

WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Westfield, New Jersey 07090

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6440 COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

The Board of Education recognizes that centralized, cooperative purchasing may maximize the value received for each dollar spent. The Board of Education is encouraged to seek savings that may accrue to the school district by means of joint agreements for the purchase of goods or services with the governing body of any municipality or county.

For the purpose of this policy, a cooperative pricing system means a purchasing system in which the lead agency advertises for bids, awards a master contract to the vendor providing for its own quantities and the estimated quantities submitted by the individual registered members..

For the purpose of this Policy, “cooperative purchasing system” means a cooperative pricing system, joint purchasing system, commodity resale system, county cooperative contract purchasing system, or regional cooperative pricing system which has been approved and registered subject to N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.

For the purpose of this Policy, “electronic data processing” means the storage, retrieval, combination, or collation of items of information by means of electronic equipment involving the translation of words, numbers, and other symbolic elements into electrical impulses or currents.

For the purpose of this policy, a joint purchasing system means a cooperative purchasing system in which the lead agency serves as the purchasing agent for the membership of the system with all of the duties and responsibilities attendant. The lead agency advertises for bids and awards a single contract to a vendor providing for the payment to the contractor for its own needs and for the needs of the participating registered members of the system. The only contractual relationship is between the lead agency and the vendor. For the purpose of this Policy, “lead agency” means the contracting unit which is responsible for the management of the cooperative purchasing system.

For the purpose of this Policy, “registered members” means Boards of Education who have been approved by the Director of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for participation in the cooperative purchasing system.

When the lead agency is a Board of Education or Educational Service Commission and the entire membership of the cooperative purchasing system established and properly registered with the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs are Boards of Education, the provision and performance of goods or services shall be conducted pursuant to the Public Schools Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11 et seq.)

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to negotiate such joint agreements for goods and services which the Board may determine to be required and which the Board may otherwise lawfully purchase for itself with such approved contracting units as may be appropriate in accordance with State law, the policies of this Board, and the dictates of sound purchasing procedures.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-12, a cooperative or joint purchase agreement (s) shall be entered into by resolution adopted by each participating Board of Education, municipality, or county, and shall set forth the categories of goods or services to be provided or performed the manner of advertising for bids and the awarding of contracts; the method of payment by each participating Board of Education, municipality or county, and other matters deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of the agreement. Agreements for cooperative and joint purchasing will be subject to all bidding requirements imposed by law. Purchases made through the State Treasury Department may be made without bid.

Each participant's share of expenditures for purchases under any such agreement shall be appropriated and paid in the manner set forth in the agreement and in the manner as for other expenses of the participant.

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-14.2, the Board may by contract or lease provide electronic data processing services for the Board of Education of another school district; and may undertake with such other Board, the joint operation of electronic data processing of their official records and other information relative to their official activities, services and responsibilities. The records and other information originating with any Board participating in such contract or lease may be combined, compiled, and conjoined with the records and other information of any and all participating local units for the purposes of such electronic data processing; and any provisions of law requiring such records to be kept confidential or to be retained by any Board or any officer or agency thereof shall be deemed to be isolated thereby.

A contract or lease to provide electronic data processing services shall set forth the charge for all services provided, or in the case of a joint undertaking the proportion of the cost each party thereto shall assume and specify all the details of the management of the joint undertaking, and any other matters that may be deemed necessary for insertion therein, and may be amended from time to time by the contracting parties in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-14.3.

For the purpose of carrying into execution a contract or lease for a joint enterprise under N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-14.4 any party to such contract may act as agent for any or all parties in acquiring, by lease, purchase or otherwise, any property, facilities or services, in appointing such officers and employees as may be necessary and directing its activities, to the same extent as a Board of Education is authorized to do separately.

In the event that any controversy or dispute shall arise among the parties (except a municipality or county) to any such contract , the same shall be referred to the Executive County Superintendent of the county in which the districts are situated for determination and the determination shall be binding, subject to appeal to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to law. In the event the districts are in more than one county, the controversy or dispute shall be referred to the Executive County Superintendents of the counties for joint determination, and if they shall be unable to agree upon a joint determination within thirty days, the controversy or dispute shall be referred to the Commissioner of Education for determination.

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10-14 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 5:34-7
N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-21.5

Approved: March 21, 2000
Citation Revision: October 1, 2007
Reviewed: September 17, 2018
First Reading: December 8, 2020
Second Reading:

6470.01 ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER
AND CLAIMANT CERTIFICATION

The Board of Education permits the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to use standard electronic funds transfer (EFT) technologies for EFTs for payment of claims pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq. and 5:31-4.1, implementing N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16.5.

“Electronic funds transfer” for the purpose of Policy and Regulation 6470.01 means any approved method of transferring moneys permitted by N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq. that does not involve the physical presentation of a paper check, draft, or similar paper instrument including, but not limited to, wire transfers, e-checks, automated clearing house (ACH) transfers, and transactions initiated by phone or fax.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16.5.b.(1), the Board of Education authorizes the use of only the forms of standard EFT technologies that are approved to be used by a Board of Education for EFTs for payment of claims. A Board of Education may not utilize procurement cards, charge cards, charge accounts, or any payment services such as PayPal or Venmo.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16.5.b.(2), the Board designates the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary as being responsible for the oversight and administration of the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16.5, N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq.; N.J.A.C. 5:31-4.1, and Policy and Regulation 6470.01.

