

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District

50 Court Street

Flemington, NJ 08822

www.frsd.k12.nj.us

Code of Conduct

2021-2022 School Year

This document outlines the policies and expectations set forth by the Flemington-Raritan Board of Education and upheld by the Administration. All policies and expectations herein are applicable to all learning environments.

This document is intended for all students of FRSD and will be applied to all students, in all learning environments, without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability or by any other distinguishing characteristic, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5.

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District Mission Statement

The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District values children.

Together, **WE:**

- Foster social emotional and academic growth in a safe and nurturing environment;
- Respect values and traditions within our families and schools;
- Strive to respond to the needs of our diverse and changing community;
- Develop the curiosity and creativity of critical thinkers to become collaborative problem solvers who meet the challenges of a globally competitive society.

Every Student, Every Day, Every Opportunity

The Flemington-Raritan School District believes that an effective instructional program requires an orderly school environment and that the effectiveness of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of pupils pursuant [Board Policy No. 5600](#) - Student Discipline/Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct Manual is available on the district web site and within the Genesis Parent Portal. Parents are asked to confirm, through the Parent Portal, that they have read and reviewed the information with their child before the start of the school year.

District Goals

As part of the district's five-year Strategic Plan (2018-2023), the following goals provide a framework for decision-making in the district.

Goal 1- Academics/ Curriculum: The district will implement a data driven, multi-year curriculum and professional development plan that increase teachers' instructional skills and ensure every child has access to materials and a curriculum that is aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Goal 2 – Special Services: Review the assessment of the structure, procedure and processes completed by the Superintendent to develop an action plan to address areas of deficit.

Goal 3 – Resource Management: Ensure that fiscal, facility and human resources are allocated to meet district needs.

Goal 4 – Communications and Leadership: Cultivate relationships that build trust and respect with all stakeholders.

School Contact Information

Barley Sheaf Elementary School

Phone: (908) 284-7586

Fax: (908) 285-7587

Copper Hill Elementary School

Phone: (908) 284-7660

Fax: (908) 284-7671

Francis A. Desmares Elementary School

Phone: (908) 284-7540

Fax: (908) 284-7538

Robert Hunter Elementary School

Phone: (908) 284-7620

Fax: (908) 284-7630

Reading-Fleming Intermediate School

Phone: (908) 284-7650

Fax: (908) 284-7518

J. P. Case Middle School

Phone: (908) 284-5100

Fax: (908) 284-5144

Academics

Academic Reporting Timeline

- Kindergarten & Grade 1 receive two reports cards annually (Trimester 2 and 3)
 - Report cards are made available through the Parental Portal in Genesis.
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences are held in the Fall and Spring.

- Grades 2-8 receive three, electronic report cards annually (Trimester 1, 2, and 3)
 - Report cards are made available through the Parental Portal in Genesis.
 - A printed, cumulative report card is provided at the end of Grade 8.
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences are held in the Fall.

Grades K-6 Grading System

Report Card Rubric			
3	2	1	NA
Meeting Learning Standards	Approaching Learning Standards	Not Yet Meeting Learning Standards	Not Assessed At This Time

Grades 7-8 Grading System

A+ = 97.5 & up	B+ = 87.5	C+ = 77.5	D+ = 67.5	F = 64.4 and below
A = 92.5	B = 82.5	C = 72.5	D = 65.5	(I) Incomplete = 0%
A- = 89.5	B- = 79.5	C- = 69.5	D- = 64.5	

Promotion and Retention

“The Board of Education recognizes that each child develops and grows in a unique pattern and that pupils should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their social, physical, and educational needs. Each pupil enrolled in this district shall be moved forward in a continuous program of learning in harmony with his/her own development.

Standards for pupils shall be related to the Common Core Standards and district goals and objectives and to the accomplishments of pupils. A pupil in Flemington-Raritan Schools will be promoted to the next succeeding grade level when he/she has completed the course requirements at the presently assigned grade; has achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade; has demonstrated the proficiencies required for movement into the educational program of the next grade; and has demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade.”

For further information, refer to Board [Policy No. 5410](#).

Attendance

New Jersey State Law requires all students to attend school each day that school is in session. The law allows excused absences only for illness or religious holidays. Parents are requested to help the district comply with the law and are asked not to schedule vacations during the time that school is in session. In order for a student to participate in an after-school activity or evening function, the student must be in attendance during the day. For more information please refer to Board [Policy No. 5210](#).

Parents are required to notify the school in the event of a student absence by calling the school’s main office and following the prompts to the Attendance Line or utilizing the school’s online attendance reporting system. The Attendance Line and online reporting system are available 24-hours a day. It is never too early to notify the school that your child will be absent or arriving late. Please do not leave requests for homework on the attendance line. If your child is not reported absent, a school official will attempt to contact a parent/guardian to determine the reason for the child’s absence.

Upon the child’s return to school, a note must be brought to the homeroom teacher indicating the dates of and reason for the absence. Parents are asked to present a doctor’s note for any absence for illness that lasts three consecutive school days or more. For more information on homework assignments missed due to absences, please refer to the “Homework” section.

Days Absent	Action Taken
10-19	Letter sent home from building Administrator
19-30	2 nd letter sent home from building Administrator Meeting with a building Administrator may be requested
30+	Letter sent home explaining the requirement for the school to file truancy charges and outlining the possibility of retention Student will be retained unless extenuating circumstances exist

Please Note: When a child’s absences become excessive without proper medical documentation, truancy charges can be filed with local police and court system to ensure the student receives appropriate educational services.

Potentially Missing Children

Parents/guardians shall notify the school when a student will be absent. In the event this procedure is not followed by the parent/guardian, the assigned school personnel shall make all reasonable attempts to contact the parent/guardian by telephone.

If no telephone contact can be made and, if deemed necessary, the principal shall investigate.

When and if it is discovered that a child is “missing” and this is corroborated with the parents and guardians, the police shall be notified immediately.

If a student is present in the morning when attendance is taken but absent from school later in the school day, without explanation, the same procedures shall be followed.

Late Arrival/Early Dismissal Procedures

Students arriving late to school should present a note from a parent indicating the reason for being tardy and sign in upon arrival. Parents are requested to escort elementary students to the main office to sign in when arriving late to school.

Students will be dismissed early from school upon written request and must be signed out by a parent or guardian in the main office. Students being dismissed to scheduled after-school activities, are expected to report immediately to their bus or assigned destination.

Excessive tardiness may result in disciplinary action. Three tardies/early dismissals are counted as one absence in computing a student’s attendance record. Parents are requested to schedule their children’s medical/other appointments after school hours.

Student Dismissal Changes

If a child’s dismissal procedure is altered from their daily routine, written parent notification is required at the **beginning of the school day**. This notification should be given to the student’s homeroom teacher and forwarded to the main office. Once the school day begins, emergent changes to a child’s dismissal must be communicated directly to the school’s main office.

Eligibility to Attend Extracurricular Activities

Participation in extracurricular activities is considered a privilege and can be restricted if academic performance declines. As per Board [Policy No. 5200](#), all students must attend school the day of any school-sponsored extracurricular activity in order to participate in that activity.

The following documentation is required for students to participate in Interscholastic Sports at J.P. Case:

- Pre-Participation Sport Physical Evaluation Packet: The physical exam needs to be within 365 days of the first practice session
- Health history questionnaire must be completed for each sport season.
- Any student listing on the Health History form as having asthma (Asthma Treatment Plan, allergies (Allergy Action Plan) or daily medications (Doctor’s orders), must have the appropriate forms filed in the Health Office.

