

POSITIONS AND POLICIES ON EDUCATION

Vandalism/Violence

FILE CODE

5131.5

Vandalism

- A. **The NJSBA believes** that boards of education should adopt vandalism and school security policies. These policies and procedures could include, but not be limited to: seeking the cooperation of law enforcement agencies, the courts, and other related agencies in the development of approaches for reducing and preventing vandalism; instituting loss prevention programs; implementing school security plans; maintaining a uniform system of recording vandalism costs; supporting training of school security personnel; seeking restitution of damages as per N.J.S.A. 18A:37-3; and adopting a long-range approach to vandalism prevention.
- B. **The NJSBA believes** that boards of education should be allowed to offer rewards for the apprehension and conviction of vandals. *[Authority: DA 5/76-CR Vandalism, DA 6/93-SR]*
- C. **The NJSBA believes** that parents of all juveniles, including non-public school students, public school students enrolled in other districts and non-students, should be held liable for all acts of vandalism committed by their children. *[Authority: DA 12/81-3 DA 6/93-SR]*
- D. **The NJSBA believes** that juveniles who are responsible for severe or repeated acts of vandalism or arson should be tried as adult offenders. *[Authority: DA 6/79-22, DA 6/93-SR, DA 5/02-SR, DA 5/07-SR, DA 5/12-SR, DA 5/17-SR]*

School Violence

- A. **The NJSBA believes** that boards of education have a responsibility to ensure that schools are safe havens for learning by taking actions to diminish the potential for violence and bullying in their schools.
- B. **The NJSBA believes** that boards of education should regularly review their policies regarding school violence to ensure that they address methods/strategies for dealing with incidents of violence; require record-keeping of acts of violence in order to make judgments as to the future handling and prevention of violence; specify methods of reporting acts of violence; and provide for the training of staff to handle and prevent of acts of violence in their schools and on their athletic fields.
- C. **The NJSBA believes** that the State Board of Education, the New Jersey State Department of Education, the State legislature, and other agencies should assign a high priority to the issue of school violence, harassment, intimidation and bullying through providing means for local school districts to:
- promote a district-wide attitude of sensitivity in dealing with others;
 - investigate school violence, harassment, intimidation and bullying and promulgate methods of preventing and combating them, including policies and other strategies for prevention during a pending criminal or school investigation of a student;
 - train staff to respond quickly and appropriately to incidents of violence, harassment, intimidation and bullying;
 - provide means for increasing supervision in activities outside the classroom;
 - include topics in the curriculum that address the causes and prevention of violence, harassment, intimidation and bullying; and encourage students, teachers, and others who may be victims of violence, harassment, intimidation and bullying to report such actions to school officials. *[Authority: DA 10/78-CR Violence; DA 6/93-SR; DA 11/99-ER(A); DA 5/10-2]*

- D. **The NJSBA believes** that boards of education should have immediate psychological counseling available for school-age victims and witnesses of assault.
- E. **The NJSBA believes** that boards of education should adopt a crisis management plan for each school that specifies procedures to be followed in the event of a school shooting or other violent incident.
- F. **The NJSBA believes** that the state should fund violence prevention programs that foster partnerships among local institutions, organizations, and individuals most closely involved with young.
- G. **The NJSBA believes** that the state and federal governments should provide funding for local law enforcement activities directed toward youth in schools and in communities.
- H. **The NJSBA believes** that boards of education should work for the establishment of a police liaison program in each school to foster stronger relationships among police, students and staff.
- I. **The NJSBA believes** in the establishment of a coordinating council with representation from the Juvenile Justice Commission, Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of Human Services, Department of Law and Public Safety, Department of Education and other appropriate public members to assess the most successful programs for youth and act as the catalyst to replicate these model programs. *[Authority: DA 11/99-ER(A)]*
- J. **The NJSBA believes** that additional state and federal funding for grants should be made to organizations that operate the most successful youth violence prevention, non-violence promotion, rehabilitation and restorative justice programs identified by the coordinating council.
- K. **The NJSBA believes** that it should maintain close liaison with organizations such as the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, the State Board of Education, the Department of Education, and similar agencies to examine issues related to the causes, prevention, and resolution of issues of violence and vandalism, and to implement appropriate plans of action.
- L. **The NJSBA believes** that the State Board of Education or another appropriate agency should establish and maintain a clearinghouse of information for local districts on the prevention and handling of acts of violence.
- M. **The NJSBA believes** that, in addition to the State Board of Education, the Association should undertake investigations of vandalism and violence issues on its own, when deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors. *[Authority: DA 10/78-CR Violence; DA 6/93-SR; DA 11/99-ER(A), DA 5/02-SR, DA 5/07-SR, DA 5/12-SR, DA 5/17-SR]*

Firearms Laws

- A. **The NJSBA believes** in the vigorous support and the rigid enforcement of federal and state laws pertaining to the sale, possession and/or use of firearms and ammunition.
- B. **The NJSBA further believes** that the federal and state government should be encouraged to enact additional statutes and regulations as determined necessary by the Association to enhance and ensure the safety of all stakeholders in the school environment. *[Authority: DA 5/13-1, DA 5/17-SR]*

Cross References: 1600.1 School/business partnerships
 3530 Insurance management
 4112.2 Certification

5020	Role of parents/guardians
5131	Conduct/discipline
5131.7	Weapons and dangerous instruments
5145.4	Equal Educational Opportunity
6141	Curriculum design/development
6141.1	Experimental/innovative programs

Key Words: vandalism, violence