The Board of Education will only initiate and approve electronic funds in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq. Standard EFT technologies shall incorporate, at a minimum, the features and safeguards outlined in N.J.A.C.5:30-9A.4(a). The Board will only utilize standard EFT technologies upon instituting, at a minimum, the fiscal and operational controls outlined in N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.4(b).

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall initiate a claim for payment by presenting a claim that has been approved by the Board, to be paid using an EFT technology. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall submit the claim for payment with all supporting documentation to the Superintendent of Schools or a designee who is not under the direct supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who shall review the claim for payment and authorize, in writing, the EFT claim using an EFT method.

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The Board of Education shall annually approve the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary as the person authorized to initiate a claim for payment and the Superintendent of Schools or a designee not under the direct supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary as the person responsible to review a claim for payment presented by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and authorize payment using an approved EFT method.

On no less than a weekly basis, activity reports on all transactions utilizing standard EFT technologies shall be reviewed by an individual designated and approved by the Board that is not under the direct supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and is not empowered to initiate or authorize EFTs.

Claimant certification for a Board of Education shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:19-3 and rules promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Education.

Providers of ACH and wire transfer services must be financial institutions chartered by a State or Federal agency, with the further requirement that these financial institutions providing ACH and wire transfer services be covered under the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act (GUDPA), N.J.S.A. 17:9-41 et seq.

EFTs through ACH must utilize Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) technology, which provide transaction related details including invoice numbers, pay dates, and other identifying information as appropriate for each transaction. The Board must approve an ACH Origination Agreement with the financial institution(s).

N.J.S.A. 18A:19-3
N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16.5
N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq.

First Reading: December 8, 2020
Second Reading:
Adopted:

R 6470.01 ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER AND
CLAIMANT CERTIFICATION

A. Definitions – N.J.S.A. 40A:5-2 and N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.2

For the purpose of Policy and Regulation 6470.01:

"Automated clearing house (ACH) transfer" means an electronic funds transfer initiated by the Board of Education authorizing a banking institution to push funds from the Board of Education bank account(s) into a vendor or claimant's bank account, executed through the ACH electronic clearing and settlement system used for financial transactions.

"Board of Education" means a Board of Education as defined by the "Public School Contracts Law," N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.

"Charge account" or "charge card" means an account, linked to a credit card issued by a specific vendor to which goods and services may be charged on credit that must be paid when a statement is issued.

"Check" means the instrument by which moneys of the Board of Education are disbursed.

"Chief Executive Officer" means the Superintendent of Schools.

"Chief Financial Officer" means the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

"Claimant certification" or "vendor certification" means verification of claims pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:19-3.

"Disbursement" means any payment of moneys, including any transfer of funds, by any means.

"Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)" means technology that provides transaction related details, including invoice number(s), pay dates, and other identifying information as appropriate for each transaction.

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"Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)" means any approved method of transferring moneys permitted by N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq. that does not involve the physical presentation of a paper check, draft, or similar paper instrument including, but not limited to, wire transfers, e-checks, automated clearing house (ACH) transfers, and transactions initiated by phone or fax.

"Electronic Funds Transfer and Indemnification Agreement" means a signed legally binding indemnification agreement renewed on an annual basis between a Board of Education and a banking institution authorized to conduct business in New Jersey, which authorizes that institution to access bank accounts for the purpose of conducting EFTs through the ACH operating system.

"Governing body" means the Board of Education.

"Internal controls" means fiscal and operational controls that ensure safe and proper use of a standard EFT system and mitigate the potential for fraud and abuse. For purpose of N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq., internal controls shall include technological safeguards and cyber security practices, as well as processes affected by the governing body, management, and other personnel establishing fiscal and operational controls that reduce exposure to risk of misappropriation.

"Local Unit" means any county, municipality, special district, or any public body corporate and politic created or established under any law of this State by or on behalf of any one or more counties or municipalities, or any board, commission, department, or agency of any of the foregoing having custody of funds, but shall not include a school district.

"National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) file" means a file, formatted to NACHA specifications, which contains instructions for transferring funds between accounts.

"Payment documentation" means such documentation, including evidence of approvals and certifications, as is required by N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16.b, 40A:5-17, and 18A:19.1 et seq., and N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq. prior to the legal paying out of moneys.

"Procurement card" or "P-card" means an account or physical card that represents an account governed by characteristics specific to a procurement card. These characteristics include limits of time, amount, access, and purchase category controlled by the local unit, local authority, or county college in accordance with an

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agreement with an issuer. While such cards may have the appearance of a credit card, such as Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover, such general-purpose cards do not feature the controls that procurement cards have and as such are not permitted under N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq. A "Procurement card" or "P-card" may not be used by a Board of Education.

"Reconciliation of activity" means the process used to determine that all transactions utilizing standard EFT technologies are accurate, authorized, and allocable to encumbered appropriations.