- The Cardiac brochure, concussion and eye injury information sheets must be read. The "Parent/Student Cardiac, Concussion & Eye Injury Acknowledgement Sheet" must then be signed and dated by **both student and parent/guardian**.
- The Opioid Educational Fact Sheet must be read and the acknowledgment form signed and dated by both parent and student.

Homework

Our Board of Education believes that homework has a positive influence on learning and achievement. It is an integral part of, and has significance in, the educational experiences of our students. Homework is defined as the work that the pupils complete independently outside of school. Board [Policy No. 2330](#) states, "Homework should be included in the computation of student grades and failure to complete homework may result in a lower course grade." The policy encompasses objectives and time allotments as well as student, teacher, and parent/guardian responsibilities.

Objective

Homework assignments may:

- Provide drill or practice on a concept or skills already taught;
- Provide real life application of material studied in class;
- Provide data gathering and integration of knowledge experiences;
- Enhance the cultural growth of the student; and
- Provide diagnostic information to guide future instruction.

Time Allotments

Time allotments for homework are gradually increased in grades K-8. It is difficult to present a precise daily time allotment since children work at varying rates. The following guidelines are based on the average pupil and work toward the maximum time allotment by mid-year. It is realized that the middle school is departmentalized and guidelines show a weekly average.

Grade K:	Discretion of the teacher
Grade 1:	10-20 minutes daily
Grade 2:	15-30 minutes daily
Grade 3:	30-40 minutes daily
Grade 4:	40-50 minutes daily
Grade 5-6:	50-70 minutes daily
Grade 7-8:	70-120 minutes daily

In addition to these homework times, all children in the district are expected to read at home for 20 minutes daily. Research has shown that children who read for 20 minutes daily outperform those who do

not. Experience has shown us that this amount of daily reading practice allows our students to become strong readers. Younger children should read to or with their parents/guardians. Older children are encouraged to read independently.

Structure of Homework

Homework will take various forms depending upon its purpose and may include the following:

- Assignments to reinforce new skills.
- Preparation assignments designed to provide background information before topics appear in the classroom.
- Extension assignments that take the pupil beyond classwork. These differ from drills by emphasizing the application of knowledge and may involve supplementary skills.

Student Responsibilities

- All students are expected to record their assignments by Grade 3.
- Students are responsible for completing all homework.
- Students should submit homework at a quality level that is comparable to normal class work. It should be submitted on time; legible, neat and accurate; and completed according to the teacher's directions.
- Students are responsible for completing assignments they missed.
- Students with long-term excused absences will be given the same number of days absent to make up missed work.
- Students must communicate problems encountered with homework assignments.
- Students are expected to have materials required for the completion of homework such as 1:1 device, textbook, worksheets, workbooks, etc.
- Students in block-scheduling are encouraged to complete homework on the day it is assigned (A-day/B-day).

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Parent/Guardian is encouraged to provide an environment that is conducive to proper concentration.
- Parent/Guardian should assist, support, and monitor the child's homework without doing the work for the child.
- Parent/Guardian should notify the school with reasons for missed assignments, including religious observances.
- Parent/Guardian should request assigned work after the second consecutive day of absence.
- Parent/Guardian should contact the teacher if homework takes significantly longer, on a regular basis, than the policy provides.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Assignments must be curriculum related and instructionally sound.
- Expectations should be clear to the pupils. Assignments should be checked carefully for accuracy.
- Assignments will be returned to the student or kept in a folder/notebook/binder for future parent-teacher conferences.
- Teachers involved in a departmentalized situation or team will communicate with other staff members to coordinate the amount of homework and due dates.
- Teacher will differentiate assignments for students who receive additional services (student support, ESL, 504 Plans).
- Assignments for students receiving special education services will be based upon their individual education plans.
- Assignments should require imagination and creativity (higher-order thinking skills) whenever possible.
- Teachers will consider religious observances when assigning homework and scheduling tests.
- Upon a student's return from an unexcused absence, the teacher will provide the student with missed assignments to be completed.
- Assignments should be communicated to students in writing and orally and available to students until the due date (Learning Line, hand out, websites, etc.).

Homework during an Absence

Students are required to make up homework assigned when they are absent from school. Daily assignments can be obtained by contacting the child's teacher or utilizing available online resources. Please note the following guidelines concerning homework and absences:

- After a two-day absence, parents may request assignments by contacting teachers by voice mail or e-mail. Teachers are given 24 hours to respond to parent requests for homework. Materials will be available the following day in the main office after 3:00 p.m.
- Students who do not complete homework during an excused absence will be allowed the number of days absent to complete all work.
- Students who are absent with parent permission for unexcused reasons (family vacations) will be given the number of days absent to make up their work.
- Students who are present in school, but absent from class (i.e. field trip, assembly, nurse, guidance, etc.) are required to complete and submit assignments on the next class day.
- In the case of an expected absence, students should make arrangements with their teacher to turn in assignments prior to the known absence. Teachers are not required to provide long-term assignments for students who are going on vacation prior to departure. Parents are requested to avoid scheduling vacations during the time that school is in session.

School Procedures

Cafeteria

Lunch is available to all students. A menu is published monthly and sent home with all students. It is also posted on the district's website. An application for free or reduced price meals is sent home with students on the first day of school. Children of families who receive Food Stamps, or Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or who are homeless, qualify for this assistance. Please review the application for information and approved criteria.

Each student is assigned his or her own lunch account with a computer generated PIN number exclusive to each child. Payment to the lunch account is made through the online "PayForIt" system, which is located on the district website. Alternatively, payments can be made by cash, check, or money order made payable to: Flemington-Raritan Board of Education. The child's first and last name must be on the check. Parents wishing to learn more about their child's purchased lunches may contact the school's cafeteria.

If you have questions related to , please call the Director of Dining Services at (908) 284-7517.

School Security/Fire Drills

To further enhance the district's preparedness to deal with unlikely and unpredictable situations, including violence or intrusions, the district has adopted school security drills. These procedures are in place at local school districts and are endorsed by the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office and the police chiefs of Flemington Borough and Raritan Township. The school security drills are practiced throughout the year and are explained to the students in order to reduce fear and ensure safety. The school security and fire drills procedures are designed to ensure the safety of students and staff within the school building and designed to ensure their safety upon evacuation of the school building.

Extracurricular Activities/Sports

Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of staff-supervised clubs, intramural and interscholastic sports teams, as well as other activities throughout the school year. Parent permission and student attendance on the day for each event is required for any students to stay after school for any activity. A permission form must be signed and turned in prior to participation. Prior to participation in any interscholastic sports practice or game, a student must have complied with the policy on physical examinations and turned in all stated health /physical forms as addressed in the J.P. Case Middle School Sports Manual for students and parents to the Health Office. Students must satisfy and submit all applicable documents prior to participating in the extracurricular activity.

Lockers (Grades 5-8 Only)

All students in Grades 5-8 are issued a locker for use during the year. Lockers are the property of the Board of Education and are issued to the student on a loan basis. Legislation allows the principal or designated Board of Education official to search lockers provided that said officials, based upon all of the circumstances known to them, have reasonable grounds to suspect that the search will reveal evidence

that the student has or is currently violating law, school rule or regulation, and further provided that the search is reasonable in its scope. Student lockers are issued only for the storage of books and coats; valuable items should not be brought to school. Book bags, backpacks or gym bags may not be used to transport books to classes. The security of items in lockers can only be guaranteed by the proper use of the built-in lock. Students should never pre-set locks or give their combination to another student.

