect not to use district-provided transportation after dismissal.

Each K –5 Principal or program administrator will develop and implement a written Pupil Dismissal Plan for their school building or program location. This Plan shall include the school building's or program's supervision procedures for pupils at the end of the school day. The Plan shall be based on the school's or program's ability to provide supervision, the accessibility for the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to the facility, transportation methods, after care programs, and other considerations unique to the school building, its operations and its location. The school's or program's plan will have as its central element a Dismissal Schedule/Pattern Form that all parents must complete and submit to the school. Any deviation from the Dismissal Schedule/Pattern Form must be communicated to the school office and child's teacher by the parent in writing and it must include any information necessary for a secure dismissal.

The required elements for each school's Dismissal Plan and Dismissal Schedule/Pattern form are included in the procedure of the this policy. It is the responsibility of the building principal to ensure that the Dismissal Plan and the Dismissal/Schedule Pattern Form include the requirements of the procedure.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pupil attending a district operated school or program in grades K to 5 who are not satisfied with the terms of the Dismissal Plan and/or the Dismissal Schedule/Pattern form may request a meeting with the principal to obtain a Request for Supervision at Dismissal From School Form.

Only those parents or legal guardians requesting the school or program not release their child(ren) to walk home after school dismissal unless the child(ren) is released to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or designated escort need to meet with the principal and complete the Request for Supervision at Dismissal From School Form.

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The school will provide parent(s) or legal guardian(s) information regarding any supervised after-school services, if any, that may be available to pupils at the school's facilities after formal school dismissal.

The school shall provide to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) in the beginning of the school year, the Dismissal Plan, the school's calendar to include the starting and dismissal times for full session, half-session, and early dismissal days due to weather or other emergencies. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pupil attending a district operated school or program in grades K to 5 are required to complete the Dismissal/Schedule Pattern Form and sign that they have reviewed the school calendar and are aware of all early dismissals and their times for the school. In addition, any changes to the school's calendar made during the school year shall also be provided to parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

This policy shall be published in pupil/school handbooks beginning September 2010.

GRADES 6 –12

Each 6 –12 Principal or program administrator will develop and implement a written Pupil Dismissal Plan for their school building or program location. This Plan shall include the school building's or program's supervision procedures for pupils at the end of the school day. The Plan shall be based on the school's or program's ability to provide supervision, the accessibility for the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to the facility, transportation methods, after care programs, and other considerations unique to the school building, its operations and its location.

For grades 6 – 12 each school shall provide to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) in the beginning of the school year, the Dismissal Plan, the school's calendar to include the starting and dismissal times for full session, half-session, and early dismissal days due to weather or other emergencies.

This policy shall be published in pupil/school handbooks beginning September 2010.

ADOPTED: January 25, 2010