"Standard electronic funds transfer technologies" means technologies that facilitate the transfer of funds, other than a transaction originated by check, draft, or similar paper instrument, initiated by means such as, but not limited to, an electronic terminal, telephone, computer, or magnetic tape for the purpose of ordering, instructing, or authorizing a financial institution to debit or credit an account, and incorporate, at a minimum, internal controls set forth in rules promulgated by the Local Finance Board. No general purpose credit or debit card shall be considered a standard EFT technology.

"Supervisory review" means the process performed by an individual in a supervisory capacity to confirm the propriety and accuracy of standard EFT technologies use initiated by subordinates.

"Transaction" means any activity that may result in demand for payment.

"Warrant" means the draft or check of any Board of Education used in warranting disbursement of moneys and shall, in every instance, be evidenced by the issuance of a check of the Board of Education. In no instance shall it be necessary for the Board of Education to refer to, or issue, a check separate and distinct from the warrant.

- B. Authorization to Use Standard Electronic Funds Transfer Technologies for Electronic Funds Transfers – N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.3
1. The Board of Education adopts Policy and Regulation 6470.01 to permit the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to use only the forms of standard EFT technologies that are approved for New Jersey Boards of Education for EFTs for payment of claims pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq. and 5:31-4.1, implementing N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16.5.

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- a. A Board of Education may not utilize procurement cards, charge cards, charge accounts, or any payment services such as PayPal or Venmo.
 2. N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq. does not authorize a Board of Education to exceed the maximum bid thresholds or other limits set forth in the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.
 3. Providers of ACH and wire transfer services are to be financial institutions chartered by Federal or State authority. ACH and wire transfer services must be provided by a financial institution covered by the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act (GUDPA), N.J.S.A. 17:9-41 et seq.
- C. Standard Electronic Funds Transfer Technologies; Internal Controls and Conditions for Use – N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.4
1. The Board of Education will only initiate and approve electronic funds in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq. Standard EFT technologies shall incorporate, at minimum, the following features and safeguards:
 - a. The ability to designate specific individuals able to initiate disbursements, barring those not authorized to initiate disbursements from doing so.
 - (1) The Board of Education designates and approves the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to be responsible to initiate a claim for payment using an EFT method that has been duly approved in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1 et seq. and Policy and Regulation 6470.01.
 - (2) Each claim for payment approved or ratified by the Board shall indicate any payment made using an EFT technology, the type of EFT technology that will or has been utilized in paying the claim, along with a reference that permits tracking.
 - b. The ability to designate individuals who may authorize disbursement and segregate initiation and authorization functions. Password or other security controls shall be in place to restrict access based on an individual's authorized role.

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- (1) The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall initiate a claim for payment by presenting a claim that has been approved by the Board, to be paid using an EFT technology. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall submit the claim for payment with all supporting documentation to the Superintendent of Schools or a designee who is not under the direct supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

- (2) The Superintendent of Schools or a designee who is not under the direct supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall review the claim for payment and authorize, in writing, the EFT claim that was initiated by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary before the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary pays the claim using an EFT method.
 - (a) The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will not pay a claim using an EFT method without written authorization from the Superintendent of Schools or the designee.

- (3) The Board of Education shall annually approve the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary as the person responsible to initiate a claim for payment and the Superintendent of Schools or the designee not under the direct supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary as the person responsible to review a claim for payment presented by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and authorize the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to make the payment using an EFT method.

- (4) The Superintendent of Schools or the designee shall ensure passwords and security codes are in place to restrict access based on an individual's role.

- c. The ability to confirm receipt of payment by vendor.
 - (1) The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall receive confirmation from the vendor an EFT payment has been received by the vendor. Documentation supporting receipt of an EFT payment received by a vendor shall be included with the claim's supporting documentation.

- d. The ability to bar automatic debits from Board of Education accounts.
 - (1) The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall require all banking institutions approved by the Board of Education prohibit any automatic debits from any Board of Education bank account as each individual disbursement to a vendor must be preceded by instructions submitted to the bank.

- e. The ability for appropriate officials to view transaction history, generate activity reports, and conduct supervisory reviews of all transactions.
 - (1) On no less than a weekly basis, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall prepare an Activity Report on all EFT-based transactions.

 - (2) All Activity Reports prepared by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be submitted and reviewed by an employee or non-employee (i.e. school auditor, accountant, Board President, etc.) approved annually by the Board of Education who is not under the direction of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and who is not empowered to authorize EFT transactions.