Change of Address/Phone

All students must provide the school with accurate contact information. This can be done through the [Genesis Parent Portal](#) or by contacting the Main Office. Parents also should contact Transportation at (908) 284-7154 to update home and emergency phone numbers, if necessary.

Transfers

Students leaving the District must give advance notice, providing the name, address, and phone number of their future school and home.

Student Services

Health Services

The school nurses and school licensed athletic trainer provide care for illness and accidents. The nursing staff only administers First Aid.

Injuries/conditions that occur while taking part in JP Case-sponsored activities (after-school sports, physical education) can be evaluated and treated by our licensed athletic trainer on-site (working under the direction of the school physician). In the event that an injury occurs outside of school activities (i.e. @ home, recreational/travel sports teams), the post-injury care (evaluation, rehabilitation, etc.) must be managed by a physician and outside healthcare professional(s) at the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Further treatment outside of what is noted previously is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Physical Examinations

A physical exam is required on school entry. It is also recommended and important to obtain medical examinations at least once during each developmental stage, at early childhood (preschool through grade three), pre-adolescence (grade four through six) and adolescence (grades seven through 12.)

School Sports Participation Requirements

In order for any student to participate in the upper school sports program, a physical examination within 365 days of the first day of practice must be on file in the health office. The Athletic Pre-participation Physical Examination forms approved by the State of NJ Department of Education must be used. Please refer to the J.P. Case Athletics website for the forms and more detailed information at <https://sites.google.com/view/jpcathletics>.

Screenings

During the school year, the nurses or Board-appointed medical professional will check the following:

Pre-K: Height/Weight, Vision, Hearing

Kindergarten: Height/Weight, Blood Pressure, Vision, Hearing

Grade1: Height/Weight, Blood Pressure, Hearing

Grade 2: Height/Weight, Blood Pressure, Vision/Color, Hearing

Grade 3: Height/Weight, Blood Pressure, Hearing

Grade 4: Height/Weight, Blood Pressure, Vision

Grade 5: Height/Weight, Blood Pressure and Scoliosis

Grade 6: Height/Weight, Blood Pressure, Vision

Grade 7: Height/Weight, Blood Pressure, Hearing, Scoliosis

Grade 8: Height/Weight, Blood Pressure, Vision

Please Note: Screenings above and beyond the state mandated requirements may be done as time permits.

Communicable Disease

Students with symptoms of a communicable disease are to be excluded from school pending a physician or school nurse's approval to return. Students with a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater (uninfluenced by medication), vomiting or diarrhea should remain home until they are

24- hour symptom free.

Additional requirements for exclusion may be implemented based on current recommendations of the County Health Department. Parents will be notified of these changes by letter or through the district listserv.

Head Lice

[FRSD Policy 8454](#)

Millions of head lice infestations occur each year in the United States, most commonly among children ages 3 to 11. Any place where children spend lots of time together, with family, play dates, camps, sports activities, sleepovers, and school, there are opportunities for close head to head contact which could increase the chance of the spread of head lice. It is important for parents to be routinely checking their children's heads for lice for early detection and treatment throughout the year.

If you suspect or discover that your child has head lice, contact the school nurse who can help you with proper identification, counsel you, and monitor the effectiveness of treatment, while also maintaining your confidentiality. If you think your child has head lice, it's important to talk to a healthcare provider to discuss the best treatment approach for your family. Children should not be treated merely on speculation.

Occasionally, the school nurse may feel that classroom screenings are warranted to control the spread of lice at school. If you do not wish for your child to be screened, a written note to opt-out must be sent to the school nurse in September. For more complete lice information, visit our district website at www.frsd.k12.nj.us, select "Nurses' Offices" on the left and look for our special head lice section.

Medication Policy

A school nurse can only give prescription and over the counter medications (oral, injectable or topical) with an accompanying order from a licensed medical doctor, advanced practice nurse, or physician's assistant. The District Medication Form is available from your building nurse or by visiting the Nurse's web section at <http://www.frsd.k12.nj.us/Page/108>. All medication orders must give the name of the medication, the type of medication, dosage, reason for medication, and the time it is to be given. Medication must be brought to the health office by the parent, in its original labeled container, and be kept in the health office, unless prior permission has been granted by the school nurse. Other than in emergency situations as outlined in the district athletic training standing orders, the licensed athletic trainer will not provide medications.

Wellness Policy

FRSD [Policy 8505](#)

It is our Board of Education's goal to promote the consumption of nutritious foods in school, provide opportunities for students to engage in physical activities and provide health and wellness education, in accordance with the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 and New Jersey Title 18A: Chapter 36-1.7.

Goal 1: To support and promote proper dietary habits contributing to students' health status and academic performance.

All snack and beverage items sold or served anywhere on school property during the school day, including items sold in a la carte lines, vending machines, snack bars, and school stores shall meet the following standards:

1. Based on manufacturers' nutritional data or nutrient facts labels:
No more than eight grams of total fat per serving, with the exception of nuts and seeds. No more than two grams of saturated fat per serving.
2. In the elementary, intermediate and middle schools:
"100 percent of all beverages offered shall be milk, water, or 100 percent fruit or vegetable juices
3. All schools may not serve any whole milk or any reduced fat milk (2%). Schools may only serve 8 ounces of fat-free milk, low-fat (1%) milk, fat free, or low fat lactose reduced/lactose free milk, fat-free or low-fat buttermilk, or acidified milk or fat-free or low-fat acidified milk. Schools must offer at least two choices of these milks. These approved milk products may be either white or flavored milk varieties. All milk products must be pasteurized fluid milk that meets the State and local standards, as currently required in 7 CFR Part 210.10(m)(1)(ii).

4. All schools shall make potable water available to children at no charge in the place where lunch meals are served during the meal service. Schools may offer water pitchers with cups on tables and/or make potable water available for pupils to fill their own cups or water bottles by means of a water faucet or water fountain that is available without restriction in or near the location meals are served. A faucet or fountain outside the cafeteria is acceptable as long as pupils can request and receive permission to access the faucet or fountain.

Food and beverages served during special school celebrations and during curriculum related activities will follow these District nutrition guidelines. School fundraisers should promote positive health habits. The sale of nutritious food items, non-food items, in addition to fundraising that supports physical activity are strongly encouraged. Food and beverages sold at fundraisers should reinforce healthy choices.

Adequate time shall be allowed for students to be served and consume lunch. Schools shall provide a pleasant dining environment.

This policy does not apply to: medically authorized special needs diets pursuant to 7 CFR Part 210: school nurses using FMNVs during the course of providing health care to individual students or by staff for special needs students whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP) indicates their use for behavior modification.

Goal 2: To provide opportunities for every student to develop the knowledge and skills for specific physical activities, maintain physical fitness, regularly participate in physical activity, and understand the short and long-term benefits of a physically active and healthful lifestyle.

A quality physical education program is an essential component for all students to learn about and participate in physical activity. Physical education should be designed to build interest and proficiency in the skills, knowledge and attitudes essential to a lifelong physically active lifestyle. Physical activity will include regular instructional physical education, co-curricular activities, and recess. Regular physical activity will also be included in a school's daily education program for grades K-8. The school district's curriculum shall incorporate physical activity consistent with the New Jersey Department of Education Core Curriculum Standards.

Goal 3: To influence students' eating behaviors.

The school district's curriculum shall incorporate nutrition education consistent with the New Jersey Department of Education Core Curriculum Standards.

Goal 4: To promote lifelong health and wellness by supporting other wellness related school-based activities.

The involvement of staff, families and the community as leaders, educators, and models of wellness improves the effectiveness of student health and wellness education. The District will work toward expanding awareness about this policy among students, parents, teachers and the community.