 - (3) The Activity Report shall include, but not be limited to:
 - (a) The name of the payee;

 - (b) The Board approval date approving the payment of the claim;

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- (c) The fund and account the payment is being paid from;
 - (d) The technology utilized in each EFT transaction; and
 - (e) The date of payment.
 - (4) A copy of all Activity Reports shall be provided to the Board of Education at the first regular monthly Board meeting following any EFT transactions.
 - (5) All EFT Activity Reports and evidence of the review by the employee or non-employee (i.e. school auditor, accountant, etc.) designated and approved annually by the Board of Education who is not under the direction of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and who is not empowered to authorize EFT-based transactions are to be maintained and available for audit by the Board of Education's independent auditor.
 - (6) The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee shall perform a monthly reconciliation of the reviewed/approved weekly EFT Activity Reports of the EFT transactions appearing on bank statements and in the accounting records (i.e. general ledger, bank reconciliations, list of bills approved by Board, etc.).
 - (a) Evidence to support the performance of this monthly review must be maintained by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and available for audit by the Board of Education's independent auditor.
- f. The ability to back-up transaction data and store such data offline.
 - (1) The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall ensure all EFT transaction data is backed-up and stored offline.
 - (a) However, any ACH file that is in plain text format must not be stored on a Board of Education's local computer past the time the file is transmitted to the bank.

- g. Measures to mitigate risk of duplicate payment.
 - (1) The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall ensure an EFT payment is not duplicated by any other means.
 - (2) More than one EFT payment to the same vendor ratified or approved for payment by the Board of Education will be reviewed by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary prior to payment to ensure there is no duplicate or multiple payments for the same goods or services.

- h. The creation and maintenance of an audit trail, such that transaction history, including demands for payment and payment initiation, authorization, and confirmation, can be independently tracked and detailed through the use of an EDI or functional equivalent.
 - (1) The Board of Education's EDI or functional equivalent will have the ability to create and maintain the required audit trail.

- i. The following cyber security best practice framework shall be followed:
 - (1) Any system supporting a standard EFT shall:
 - (a) Be hosted on dedicated servers or in a FedRAMP Moderate Impact Level Authorized Cloud. When using cloud services, the vendor shall check provider credentials and contracts;
 - (b) Encrypt stored and transmitted financial information and personal identification information;
 - (c) Maintain only critical personal identification information. Social Security numbers shall not be utilized as identification numbers for system purposes;
 - (d) Employ a resilient password policy;
 - (e) Undergo regular and stress testing;

- (f) Have regular security updates on all software and devices carried out;
 - (g) Have back-up plans, information disposal, and disaster recovery procedures created and tested;
 - (h) Undergo regular security risk assessments for detecting compromises, along with regular monitoring for vulnerabilities, with necessary patches and updates being implemented; and
 - (i) Develop a Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan.
 - (2) The managing organization shall:
 - (a) Check provider credentials and contracts when using cloud services;
 - (b) Educate staff in good security measures and perform employee background checks; and
 - (c) Create a computer security incident response team, generally called a CSIRT.
- j. Financial institution providers of standard EFT technologies shall provide annual evidence of satisfactory internal control to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary;
- k. ACH payments shall follow rules set forth by the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) or an equivalent successor banking industry standard. In addition, the following safeguards shall be instituted:
 - (1) All EFTs through the ACH must utilize EDI technology and be subject to an Electronic Funds Transfer and Indemnification Agreement;
 - (2) A user that can generate an ACH file shall neither have upload rights nor access that permits editing of a vendor routing number or vendor account number;

- (3) Each edit to vendor ACH information shall be approved by a separate individual and be logged showing the user editing the data, date stamp, IP address, and the approval of the edit;
 - (4) Any ACH file that is in plain text format shall not be stored on a local computer past the time transmitted to a bank; and
 - (5) If supported by the Board of Education's financial institution(s), said entities shall avail themselves of the ability to recall ACH payments via NACHA file.
2. The Board of Education will only utilize standard EFT technologies upon instituting, at a minimum, the following fiscal and operational controls:
 - a. Policy and Regulation 6470.01 shall be adopted authorizing and governing the use of standard EFT technologies consistent with N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq.;
 - b. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall ensure that the minimum internal controls set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq., along with those internal controls set forth in Policy and Regulation 6470.01 are in place and being adhered to;
 - c. Initiation and authorization roles shall be segregated, and password-restricted.
 - (1) The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be responsible for initiating all EFTs.
 - (2) When the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary initiates an EFT, the Superintendent or a designee not under the direct supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be responsible for authorization of the EFT.
 - (a) The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will not pay a claim using an EFT method without written authorization from the Superintendent of Schools or the designee.

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- (3) The Board of Education may designate and approve a backup officer/staff member in the event the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or Superintendent or a designee not under the direct supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary who is approved to authorize the EFT payment is unavailable.
 - (4) All payment of claims, ordinances, or resolutions enacted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17.b shall, at a minimum, comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.4.
 - (5) N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.4 shall not be interpreted to prevent a Board of Education from requiring, authorizing, and approving more than one officer to authorize an EFT.
- d. No Board of Education shall disburse funds unless the goods and services are certified as having been provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:19-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.1 et seq.
- e. On no less than a weekly basis, Activity Reports on all transactions utilizing standard EFT technologies shall be reviewed by an individual designated and approved by the Board that is not under the direct supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and is not empowered to initiate or authorize EFTs.
 - (1) Reconciliations shall be performed on a monthly basis.
 - (2) All Activity Reports generated by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall be monitored by another individual designated and approved by the Board who is not under the supervision of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.
- f. A user that uploads an ACH file shall check the amounts and recipients against a register displaying ACH payments.

D. Claimant Certification; When Payment Can Be Made Without Claimant Certification
- N.J.A.C. 5:30-9A.6

1. Claimant certification for a Board of Education shall be in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:19-3 and rules promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Education.

E. Automated Clearing House (ACH) Transactions

1. Providers of ACH and wire-transfer services must be financial institutions chartered by a State or Federal agency, with the further requirement that financial institutions providing ACH and wire transfer services be covered under the GUDPA, N.J.S.A. 17:9-41 et seq.
2. ACH payments shall follow rules set forth by the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) or equivalent successor banking industry standard.
3. EFTs through ACH must utilize EDI technology which provides transaction related details including invoice numbers, pay dates, and other identifying information as appropriate for each transaction.
4. The Board of Education must approve an ACH Origination Agreement with the financial institution(s).
5. Users authorized to generate an ACH file shall neither have upload rights nor access permitting editing of a vendor routing number or vendor account number.
6. Each edit to vendor ACH information must be approved by a separate individual and be logged showing the user editing the data, date stamp, IP address, and the approval of the edit.
7. Any user uploading an ACH file shall check the amounts and recipients against a register displaying ACH payments.
8. If supported by the financial institution, the Board of Education shall avail itself of the ability to recall ACH payments via NACHA file.

Adopted:

7440 SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY

The Board of Education believes the buildings and facilities of the school district represent a substantial community investment. The Board directs the development and implementation of a plan for school district security to protect the school community's investment in the school buildings and facilities. The Board will comply with the security measures required in N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5.2 for new school construction and for existing school buildings.

The school district security program will include: maintenance of facilities that are secure against unwelcome intrusion; protection against fire hazards and faulty equipment; and compliance with safe practices in the use of electrical, plumbing, heating, and other school building equipment. The Board directs close cooperation of district officials with law enforcement, fire officials, and other emergency agencies.

The Board shall provide to local law enforcement authorities a copy of the current blueprints and maps for all schools and school grounds within the school district or nonpublic school. In the case of a school building located in a municipality in which there is no municipal police department, a copy of the blueprints and maps shall be provided to an entity designated by the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. The Board shall provide revised copies to the applicable law enforcement authorities or designated entities any time that there is a change to the blueprints or maps.

Each public elementary and secondary school building shall be equipped with at least one panic alarm for use in a school security emergency pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:41-10 through 13.

The Superintendent of Schools shall designate a school administrator, or a school employee with expertise in school safety and security, as a School Safety Specialist for the district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3. The School Safety Specialist shall be required to acquire a New Jersey Department of Education School Safety Specialist certification in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.2. The School Safety Specialist shall also serve as the school district's liaison with local law enforcement and national, State, and community agencies and organizations in matters of school safety and security.

Access to school buildings and grounds outside the hours school is in session shall be limited to personnel whose employment requires their presence in the facility. An adequate key control system will be established to limit building access to authorized personnel and guard against the potential of intrusion by unauthorized persons who have obtained access improperly.

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In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5.2.b.(15), propping open doors to buildings on school grounds is strictly prohibited and students and staff shall not open a door for any individual. All persons seeking entry into the main building shall be directed to the main entrance.

Building records and funds shall be kept in a safe place and secured as appropriate and necessary.

Protective devices designed to be used as safeguards against illegal entry and vandalism may be installed when appropriate. The Board may approve the employment of school resource officers, school security officers, and/or law enforcement officers in situations in which special risks are involved.

The school district shall annually conduct a school safety audit for each school building in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-14.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5.2; 18A:17-43.1; 18A:17-43.2; 18A:17-43.3;
18A:41-7.1; 18A:41-10; 18A:41-11; 18A:41-12; 18A:41-13; 18A:41-14
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3; 6A:26-1.2

First Reading: October 30, 2018
Approved: December 4, 2018
Revised: November 12, 2019
First Reading: December 8, 2020
Second Reading:

R 7440 SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY

A. Definitions

“Access” means authorized access to a school building or school grounds through the use of a Board-approved key control system.

“Key control system” means the use of a key, card, code, or any other means to disengage a locking mechanism to provide entry to a school building or school grounds.

“Panic alarm” means a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation requiring a response from law enforcement.

“School buildings” and “school grounds” means and includes land, portions of land, structures, buildings, and vehicles, when used for the provision of academic or extracurricular programs sponsored by the district or community provider and structures that support these buildings, such as school wastewater treatment facilities, generating facilities, and other central service facilities including, but not limited to, kitchens and maintenance shops. “School buildings” and “school grounds” also includes athletic stadiums; swimming pools; any associated structures or related equipment tied to such facilities including, but not limited to, grandstands; night field lights; greenhouses; garages; facilities used for non-instructional or non-educational purposes; and any structure, building, or facility used solely for school administration. “School buildings” and “school grounds” also includes other facilities such as playgrounds; and other recreational places owned by local municipalities, private entities, or other individuals during those times when the school district has exclusive use of a portion of such land in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3 and 6A:26-1.2.