Physical Education Excuses

To be excused from physical education and outside recess, a student must present a note from a parent. A doctor's note is required for three consecutive excuses. This note must include the length of time and reason for the excuse. In order to return to Physical Education class, parents are required to provide a doctor's note specifying any accommodations/restrictions the child may require to participate.

Concussion Testing & Return to Play

FRSD [Policy 2431.4](#)

Any student-athlete or cheerleader who exhibits the signs or symptoms of a sports-related concussion or other head injury during practice or competition shall be immediately removed from play and may not return to play that day. Emergency medical assistance shall be contacted when symptoms get worse, loss of consciousness, direct neck pain associated with the injury, or any other sign the supervising school staff member determines emergency medical attention is needed. If available when the student-athlete or cheerleader is exhibiting signs or symptoms, the pupil will be evaluated by the licensed athletic trainer or the school or team physician. The Principal or designee shall contact the pupil's parent and inform the parent of the suspected sports-related concussion or other head injury.

Possible signs of a concussion can be observed by any school staff member or the school or team physician. Any possible symptoms of a concussion can be reported by the student-athlete or cheerleader to: coaches; licensed athletic trainer; school or team physician; school nurse; and/or parent. The Principal or designee shall provide the student-athlete or cheerleader with Board of Education approved suggestions for management/medical checklist to provide to their parent and physician or other licensed healthcare professional trained in the evaluation and management of sports-related concussions and other head injuries.

A student-athlete or cheerleader who participates in interscholastic athletics or a cheerleading program and who sustains or is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury shall be required to have a medical examination conducted by their physician or licensed health care provider. The pupil's physician or licensed health care provider shall be trained in the evaluation and management of concussion to determine the presence or absence of a sports-related concussion or head injury.

The pupil's physician or licensed health care provider must provide to the school district a written medical release/clearance for the pupil indicating when the pupil is able to return to the activity. The medical release/clearance must indicate the student-athlete or cheerleader is asymptomatic at rest and either may return to the interscholastic athletic activity or cheerleading program because the injury was not a concussion or other head injury or may begin the district's graduated return to competition and practice protocol outlined in [Regulation 2431.4](#). A medical release/clearance not in compliance with this Policy will not be accepted. The medical release/clearance must be reviewed and approved by the school or team physician.

Insurance (Students Only)

Accident insurance may be purchased for the student by the parent/guardian. This insurance is available for school-day coverage and/or coverage on a 24-hour basis. Forms are sent home in September, are available during the school year and can be obtained at the main office. The school does not provide insurance for students involved in athletics or other school activities; therefore, students who participate in athletics are strongly urged to purchase this insurance.

Learning Lab (Grades 5-8 only)

Learning Lab is available for students at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School and J.P. Case Middle School. The purpose of the Learning Lab, located in the library, is to provide a quiet structured time for

students to complete work, research, review and study. Certified teaching staff is present to facilitate this time to provide academic assistance to students. Students should arrive prepared with enough schoolwork/homework to sustain the entire Learning Lab time frame. Failure to come prepared may result in the removal from the program.

A signed permission slip is mandatory for participation. Forms may be obtained from the main office or from your child's School Counselor. The Learning Lab is open on full school days only. It is not open in the afternoon on early dismissal or staff in-service days, the afternoon before a holiday, or in the morning on delayed opening days.

Library Media Center

The Library Media Center (LMC) provides a wide variety of materials for students and teachers. In addition to books, reference materials and magazines, students can access many informational resources online from home on the LMC's website.

Students are encouraged to visit the LMC for school-related assignments, as well as for recreational reading. They can also use the many resources on the LMC's website to help with school assignments.

Copyright and Students

All print resources in the LMC are protected by copyright laws as are most resources online. Students should use web resources with the same care they do printed works. Images, video, and sound clips must be cited, as well informational material.

Our District uses the Modern Language Association's (MLA) style of bibliographic citation. When preparing your Works Cited, refer to the LMC website for tips and related web resources. Helpful graphic organizers, referred to as "bib forms" are available on the LMC website. These can be printed and used as guides when preparing the Works' Cited page for any research paper.

Acceptable Use Policy

All users of school computers are to act responsibly when accessing the district network. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. Therefore, students wishing to use the school's network must sign an [Acceptable Use Policy \(AUP\)](#) agreement at the start of the school year. Violations of the AUP may result in the loss of computer access, as well as disciplinary or legal actions.

Supportive Interventions and Referral Services

FRSD [Policy No. 2417](#)

"The Board of Education directs the establishment and implementation of a coordinated system in each school building in which general education pupils are served, for the planning and delivery of intervention and referral services that are designed to assist pupils who are experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties and to assist staff who have difficulties in addressing pupils' learning, behavior, or health needs in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.1.

The intervention and referral services shall be provided to aid pupils in the general education program and, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-18.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.1 et seq., may be provided for pupils who have been determined to be in need of special education programs and services. The intervention and referral services provided for pupils who have been determined to be in need of special education programs and services shall be coordinated with the pupil's Individualized Education Program team, as appropriate."

[FRSD Intervention and Referral Services Information](#)

Conferences

Our district welcomes and encourages two-way communication between home and school. Scheduled parent-teacher conferences are held in the fall for Grades 2-8. Kindergarten and Grade 1 parents attend conferences in the fall and spring. Parents are encouraged to initiate contact directly with classroom teachers when a concern arises.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

The ESL program provides a daily English language experience to students with limited English language proficiency. ESL lessons incorporate natural language in meaningful situations. Attention is placed upon specific structures and forms of language. Concepts, themes, and skills are aligned to district content. A free summer ESL camp is available annually for all district ESL students. In addition, an ESL Parent Information Night is held in the fall. Translators are available during the session to help non-English speaking families complete forms, understand procedures and policies and make valuable connections with their child's school.

School Counselors

School counselors at the elementary, intermediate, and middle school levels deliver a program of services that is comprehensive in scope, preventative in design, and development in nature. School counselors focus on what all students should know, understand, and be able to do in the "academic," "career," and "personal/social domains." Services are currently delivered in numerous formats, including:

- School-wide programming
- Parent education
- Student advocacy
- Classroom lessons
- Staff education
- Individual and group counseling

Flemington-Raritan School Counselors are student advocates who believe that the school-counseling program is central to the education of each student.

Special Services

Parents who feel their child is demonstrating signs of a disability that impacts upon his or her learning are encouraged to speak with their child's classroom teacher. Parents or school staff may request that a child study team consider the need for an evaluation. If the district initiates the process to consider a potential evaluation, parental consent must be obtained. Once a request for an evaluation is received, a meeting will be held where parents and school staff will have the opportunity to discuss whether or not an evaluation should be completed.

A child study team evaluation is conducted in compliance with New Jersey State regulations. If a child is found eligible for special education services, an Individual Educational Program (IEP) is developed annually by the IEP team. This IEP specifies the student's individualized plan, including the modifications and supports which will be implemented to ensure that the child is provided an appropriate educational program and included in the general education classroom whenever possible. The district provides a full range of programs and services.

Additional information regarding screening and referral procedures, programs and services, parent and student rights, and confidentiality of information is available [here](#).

Child Find

The "Project Child Find" program seeks to locate resident children, ages 3 to 21 years old, who might have significant physical, cognitive, neurological, speech and language, or medical needs or other developmental delays of varying degrees of severity, who are not currently receiving services. Proof of residency is required. The district offers free evaluation and programs that provide eligible children the services they need. Programs are also available to qualified children ages 3-5 to meet these needs and are staffed by caring professionals. These programs are also available to migrant and homeless children. For more information, call Special Services at (908) 284-7680.