B. Access to School Buildings and School Grounds

1. Access to school buildings and grounds during the school day will be permitted to all students enrolled in the school, all authorized school staff members, and visitors pursuant to Policy and Regulation 9150.
2. Access to school buildings and grounds before and after the school day will be permitted to:
 - a. Members of the Board of Education;
 - b. Administrative and supervisory staff members, teaching staff members, and support staff members assigned to a school building or grounds in the performance of their duties;

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- c. Other school staff members in the performance of their professional responsibilities;
 - d. Students involved in interscholastic athletics, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities, and authorized spectators;
 - e. Members of organizations granted the use of school premises pursuant to Policy and Regulation 7510; approval does not include the use of rooms or spaces not expressly requested.
 - f. Police officers, fire fighters, health inspectors, and other agents of Federal, State, and local government in the performance of their official duties;
 - g. Members of the public present to attend a public Board of Education or public school-related function; and
 - h. Others authorized by the Superintendent or designee and/or by Board Policy.
3. All visitors to a school building during a school day will be required to register their presence in the school and comply with the provisions of Policy and Regulation 9150. The school's registration and sign-in procedures may include the use of a school visitor management system requiring the visitor to present acceptable identification to access the school building.
4. Signs will be conspicuously posted to inform visitors of the requirement to register their presence into the building.
- C. Key Control System for Access to School Buildings and Facilities
- 1. School staff members will be provided access to a school building using the school's key control system as follows:
 - a. Teaching staff members and support staff members will be provided access using the school's key control system to the school building and to other facilities on school grounds to which they require access for the performance of their professional duties.
 - (1) The Building Principal will determine the school staff members who shall be provided access to facilities within the school building and on school grounds.
 - (2) The Superintendent or designee will determine the district administrators, supervisors, and other staff members who shall be provided access to facilities within the school building and on school grounds.

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2. School staff members provided access to a school building or other facilities on school grounds shall be responsible for ensuring their key control system authorization is not shared with another individual without prior approval of the Principal or designee for school staff members, or the Superintendent or designee for district staff members. Staff members are prohibited from permitting their key control system authorization to be used by another person unless prior approval is obtained from the Principal or designee at the building level and Superintendent or designee at the district level or in the event of an emergency.
 3. A staff member's loss of a key, card, or any other device authorizing the staff member access to a school building or a facility on school grounds must be immediately reported to the Principal or Superintendent or designee. The staff member who loses a key, card, or any such access device may be responsible for the replacement cost.
 4. Keys and IDs are the property of the school district and must be surrendered at completion of employment to the Principal or Superintendent.
- D. School Building Panic Alarm or Emergency Mechanisms (N.J.S.A. 18A:41-10 through 13)
1. Each public elementary and secondary school building shall be equipped with at least one panic alarm for use in a school security emergency including, but not limited to, a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation.
 2. The alarm shall be directly linked to local law enforcement authorities or, in the case of a school building located in a municipality in which there is no municipal police department, a location designated by the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police.
 3. The alarm shall be capable of immediately transmitting a signal or message to such authorities outlined in D.2. above upon activation.
 4. The alarm shall not be audible within the school building.
 5. Each panic alarm required under N.J.S.A. 18A:41-11 and Policy and Regulation 7440 shall:
 - a. Adhere to nationally recognized industry standards, including the standards of the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories; and
 - b. Be installed solely by a person licensed to engage in the alarm business in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 45:5A-27.

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6. The school district may equip its elementary and secondary school buildings with an emergency mechanism that is an alternative to a panic alarm if the mechanism is approved by the New Jersey Department of Education.

E. Staff Member Responsibilities

1. Staff members should not bring to school valuable personal items that cannot be in the staff member's personal possession at all times. The Board of Education is not responsible for a staff member's personal possession in the event the item is lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged, or destroyed.
2. Teaching staff members shall close classroom windows and shut and lock classroom doors when leaving at the end of the school day; shut and lock classroom doors during the school day when the room is not going to be in use after their assignment, and report immediately to the Principal or designee any evidence of tampering or theft.
3. Custodians shall, at the end of the workday, conduct a security check of the building to make certain that all windows are closed and all office, classroom, and building doors are shut and locked, except as such doors may be required to be open for persons with access.
4. Office personnel shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the security of all school and district records and documents against unauthorized access, deterioration, and destruction.

F. Pupil's Responsibilities

Pupils should not bring to school valuable personal items. The Board of Education is not responsible for personal possessions, including electronic devices, in the event the item is lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged, or destroyed.

G. School Safety Specialist

1. The Superintendent of Schools shall designate a school administrator as a School Safety Specialist for the district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.3.
2. The School Safety Specialist shall:
 - a. Be responsible for the supervision and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, policies, and procedures in the school district;

- b. Ensure that these policies and procedures are in compliance with State law and regulations; and
 - c. Provide the necessary training and resources to school district staff in matters relating to school safety and security.
3. The School Safety Specialist shall also serve as the school district's liaison with law enforcement and national, State, and community agencies and organizations in matters of school safety and security.
4. The School Safety Specialist shall be required to acquire a New Jersey Department of Education School Safety Specialist Certification in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.2.

H. Summoning Law Enforcement Authorities

1. Law enforcement authorities will be summoned promptly whenever evidence is discovered that indicates: a crime has been committed on school premises or in the course of staff or student transportation to or from school; a break and entry may have occurred on school grounds; a deadly weapon is on school premises; a breach of the peace has occurred on school premises; for any reason required in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Education and Law Enforcement and in accordance with Policy and Regulation 9320; or for any other reason there is concern about the health, safety, and welfare of persons on school grounds or school property.
2. Anytime law enforcement agents are summoned in accordance with H.1 above the Superintendent will be notified as soon as possible.

I. Annual School Safety Audit for Each School Building

1. The district shall annually conduct a school safety audit for each school building using the checklist developed by the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness in collaboration with the Department of Education pursuant to section I.2. below.
 - a. The district shall submit the completed audit to the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and the Department of Education in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-14.a.

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- b. The audits shall be kept confidential and shall not be deemed a public record under N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. or the common law concerning access to public records, but may be utilized for the purpose of allocating any State grants or loans made available for the purpose of school facility safety and security upgrades.
2. The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness in collaboration with the Department of Education shall develop a comprehensive checklist of items to be reviewed and evaluated in the school safety audit(s) conducted by the school district pursuant to Section I.1. above.
 - a. The checklist shall include items to assess the security features and security vulnerabilities of the school district's school buildings and grounds. The checklist shall also include items to assess the emergency notification systems used to facilitate notification to parents and other members of the community in the case of school emergencies.
 - b. The checklist shall be reviewed annually by the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and the Department of Education and updated as appropriate.
3. The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness in collaboration with the Department of Education shall provide technical assistance to school districts to facilitate the completion of the checklists in a uniform manner.

In Effect: December 4, 2018
Revised: November 12, 2019
Revised:

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The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide for the safety and security in each school building in the district. The district will develop and implement written plans and procedures to provide for the protection of health, safety, security, and welfare of the school population; the prevention of, intervention in, response to and recovery from emergency and crisis situations; the establishment and maintenance of a climate of civility; and supportive services for staff, pupils, and their families.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall consult with law enforcement agencies, health and social services provider agencies, emergency management planners, and school and community resources, as appropriate, in the development of the school district's plans, procedures, and mechanisms for school safety and security. The plans, procedures, and mechanisms shall be consistent with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 and the format and content established by the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force, pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-64 et seq., and the Commissioner of Education and shall be reviewed annually, and updated as appropriate. The school district shall designate at least one administrator to serve as the School Safety Specialist for the district.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for the handling of school emergencies that include:

1. A plan for the prompt and safe evacuation of the schools;
2. The practice of school security drills conducted in accordance with law;
3. The conduct of bus evacuation drills in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education;
4. Procedures for safely moving pupils from school property and, if necessary, a plan for the sequestration of pupils in a safe place other than school;
5. The design of a communications system to alert the whole school community when necessary and to notify parents or legal guardians of the evacuation of pupils;
6. The immediate notification of appropriate administrative personnel whenever any employee becomes aware of an emergency or an impending emergency;

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7. Cooperation with local agencies;
8. Instruction of staff members in decision-making and the techniques of handling emergencies;
9. The appointment of a school emergency procedures committee; and
10. The continuing evaluation of the effectiveness of emergency planning in preparing the schools to cope with disaster.

A copy of the school district's school safety and security plan shall be disseminated to all school district employees. New employees shall receive a copy of the school district's safety and security plan, as appropriate, within sixty days of the effective date of their employment. All employees shall be briefed in writing, as appropriate, regarding updates and changes to the school safety and security plan.

The school district shall develop and provide an in-service training program for all school district employees to enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to safety and security concerns, including emergencies and crisis, consistent with the school district's plans, procedures, and mechanisms for school safety and security and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1. New employees shall receive this in-service training, as appropriate, within sixty days of the effective date of their employment. This in-service training program shall be reviewed annually and updated, as appropriate.

The Board shall ensure individuals employed in the district in a substitute capacity are provided with information and training on the district's practices and procedures on school safety and security including instruction on school security drills, evacuation procedures, and emergency response protocols in the district and the school building where the individuals are employed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-7.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1, at least one fire drill and one school security drill will be conducted each month within school hours, including any summer months, which the school is open for instructional programs. A school security drill means an exercise, other than a fire drill, to practice procedures that respond to an emergency situation including, but not limited to, a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, bomb threat, or active shooter situation that is similar in duration to a fire drill. Schools are required to hold a minimum of two active shooter, non-fire evacuation, bomb threat, and lockdown security drills annually. Fire alarm systems shall be initiated only during a fire drill evacuation. Responses made necessary by the unplanned activation of emergency procedures or by any other emergency may not be substituted for a required school security drill.

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The Principal or designee will provide local law enforcement or other emergency responders, as appropriate, with notification at least forty-eight hours prior to holding a school security drill. . A law enforcement officer shall be present at a minimum of one school security drill each school year in order to make recommendations for improvements.