Student Conduct

[FRSD Policy No. 5600](#)

The Flemington-Raritan School District believes that an effective instructional program requires an orderly school environment and that the effectiveness of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of pupils pursuant to [Policy 5600](#) - Student Discipline/Code of Conduct.

The Flemington-Raritan School District expects pupils to conduct themselves in keeping with their level of maturity, with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other pupils, school personnel, for the educational purpose underlying all school activities, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

Acceptable student behavior is extremely important in creating the kind of educational environment in which students will be able to realize their greatest opportunities for growth.

Appropriate behavior assumes that students will embody the following character traits:

- Caring/compassion
- Cooperation/good sportsmanship
- Courage

- Diligence/perseverance
- Honesty/fairness
- Loyalty/citizenship
- Respect/courtesy
- Responsibility
- Self esteem/pride
- Tolerance/patience.

An important part of the mission of the Flemington Raritan School District is to have the students behave ethically and lawfully. To this end, FRSD establishes and enforces a code of conduct appropriate for each child. Students will be held responsible for following the Code of Conduct as well as all Board of Education policies, New Jersey State laws, and local laws that apply to student actions. Students who abuse this behavior code can expect disciplinary action.

The core of the Code of Conduct is based on four principles:

- 1. Respect of Self**
- 2. Respect of Others**
- 3. Respect of Property**
- 4. Following Directions.**

Rules of Conduct

All students are bound by law, policies of the Board of Education, and the administrative regulations of the Flemington Raritan School District. Discipline is necessary if teachers are to teach and students are to learn. The school has a responsibility of providing for the health and safety of its students, as well as, providing an environment that allows learning to take place. Students who break school rules and regulations can expect to have disciplinary action taken against them. Teachers will maintain and control a system of classroom management and discipline. The teacher will handle initial breaches of classroom rules and regulations through parent contact and/or assignment of teacher detention. Students persisting in violation of rules may be referred to a school administrator. The following behaviors are examples of appropriate student conduct:

- Following directions of all school staff
- Keeping the schools clean
- Refraining from yelling, screaming, or whistling
- Refraining from running, pushing, or inappropriate physical contact (i.e. hitting, punching, kicking, public displays of affection, etc.)
- Eating food in the cafeteria and/or during designated times during the school day as determined by the teacher
- Refraining from gum chewing.

Civility

Our Board believes a safe, civil environment is essential to student and staff achievement and that the free exchange of ideas is central to providing a quality educational process. The Board refuses to condone uncivil conduct on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities, whether by staff, students, parents, volunteers, or other visitors. “Uncivil conduct” includes using obscene or profane gestures or words; taunting, jeering, or inciting others; raising one’s voice; repeatedly interrupting another; imposing personal demands; using personal epithets; invading the personal space of another; blocking a person’s exit and violating a person’s privacy.

Dress Code

Flemington-Raritan Public Schools respects students’ rights to express themselves in the way they dress. All students who attend Flemington-Raritan Public Schools are also expected to respect the school community by dressing appropriately for the school environment. Students’ attire should facilitate participation in learning as well as the health and safety of students and the adults who supervise them. The following are the minimum requirements for attire in our learning community.

- Clothing must cover areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, down to approximately 3 to 4 inches in length on the upper thighs. Tops must have shoulder straps of at least 1 inch in width.
- Footwear must be worn at all times and should be safe for the school environment. Footwear requirements for specific classes or classroom activities may be necessary (i.e. sneakers for P.E. classes and/or outdoor recess; no open-toed shoes may be worn in a science lab, etc.).
- Headgear including hats, visors, hoodies, caps, gators, and sunglasses are not to be worn in the building, unless permitted for religious, medical, or other approved reasons.
- See-through or mesh garments may not be worn without appropriate coverage underneath that meets the minimum requirements of the dress code.
- Specialized classes or activities may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.
- Clothing with offensive or suggestive messages will not be permitted. For example, clothing that advertises drugs, alcohol, or directly or indirectly uses profanity, insults, or sexual innuendos will not be permitted. For example:
 - Clothing may not depict, imply, advertise, or advocate illegal, violent, or lewd conduct, weapons, the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or other controlled substances.
 - Clothing may not depict or imply pornography, nudity, or sexual acts.
 - Clothing may not display or imply vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene language or images.
 - Clothing may not state, imply, or depict hate speech/imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected classification.

The administration at each school reserves the right to determine what constitutes appropriate dress. Students who do not adhere to these guidelines will not be permitted to attend class. Parents will be called if appropriate clothing is not available or the student refuses dress-code appropriate clothing.

1:1 Chromebook Initiative

Our district provides all students in Grades 2 through 8 with a Chromebook, and students in Grades PreK-1 with an I-pad. Students in Grades 5 through 8 will be able use the devices at school and will be able to take them home. Students in Grades 2 through 4 will use their Chromebooks at school, and they will be charged and stowed in their classroom. Information on this initiative can be found by accessing the following link: <https://learningfrsd.wixsite.com/frsd1to1/vision-goals>

All parents and students must sign the appropriate forms per grade level. You can read the rules and guidelines by accessing the following link: <https://learningfrsd.wixsite.com/frsd1to1/policies-forms>

Please note that all forms and documents should be completed through the **Genesis Parent Portal**.

Students in Grades 2-8 must take a Digital Passport online assessment to take part in our 1:1 plan. Students must score an 80% or above.

You can access the Digital Passport test at the following link:
<https://learningfrsd.wixsite.com/frsd1to1/digital-passport>

Electronic Devices

Telephones, Cell Phones, Cameras

Students are permitted to use school telephones in the case of an emergency or if they miss the bus. Students must make after-school plans prior to the school day. **Cell phones must remain turned off at all times and should remain in the student's locker throughout the school day and at all school-sponsored events.** Also prohibited is the use of all cell phone functions, including text messaging or use of photographic features (such as camera phones). Additionally, the use of any camera during school hours, including on a school bus, without administrative permission is a violation of privacy and is not permitted pursuant Policy 5516- Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices. School administrators reserve the right to confiscate any such device (whether or not it is in use) if it interferes with the educational program. The school is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged devices.

Student Information and Photographs

State law prohibits the dissemination of personal student information, including student photos, on the Internet without parental consent.

All parents must complete and return a district form to grant or deny permission to use a child's photograph in publications or in a video. Forms are completed annually through the Genesis Parent Portal. For questions about the use of photos, please call (908) 284-7569.

Teachers, administrators, and district officials may photograph children participating in activities. Photos may be used in district print and digital publications, such as the newsletter. Classroom activities may be videotaped and shown during special presentations. Captions describing a photo or video will not identify students by name, but may include the school and teacher's name.

Reporters and photographers from local newspapers also visit the schools. Although the District works with the papers to abide by parents' wishes, the District is not responsible for photographs used by these papers either in print or online.

Student Discipline/Code of Conduct

FRSD [Policy No. 5600](#)

The Board of Education adopts this Student Discipline/Code of Conduct. Policy to establish standards, policies, and procedures for positive student development and student behavioral expectations on school grounds and, as appropriate, for conduct away from school grounds. Every student enrolled in this district shall observe promulgated rules and regulations and the discipline imposed for infraction of those rules.

Expectations

Hallway/Bathroom

All students have the right to learn without interruptions caused by other students. Therefore, there is a responsibility to refrain from:

- Disturbing any class while in session
- Running and pushing
- Blocking hallways or stairways by staying to the right side
- Being in the hallway or bathroom without having a pass or a staff member's verbal permission
- Misusing the bathroom or defacing school property.

Cafeteria/Lunch

Cafeteria services are provided for all students. Every student has the right to eat in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere; therefore, while at lunch, students are expected to:

- Students are not permitted to share food and drinks.
- Use good table manners and never throw food
- Remain seated in the cafeteria
- Line up in an orderly fashion as directed and have money ready
- Follow line procedures—no skipping or saving places for other students
- Leave tables and eating areas clean before being dismissed
- Move to and from lunch without running
- Leave food, drinks, straws, and eating utensils in the cafeteria
- Bring only beverages that are not in glass containers or carbonated into the cafeteria
- Students are encouraged to bring their lunch from home or purchase one in the cafeteria. (Food from outside restaurants delivered or brought to school to be shared is prohibited).
- Parents of students with health issues requiring a special diet should reach out to their child's school nurse to discuss safe procedures for eating school lunches.

School Security/Fire Drills

During emergency drills, students are expected to:

- Follow the designated fire drill route as indicated in classrooms or school security procedures as directed by staff
- Remain quiet
- Follow directions from staff members.

Activating a false alarm of any type that disrupts the school day or potentially endangers the safety of others will not be tolerated. Students involved may be subject to automatic suspension, police notification, the filing of a criminal complaint, and when applicable, will be documented in the monthly NJDOE Student Safety Data System.

Transportation

Our District shares a joint transportation system with Hunterdon Central Regional High School (HCRHS). Drivers are employees of HCRHS. A booklet with rules and regulations for bus transportation is available from your child's school office as well as on the district website.

Children may not ride buses other than the one to which they are assigned. Furthermore, students are required to board and depart the bus from their assigned bus stop location only. Riders are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly manner both to and from school. Students who misbehave on the school bus may lose their bus privilege. For questions about transportation, please call (908) 284-7154.

In order to ensure the safety of all students during their ride to and from school, the bus driver has authority over students on the bus. Infractions will be reported to the office and may result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension from the bus. While using district transportation, students are expected to:

- Follow district mask guidelines
- Ride only the bus to which they are assigned
- Board and leave the bus only at their assigned stop
- Occupy the seat assigned by the bus driver and remain seated until the bus arrives at its destination
- Fasten seatbelt
- Be courteous to the bus driver and fellow passengers
- Keep all parts of their bodies inside the bus at all times
- Refrain from loud talking and other behaviors that may distract the driver
- Use appropriate language; profanity, verbal abuse, and/or racial slurs will not be tolerated
- Not deface the bus in any way and should promptly report to the bus driver any damage to the bus
- Not smoke, light matches, use lighters, lasers, or other items that may create a distraction to other students and/or the bus driver – these items are not permitted on the bus
- Not consume any food or drinks of any kind on the bus
- Keep the bus clean.

Assembly Program Expectations

During an assembly program, students are expected to demonstrate:

- Good listening behaviors
- Appropriate audience participation

After-School Activity Expectations

These activities include, but are not limited to activity nights, music and drama presentations, Student Council and other club-sponsored events, and spectator sports. All persons attending an activity must remain in the immediate area of the activity. All other areas of the school property remain off-limits.

Spectator Sports Expectations

Students who are participants in or spectators at school sporting events are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship. Students' habits and reactions determine the quality of sportsmanship, which in turn reflects upon the reputation of the school. Therefore, it is important that the students attending school sports activities know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship as follows:

- All students should adhere to the Code of Conduct and Dress Code policy at all times while attending home or away events
- Respect, at all times, officials, coaches, cheerleaders, and players as guests in our school community
- Respect the property of the school and the authority of school officials.
- Refrain from heckling, jeering, or distracting members of the opposing team
- Refrain from criticizing the players, coaches, or referees
- Refrain from associating with fellow students whose behavior is unacceptable
- Refrain from interfering with play; for example, no throwing objects of any kind on the court or field
- All spectators should remain off the court or field at all times—this includes half time and time between games.

Field Trips

The Board of Education recognizes that field trips, when used as a device for teaching and learning, are integral to the curriculum and are educationally sound. They are planned by appropriate staff and coordinated with the curriculum to extend, enrich, and add meaning to units of study. Each child attending a field trip needs a parental permission slip. Each school's PTO graciously pays for field trips.

Field trips are scheduled at the discretion of the principal and organizing teachers. In order for students to participate, the school must receive a permission slip signed by the parent/guardian. Field trips are a privilege that may be denied for consistent poor decision-making and failure to demonstrate appropriate self-control. All school rules apply for all school-sponsored events occurring off school grounds.

Dismissal Expectations

At the end of the school day, students are expected to:

- Follow the bus run schedule
- Report immediately to their bus or assigned destination
- Board the bus promptly
- Refrain from loitering on school premises

Disciplinary Procedures

1. Students and parents will be given notice of the rules of conduct and disciplinary procedures and any other school rules binding on student conduct.
2. Teachers and administrators in charge of student discipline shall make every effort to administer these rules consistently and fairly.
3. The staff member who disciplines a student for conduct shall, however minimal the offense or the discipline,
 - a. Orally inform the student of the conduct for which he/she is being disciplined; and
 - b. Offer the student an opportunity to deny the charge or to present extenuating circumstances.

Disciplinary Measures

The following disciplinary measures may be applied as appropriate to the student's violation of school rules. The options are incremental and are organized in order of severity:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Warning● Contact parent/guardian● Temporary Removal from Classroom● Deprivation of Privileges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Detention● Grading (Academic Dishonesty)● Suspension● Expulsion
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Pursuant to FRSD [Policy 5512](#), "The Board of Education requires its school administrators to implement procedures that ensure both the appropriate consequences and remedial responses for pupils and staff members who commit one or more acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, consistent with the code of pupil conduct. The following factors, at a minimum, shall be given full consideration by school administrators in the implementation of appropriate consequences and remedial measures for each act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying by pupils. Appropriate consequences and remedial actions are those that are graded according to the severity of the offense(s), and consider the developmental ages of the pupil offenders and pupils' histories of inappropriate behaviors, per the code of pupil conduct."

Pupils with a disability are expected to conduct themselves in the same manner as their non-disabled peers. Therefore, pupils with a disability are accountable to the same student code of conduct and discipline standards. However, when disciplining a pupil with disabilities, it must be determined that:

1. The pupils behavior is not primarily caused by his/her disability
2. The program that is being provided meets the pupil's needs
3. The principal shall forward written notification and a description of the reasons for such action to the Child Study Team case manager and the pupil's parent(s).

Suspension and Expulsion

FRSD Policy [No. 5610](#) and [5610.1](#)

Suspension from school means the temporary denial of a student's right to attend class. In most cases, suspension is determined after a pattern of misbehavior is evident. However, an administrator may suspend a student after the first offense depending on the severity of the misbehavior. In most cases, a student may be suspended for good cause after an informal hearing involving the student, teacher, principal, and possibly the parent/guardian.

Expulsion from school means the permanent denial of a student's right to attend school. A student may be expelled for good cause after official notification by the school and a due process hearing. The student has specific rights under case law and New Jersey Statute. The Board of Education's decision to suspend may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education.

"Conduct which shall constitute good cause for suspension or expulsion of a pupil guilty of such conduct shall include, but not be limited, to any following" (N.J.S.A 18A:37-2):

- Continued and willful disobedience
- Open defiance of the authority of any teacher or person having authority over a student
- Habitual use of profanity
- Conduct which constitutes a continuing danger to the physical well-being of other pupils
- Physical assault upon another pupil
- Taking or attempting to take, personal property or money from another person
- Willfully causing, or attempting to cause, substantial damage to school property
- Knowing possession or knowing consumption of alcoholic beverages or controlled dangerous substances on school premises.

N.J.S.A 18A:37-2.1 and N.J.S.A 2C:12-1 demands immediate suspension of any student responsible for an assault against a staff member or board member.

N.J.S.A. 6A:16-7.2, 16-7.3, 16-7.5 explains the processes of appeal regarding short-term suspension, long-term suspension, and expulsion.

Possession/Under the Influence of Prohibited Substances

FRSD [Policy No. 5530](#)

“The Board of Education recognizes that a pupil's abuse of harmful substances seriously impedes that pupil's education and threatens the welfare of the entire school community.”

Under no circumstances are students permitted to have alcohol (or products known to contain alcohol), drugs, tobacco products, vaping devices or e-cigarettes in their possession. Students found to be in possession of illegal substances as defined by the New Jersey Statutes (N.J.S.A. 18A: 40A-9) will be suspended and the police will be notified.

Any staff member who suspects that a student may be under the influence of prohibited substances is required by N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12 to report the matter to the principal or school nurse. The principal is then required by law to notify the parents/guardians, the superintendent of schools, and to insure an examination of the pupil by a doctor. If the student is found to be under the influence of a substance, the student is subject to discipline in accordance with the district's Code of Student Conduct. School authorities also have the authority to impose a consequence on a student for conduct away from school grounds in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.5. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion and referred to their school counselor.

Violence, Vandalism, Alcohol or Other Drug Abuse

FRSD [Policy No. 8461](#)

Incidents involving violence, vandalism, alcohol or other drug abuse will be reported to the Superintendent and documented as required by state law. “The report shall be on a form adopted by the Board to include all of the incident detail and offender and victim information that are reported on the Student Safety Data System (SSDS).” A student may be suspended only by the Building Principal who shall report any suspension to the Superintendent as soon as possible. The Superintendent shall report the suspension to the Board at its next regular meeting.

Weapons/Firearms Violations

FRSD [Policy No. 8467](#)

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe school environment for all pupils attending the public schools. Therefore, the Board prohibits the possession, use, or exchange of any weapon in any school building, on school grounds, at any school sponsored event, and on school sanctioned transportation except as the possession and use of a weapon is authorized by law and required in the performance of the possessor's duty. A weapon is defined as anything readily capable of lethal use or of inflicting serious bodily injury.

Any student or employee who suspects the presence of a weapon prohibited by this policy shall immediately report his or her suspicion to the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate search and confiscate any weapon discovered in the course of the search. He or she shall, if appropriate and feasible, summon the aid of law enforcement officers in the conduct of the search. Any school employee who confirms the presence of a weapon under circumstances that place persons at serious risk may confiscate the weapon immediately and may use such force as is reasonable and necessary to obtain possession.

Any student who possesses, uses, or exchanges a weapon in violation of this policy shall be subject to stringent discipline, which may include expulsion. Any student or school employee who suspects or knows of the presence of a weapon in violation of this policy and fails to report the same shall be subject to discipline. Any person who possesses a weapon on school premises, on school transportation, to and from school, or at a school-sponsored function shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Any student who is convicted or is an adjudicated delinquent for possession of a firearm or who is found to be in possession of a firearm on school property must be immediately removed from the regular education program and provided with an alternative program, pending a hearing before the Board of Education. Students convicted or found to be delinquent for possessing a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function or committing a crime while possessing a firearm shall be immediately removed from the regular education program for a period of not less than one calendar year and placed in an alternative education school or program pending a hearing before the Board of Education to remove the student. (Chapters 127 and 128 of 1995, The Zero Tolerance for Guns Act)

Any student who assaults a member of the school community with a weapon other than a firearm on school property must be immediately removed from the regular education program and provided with an alternative program, pending a hearing before the Board of Education. (Chapters 127 and 128 of 1995, The Zero Tolerance for Guns Act)

Students with disabilities violating the provisions of this policy shall be dealt with in accordance with Policy and Regulation No. 2460.6. Any student requiring removal from the regular education program for the reasons enumerated above shall be removed in accordance with Policy and Regulation No. 5611. The Superintendent, or designee, shall prepare regulations to implement this policy for the guidance of school staff in dealing with incidents involving weapons in the school district.

Terroristic Threats and Violence

FRSD Policy [No. 5610](#) and [5614](#)

An atmosphere conducive to learning must be free of threats of serious harm by one person against another. Accordingly, any report of threatening behavior of such a nature shall be investigated promptly. If after an investigation it appears that the report is true, all steps seeming reasonable in the circumstances shall be taken to protect the threatened person(s) and to discipline or remove the threatening person(s).

Employees are directed to report to their principal or designee all threats of serious harm by one person against another that they may witness or learn about from a reliable source. Students are urged to report such information to a staff member in their building, or directly to the principal. The principal or designee shall conduct an investigation, and shall take whatever action he/she deems appropriate within his/her authority.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

FRSD Policy [No.5512](#)

The Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a pupil. A safe and civil environment in school is necessary for pupils to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment,

intimidation, or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a pupil's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its pupils in a safe and disciplined environment. Since pupils learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff and volunteers should be commended for demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment, intimidation, or bullying. "Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" is unwanted aggressive behavior that may involve a real or perceived power imbalance by way of a gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents.

The Board expects pupils to conduct themselves in keeping with their levels of development, maturity and demonstrated capabilities with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other pupils and school staff, the educational purpose underlying all school activities and the care of school facilities and equipment consistent with the Code of Pupil Conduct. The Board believes that standards for pupil behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the pupils, parents, school employees, school administrators, school volunteers, and community representatives, producing an atmosphere that encourages pupils to grow in self-discipline. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for school district and community property on the part of pupils, staff, and community members.

The Board of Education requires its school administrators to implement procedures that ensure both the appropriate consequences and remedial responses for pupils who commit one or more acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, consistent with the Code of Pupil Conduct, and the consequences and remedial responses for staff members who commit one or more acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The following factors, at a minimum, shall be given full consideration by school administrators in the implementation of appropriate consequences and remedial measures for each act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying by pupils. Appropriate consequences and remedial actions are those that are graded according to the severity of the offense(s), consider the developmental ages of the pupil offenders and pupils' histories of inappropriate behaviors, per the Code of Pupil Conduct and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7. Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a pupil or staff member who commits one or more acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion of pupils, as set forth in the Board's approved Code of Pupil Conduct pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1.

Under New Jersey law, "harassment, intimidation, or bullying" is unwanted aggressive behavior that may involve a real or perceived power imbalance by way of a gesture, any written, verbal or physical act or any electronic communication, whether it is a single incident or a series of incidents, that is:

- a. Reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic;
- b. Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds, as provided for in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15.3
- c. That substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other pupils; and that
- d. A reasonable person should know under the circumstances will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a pupil or damaging the pupil's property, or placing a pupil in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; or

- e. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any pupil or group of pupils; or
- f. Creates a hostile educational environment for the pupil by interfering with a pupil's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the pupil.

Characteristics of Bullies

Bullies come in all shapes and sizes. They can be large or small, athletic or not, popular or not, boys or girls. It is important to remember that you cannot tell if someone is a bully by what he or she looks like. The only way to identify a bully is by how they act. A bully can be anyone, and there is no one profile, but here are some typical behaviors.

Typically, bullies:

- Create or manipulate a situation where there is an imbalance of power
- Have a need to control and dominate others
- Are quick tempered and impulsive
- Take pleasure in seeing someone or an animal in distress
- Find it difficult to see a situation from another person's point of view
- Refuse to take responsibility or deny wrongdoing
- Blame the target or say they deserved what they got
- Are good at talking their way out of situations
- Are intolerant of differences
- Feel superior
- Are insensitive to the feelings or needs of others (lack of empathy)

What Bullying is Not

The following behaviors (some of which can be inappropriate and should be addressed) in and of itself are not considered bullying:

- Arguments/Conflict
- Not liking someone
- Exclusion
- Teasing
- Making others play things a certain way (being bossy)
- Expressing unpleasant thoughts or feelings regarding others
- Rivalry

**Some information was adapted from Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP*

Procedures for Reporting an Act of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying (HIB):

The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District prides itself on being a safe and caring environment for all learners. If you witness or learn of an act of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying please follow the procedures below.

1. If you witness an act of HIB, take the appropriate actions to stop the behavior (if possible). If behavior is mean, intervene.
2. Make a verbal report to the building Principal as soon as possible after you learned of the HIB.
3. Complete the Referral Form for HIB (which can be accessed through the district website or the main office of any school within the district) and return to the Principal ASAP but no later than two days after the verbal report. When completing a referral form, simply report the facts and give an accurate description of events.

Contact Information

District Anti-Bullying Coordinator

Jessica Braynor, Vice Principal, Robert Hunter Elementary School

Anti-Bullying Specialists

Gina Collins	Counselor	Barley Sheaf School
Becky Moeri	Counselor	Copper Hill School
Mary Pepe	Counselor	Francis A. Desmares School
Sarah Fontanez	Counselor	Robert Hunter School
Heather Albanese	Counselor	Reading-Fleming Intermediate School
Lindsay John	Counselor	Reading-Fleming Intermediate School
Colette Baills	Counselor	J. P. Case Middle School
Amy Lopez	Counselor	J. P. Case Middle School

Student Search

FRSD Policy [No. 5771](#)

Our Board of Education reserves the right to conduct searches as often as necessary to protect the safety and well-being of the school community. Such searches will be conducted in accordance with the district's regulation, which is available upon request. To initiate a lawful search, a school official must have reasonable grounds, based on the totality of the known circumstances, to believe that:

- A law or school rule has been or is being broken
- A particular student(s) has committed the violation or infraction
- The suspected violation or infraction is of a kind for which there may be physical evidence (i.e., contraband, instrumentality, fruits or spoils, or other evidence)
- The sought-after evidence would be found in a particular place associated with the student(s) suspected of committing the violation or infraction.

School Records

Mandated pupil records are those records school districts have been directed to compile by State statute, regulations, or authorized administrative directive in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.3. The State of New Jersey requires each district to maintain records which “contain only such information as is relevant to the education of the pupil and is objectively based on the personal observations or knowledge of the certified school personnel who originate(s) the record.” Permitted pupil records are records authorized by the Board to be collected in order to promote the educational welfare of the pupil. Pupil health records shall be maintained and located in a locked cabinet or room in the school building or complex where the pupil is assigned. Records kept in electronic form shall be both accessible and secure. Pupil health records shall be maintained separately from other pupil records, until such time as graduation or termination, whereupon the health history and immunization record shall be removed from the pupil's health record and placed in the pupil's mandated record. Records shall be accessible during the hours in which the school program is in operation. Any district internet website shall not disclose any personally identifiable information about a pupil, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35. “The district shall control access to, disclosure of, and communication regarding information contained in pupil health records to assure access only to those authorized organizations, agencies, and persons under the conditions permitted by federal and State statute and regulations in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5.”

Court Action/New Jersey Law

Parents/guardians and students should recognize that this handbook is an overview of the Flemington-Raritan Board of Education's policies and the procedures established by the professional staff of the Flemington-Raritan School District. Please note that depending on the circumstances, school administration is required by New Jersey law to report certain offenses to the police. The District does not allow the use of corporal punishment. For more information please review Policy No. 3217 and 4217. According to Board Policy No.5752, “The Board of Education will not discriminate among students on the basis of their marital status or parenthood. In addition, the Flemington Raritan School District abides by N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.5.

Affirmative Action

United States Title IX and NJAC Title 6:4 prohibit discrimination against students and employees in public schools K-12. Whereas Title IX prohibits discrimination based on sex, Title 6:4 prohibits it on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, or social or economic status. Both Titles require that all school policies, procedures, and practices be non-discriminatory, and that there be no sex segregation in courses, educational programs, and extracurricular activities. If a student or member of the staff alleges a violation of such regulations, s/he may submit a grievance by notifying the district affirmative action officer. For more information, contact Central Office at (908) 284-7569.

Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of disability with regard to admission, access to services, treatment or employment in its programs or activities. The Section 504/ADA Program Coordinator is located at Special Services and can be reached at 284-7680. The Section 504/ADA Facilities Coordinator is located in the Flemington-Raritan Business Office and can be reached at (908) 284-7561.

Child Abuse Reporting

School personnel having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse and/or neglect as defined under N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.9 shall immediately report to DCPD as provided for under N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10. School personnel reporting such an alleged act shall inform the principal of the report unless she/he believes such notice will endanger the child or likely result in retaliation against the child or discrimination against the referrer with respect to employment.

Any person who knowingly fails to report suspected abuse or neglect pursuant to the law or to comply with the provision of the law is subject to a fine up to \$500 or up to six months imprisonment, or both.

The Board assures school personnel there will be no employment discrimination in regards to compensation, hire, tenure or terms, conditions or privileges of employment upon making a good faith report.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

As required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, district policy outlines procedures parents should follow if they have concerns or questions regarding the administration of ESEA-funded grant initiatives. The policy specifies that the Assistant Superintendent is responsible for investigating and addressing ESEA questions or concerns. Click here to reference the policy for Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints FRSD Policy [2415.20](#)

Community-Based Health and Social Service Agencies

Youth Service Program

The School Based Youth Services Program offered at J.P. Case Middle School provides comprehensive, free student services. These services include supportive counseling, recreational and drop-in programs, employment and career counseling, and referral and linkages to community services. This program is co-sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Human Services and Hunterdon Medical Center.

In many cases, the program supports students who may want to talk or seek advice on a variety of matters. Students may go through their school counselor to request an initial appointment. Services are confidential. After the initial contact, however, a signed consent form is needed from a parent for services to continue. If there are problems at school, school-based staff will work with students and school personnel toward a resolution and to ensure a successful school experience.

A teen "drop-in" center also is available for 7th- and 8th-grade students at J.P. Case Middle School. Staffed by school-based counselors, it is an informal yet supervised atmosphere offering teenagers recreational activities and counselors who are available to talk.

Students can visit the Hunterdon Behavioral Health office. For more information, call (908) 788-6401.

Additional Agencies are listed below:

- The Department of Children Protection and Permanency
Hunterdon Local Office - #668
84 Park Avenue, 1st Floor, Flemington, NJ 08822
(908) 782-8784, (800) 392-2724
- State Central Registry: (877) 652-2873
- Poison Control Center: (800) 222-1222
- Hunterdon Medical Center: (908) 788-6100
- Hunterdon Behavioral Health: (908) 788-6401

For additional resources, please contact your school's counseling department and/or health office.

Additional Family Resources

New Jersey Department of Education

www.state.nj.us/education/index.html

Phone: (609) 292-4969

Flemington Borough

Borough Office: (908) 782-8840

Fire: (908) 782-5151

Library: (908) 782-5733

Police: (908) 782-3434

Raritan Township

Township Office: (908) 806-6100

Fire: (908) 782-6500

Police: (908) 782-8889