Such drills and in-service training programs shall be conducted in accordance with a building security drill guide and training materials that educate school employees on proper evacuation and lockdown procedures in a variety of emergency situations on school grounds as provided by the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

The school district will be required to annually submit a security drill statement of assurance to the New Jersey Department of Education by June 30 of each school year. Each school in the district will be required to complete a security drill record form as required by the New Jersey Department of Education.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-3

N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1 et seq.; 18A:41-7

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1; 6A:27-11.2

Approved: November 11, 2003

Citation Revision: October 1, 2007

Revised: October 2, 2012

Revised: February 26, 2019

First Reading: December 8, 2020

Second Reading:

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An emergency evacuation plan will be prepared for each school building and facility in accordance with the following rules.

1. Each building principal and facility supervisor will prepare a detailed plan for the quick evacuation of pupils and staff members in the event of an emergency. The plan will include, as a minimum:
 - a. A map or diagram of the school building, including:
 - (1) All offices, classrooms, workshops, labs, gyms, auditoriums, storage places, public rooms, hallways, restrooms, faculty lounges, and the like;
 - (2) All entrances and exits to the building;
 - (3) The exit routes to be followed by pupils and staff members from every location in the building, including alternative routes to be used in the event that an exit is blocked;
 - (4) The locations of emergency equipment, such as fire extinguishers; and
 - (5) The location of fire alarms, main electrical switches, main gas and water valves, and any other utility device.
 - b. A building procedure for the conduct of fire drills;
 - c. A building procedure for a lockdown drill;
 - d. Procedures for the safe evacuation of large assemblies of people in such locations as the auditorium and gymnasium;
 - e. The identification and telephone numbers of the fire and police departments;
 - f. A system by which K-12 parents or legal guardians can be quickly notified of the evacuation of pupils; and
 - g. A location near the school in which evacuated pupils may be kept until they can be removed to their homes and the provisions that will be made for pupils who are kept there.

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2. The evacuation plan will be reviewed and updated annually.
3. A copy of the evacuation plan will be filed with the Superintendent.
4. The evacuation diagram of each building will be prominently displayed in appropriate locations in the building. The regular and alternate evacuation routes appropriate to that room will be prominently displayed in each room in the school.
5. Each staff member assigned to the building is responsible for knowing the evacuation plan. In particular, each teaching staff member must understand the evacuation route to be taken by the pupils assigned to him or her and be prepared to effectuate the plan immediately and under any circumstances.
6. The emergency plan will also include plans for each security procedure required by the State.

The need for orderly and safe evacuation during certain situations is critical to the safety of the occupants of a school building. If such a threat is deemed immediate, credible, and reasonable, the Principal or designee may order a non-fire building evacuation. In the event the Principal or designee believes a threat does not exist or immediate evacuation is not required, the Principal or designee shall review the situation with the Superintendent of Schools, who may consult with local law enforcement officials to review the threat risk.

A. Procedures in the Event it is Determined a Non-Fire Evacuation is Warranted

1. The Principal or designee will immediately order a non-fire evacuation of the school building. The notification process may be the school's fire alarm system, a notice over the school's public address system, or any other method deemed appropriate by the Principal or designee to inform building occupants to evacuate the school building. The evacuation may be an entire or partial building evacuation depending on the circumstances.
2. The Principal or designee will:
 - a. Immediately call local law enforcement officials;
 - b. Immediately call the Superintendent of Schools;

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- c. Ensure any school buses enroute to the school or other vehicles entering the school grounds are redirected to a designated alternative location pending further instructions from law enforcement officials;
 - d. Notify and maintain contact with the Superintendent of Schools regarding the communication to be released to parents, community and media; and
 - e. Allow local enforcement officials to control the scene upon their arrival.
 3. School staff members, upon receiving notice the school needs to be evacuated, will:
 - a. Instruct pupils not to use any electronic communication device until instructed otherwise;
 - b. Close the windows and doors of their vacated rooms and turn off any light or electrical switch;
 - c. Take the pupil roster and the day's attendance;
 - d. Lead their class or the pupils under their supervision upon receiving the evacuation notice to the evacuation area;
 - e. Take attendance when arriving at the evacuation area and report any additional pupils or missing pupils to the Principal or designee;
 - f. Not allow any pupil to re-enter the building, leave the evacuation area, or be dismissed from school unless authorized by the Principal or designee or law enforcement officials; and
 - g. Not speak to the media or permit media to interview any pupil.
- B. Procedures After it is Determined the School Building Can be Reoccupied
 1. The Principal or designee, upon a determination by school and law enforcement officials that the threat or risk is concluded, will direct the reoccupation of the building.

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2. If it is determined the building is not safe to re-enter, the Principal or designee will notify school officials of the situation at the evacuation assembly locations. If it is determined pupils will be released for the day, the Principal or designee, in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools, will coordinate pupil dismissal procedures from the evacuation assembly areas and family notification and reunification protocols.

3. The school district will provide school district staff and other school district crisis response team members to provide counseling and support as needed.

Critical Incident Response Procedures for School Administrators, Faculty and Staff – The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and the New Jersey Department of Education - 2010

In Effect: October 2, 2012
Revised: February 26, 2019
Reviewed: