

Time, Place, and Notice of Meetings

1. Regular Meetings

- A. The Madison Board of Education (the “Board”) shall set a calendar of regular meetings for the ensuing year at the first regular meeting in ~~November~~December.
- B. In compliance with the Connecticut General Statutes, the Chairperson ~~for Secretary~~or Chairperson’s designee shall file this calendar with the Town Clerk, and post this calendar on the Board’s Internet web site, ~~if available, by November 30~~ [or other date falling on or before January 31].
- C. Normally the Board shall schedule regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month of the year except during school holidays, when the Board shall schedule no regular meetings.
- D. If at any point in the meeting the Board should not maintain a quorum, then the Chairperson of the Board will adjourn the meeting and declare the time and place of the resumption of the meeting, which shall be reflected in a written order of adjournment. A copy of the written order of adjournment will be posted on or near the door of the place where the meeting was held within twenty-four hours after the time of adjournment.
- E. If, in accordance with applicable law, the Board conducts a regular meeting by means of electronic equipment, the Board shall provide, at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting, direct notification in writing or by electronic transmission to each member of the Board and post a notice that the Board intends to conduct the meeting solely or in part by means of electronic equipment in the Administrative Offices of the Board, in the office of the Town Clerk, and on the Board’s Internet web site. Such notice shall include instructions for the public to attend and provide comment or otherwise participate in the meeting, by means of electronic equipment or in person, as applicable and permitted by law.

2. Special Meetings

- A. Special meetings may be held when determined by the Board, when so called by the Chairperson, or within fourteen (14) days upon written request of three members of the Board.
- B. No special meeting shall be held unless a notice stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting has been given to each member and to the Town

Clerk, and has been posted on the Board’s Internet web site, if available, twenty-four (24) hours before the time stated for the meeting to convene.

1. If, in accordance with applicable law, the Board holds a special meeting conducted solely or in part by means of electronic equipment, notice of such meeting shall include whether the meeting will be conducted solely or in part by means of electronic equipment. If such meeting is to be conducted by means of electronic equipment, such notice shall include instructions for the public, by means of electronic equipment or in person, to attend and provide comment or otherwise participate in the meeting, as applicable and permitted by law.

C. When a majority of the members agree that an emergency exists which has made a regular notice impossible, such a meeting may be called at a time or place which may be most convenient. In case of such emergency meeting, a copy of the minutes setting forth the nature of the emergency and the proceedings occurring at such meeting shall be filed with the Town Clerk ~~[Regional School District Option: with the Town Clerk of each municipal member of the school district]~~ no later than seventy-two (72) hours following the holding of such a meeting.

3. Meeting Time and Place

A. All regular meetings of the Board shall begin at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as a quorum is present, ~~and shall adjourn no later than unless extended to a time certain by a two-thirds vote of the Board members present.~~ All regular meetings of the Board shall be held in Central Office, unless otherwise ordered by the Board.

B. Special Meetings (non-emergency) of the Board shall be held at a time and place to be determined and announced in advance of meeting.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

Public Act 22-3, “An Act Concerning Remote Meetings Under the Freedom of Information Act.”

- 1-225 Meetings of government agencies to be public. Recording of votes. Schedule and agenda of certain meetings to be filed and posted on web sites. Notice of special meetings. Executive sessions
- 1-228 Adjournment of meetings. Notice
- 1-229 Continued hearings. Notice
- 1-230 Regular meetings to be held pursuant to regulation, ordinance or resolution

93            7-3            Warning of town and other meetings  
94            7-4            Record of warning  
95            10-218        Officers. Meetings

96

97    First Reading:            December 12, 2023

98    Second Reading:        January 23, 2024

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**#9510**  
**Regular Board Meetings**

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**Scheduling Board Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Board shall be held the first and third Tuesday of each month at a consistent time to be determined by the members of the Board. A schedule of meetings shall be made at a regular meeting of the Board. A calendar of such regularly scheduled meetings shall be made known to the Town Clerk of Madison by the Superintendent at least thirty (30) days prior to the first regularly scheduled meeting of the calendar year. Any change in the location, date and / or time of a regular meeting, due to a legal holiday or some other circumstance, shall be determined at a public meeting of the Board. Notice of such change shall be given to the Town Clerk and the public no less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the revised meeting. If a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board would otherwise fall on the November Election Day, the meeting shall be rescheduled to such other date as determined by the Board.

**Adjourning Board Meetings**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education may be adjourned in the absence of a quorum or due to incomplete business. A majority vote of those members present is required when a meeting is adjourned due to incomplete business. Within twenty-four hours of the adjournment, notice must be given to all Board members, the office of the Town Clerk, and clearly posted at the meeting site. Such notice shall include the site and time for the rescheduled adjourned meeting. If the hour for the rescheduled adjourned meeting is not stated, it shall be held at the hour specified for regular meetings.

**Canceling Board Meetings**

A regular meeting of the Board may be canceled by agreement of the majority of the entire Board and notice given to the Town Clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. Emergency cancellation of a regular or special Board meeting may be made by

**9510** (continued)

the Board Chairperson and the Superintendent when such a condition exists. Board members will be notified as soon as possible and public notice given by local radio stations or cable channel.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-218 Offices Meeting; 1-21 Meetings of Public Agencies

Date of Adoption: 2/7/72  
1<sup>st</sup> Revision: 3/21/89  
2<sup>nd</sup> Revision: 4/7/92  
3<sup>rd</sup> Revision: 1/3/95  
4<sup>th</sup> Revision: 12/15/98

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**#9520**  
**Special Board Meetings**

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Special meetings of the Board of Education shall be called by the Chairperson when he / she deems it necessary or upon the written request of one-third (1/3) of the members of the Board. No business shall be transacted at any special meeting which does not come within the purpose set forth in the call for the meeting unless all members are present and agree to the consideration of the additional items.

Notice of the time and location of each special meeting shall be given to the Office of the Town Clerk not less than 24 hours prior to the time of such meeting. Notice of any special meeting shall be given to all Board members not less than 24 hours prior to the time of such meeting.

**Emergency Special Meetings:**

In the case of an emergency, a special meeting may be held without complying with the requirement set forth above regarding notification to the Office of the Town Clerk. However, a copy of the minutes of such emergency meeting which adequately sets forth the nature of the emergency and the proceedings which occurred at the meeting shall be filed with the Office of the Town Clerk not later than 72 hours following the meeting. No other business shall be considered at emergency meetings than that for which the meeting is called.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
Sec. 1-21

Date of Adoption: 1/17/72  
1st Revision: 6/19/90  
2nd Revision: 1/3/95

**#9540.1****Notification of Board Meetings**

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The Board must file a schedule of all regular meetings with the town clerk no later than January 31 of each year, and no such meeting may be held less than 30 days after the schedule is filed. In order to ensure timely compliance, the Superintendent will present to the Board before December 1 a calendar of proposed regular meetings which, when approved, will be transmitted to the town clerk.

Notification of special meetings must be given by posting a notice of time, place, and purpose of the meeting in the town clerk's office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Where practical, the Board must give notice by mail of each regular and special meeting to any person who has filed a written request for such notice. The Board may make a reasonable charge for this service.

State law requires that notices of special meetings be delivered to the home of each member of the Board, but this requirement may be waived by individual members as permitted by law.

Wherever possible the Board will announce in advance through the media the date, time, place, and agenda for all regular, special, and rescheduled meetings. The Secretary will supervise this notification.

Legal Reference: Connecticut State Statutes  
Sec. 1-21

Cross Reference: Bylaw #9540.2

Additional Reference: *Robert's Rules of Order, Rev.*, 75th Edition: Article XI, Sec. 65 Order of Business

Date of Adoption: 3/20/72  
1st Revision: 6/19/90  
2nd Revision: 1/3/95

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4 1. Search of a Student and the Student's Effects  
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6 A. Fourth Amendment rights to be free from unreasonable searches and  
7 seizures apply to searches conducted by public school officials. A student  
8 and their effects may be searched if there are reasonable grounds for  
9 suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has  
10 violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. The way  
11 the search is conducted should be reasonably related to the objectives of  
12 the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the protected  
13 characteristics of the student - including but not limited to age and sex -  
14 and the nature of the infraction.  
15  
16 2. Search of a Locker, Desk and Other Storage Area  
17  
18 A. Lockers, desks and other storage areas provided by the school system for  
19 use by students are the property of the school system. Such storage areas  
20 are provided for the temporary convenience of students only. The Board  
21 of Education (the "Board") authorizes the administration and/or law  
22 enforcement officials to search lockers and other school property available  
23 for use by students for the presence of weapons, contraband or the fruits of  
24 a crime if there are reasonable grounds at the inception of the search for  
25 suspecting that the search will reveal evidence that the student has violated  
26 or is violating either the law, Board policy or the rules of the school.  
27 Moreover, the scope of the search shall be reasonably related to the  
28 objectives of the search and shall not be excessively intrusive in light of  
29 the protected characteristics of the student - including but not limited to  
30 age and sex - and the nature of the infraction.  
31  
32 B. If the school administration reasonably suspects that a student is not  
33 maintaining a locker or other storage area assigned to them in a sanitary  
34 condition, or that the storage area contains items the possession of which  
35 is illegal or in violation of school regulations or that endangers the health,  
36 safety or welfare of the student or others, the school administration has  
37 the right to open and examine the storage area and to seize any such items  
38 that are found.  
39  
40 C. When required by law and otherwise at the option of the building  
41 principal, items that have been seized shall be submitted to the police  
42 department for proper disposition. Items not submitted to the police  
43 department shall be disposed of as directed by the building principal.  
44  
45 3. The decision to search shall be made by the principal or the principal's designee.  
46 The search shall be made in the presence of at least one witness. Discovery of



47 illegal or dangerous materials shall be reported to the Office of the  
48 Superintendent.

49  
50 4. Use of drug-detection dogs and metal detectors, similar detective devices; and/or  
51 breathalyzers and other passive alcohol screening devices may be used only on the  
52 express authorization of the Superintendent, in accordance with such procedures as  
53 the Superintendent may devise.

54  
55 Legal References:

56  
57 Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221, Board of education to prescribes rules, policies and  
58 procedures

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60 Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-33n, Search of school locker and property

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62 New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)

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66 First Reading: December 12, 2023

67 Second Reading: January 23, 2024

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#5090.8.1 Regulation  
Search and Seizure

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION REGARDING SEARCH AND SEIZURE

1. Search of a Student and the Student's Effects
  - A. All searches of students shall be conducted or directed by an authorized school administrator, i.e., the principal or vice principal, in the presence of a witness.
  - B. A search of a student's handbag, gym bag, cellular telephone, personal electronic device or similar personal property carried by a student may be conducted if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will produce evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law, Board policy, or the rules of the school. A student's other effects are also subject to the same rule. Effects may include motor vehicles located on school property.
  - C. A search of a student's person may be conducted only if there are reasonable grounds at the inception of the search for suspecting that the search will reveal evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. Moreover, the scope of the search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and shall not be excessively intrusive in light of the protected characteristics of the student - including but not limited to age and sex - and the nature of the infraction. Metal detectors, breathalyzers and/or drug sniffing dogs may be used to detect the presence of contraband, including weapons, drugs or alcohol, in furtherance of this policy and to the extent authorized by law.
  - D. Strip searches are prohibited except when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that such a search will produce evidence of conduct which places students, staff or school property in immediate danger. Such searches may be conducted at the request of the school principal, generally by a member of the police department. During such searches, a member of the school staff shall be present at all times as a witness, and both the police officer conducting the search and the witness shall, to the extent possible, be of the same sex and/or gender as the student searched.
  - E. Any evidence of illegal conduct or conduct violative of the rules of the school produced as a result of searches according to these regulations shall be subject to seizure. Where required by law and otherwise at the option of the building principal, such evidence shall be submitted to the police

department for proper disposition. Evidence not submitted to the police department shall be disposed of as directed by the building principal.

2. Search of a Locker, Desk and Other Storage Area

- A. The Board of Education (the “Board”) provides lockers, desks, gym baskets and other storage areas in which students may keep and store personal belongings and materials provided by the Board. Such storage areas are the property of the Board.
- B. No student shall keep or store personal belongings or materials provided by the Board in any storage area other than one provided by the Board and designated for the student’s use by the school administration.
- C. Each student shall be responsible for maintaining any storage area assigned to the student for the student’s use in an orderly and sanitary condition.
- D. No student shall keep or store in a storage area assigned to the student for the student’s use any item the possession of which is illegal or in violation of ~~school regulations~~Board policy, the rules of the school or that endangers the health, safety or welfare of self or others (such as matches, chemicals, ammunition, weapons, drugs, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, etc.).
- E. The use of lockers and other storage areas by students is a privilege. At all times such storage areas remain the property of the Board. If the school administration reasonably suspects that a student is not maintaining a storage area assigned to the student in a sanitary condition, or that the locker contains items the possession of which is illegal or in violation of Board policy, the rules of the school, school regulations or that endangers the health, safety or welfare of the student or others, it has the right to open and examine the storage area and to seize any such items that are found. The school administration may authorize law enforcement officials to search lockers/storage areas in accordance with Board Policy 5090.8.1, Section 2(A).
- F. When required by law and otherwise at the option of the building principal, items that have been seized shall be submitted to the police department for proper disposition. Items not submitted to the police department shall be disposed of as directed by the building principal.

Legal References:

92	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221, Board of education to prescribes rules, policies and
93	procedures
94	
95	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-33n, Search of school locker and property
96	
97	<u>New Jersey v. T.L.O.</u> , 469 U.S. 325 (1985)
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106 **ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION REGARDING SEARCH AND SEIZURE**  
107 **(OPTIONAL ADDENDUM REGARDING USE OF BREATHALYZERS ON**  
108 **SCHOOL PROPERTY)**  
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111 The Board of Education (the “Board”) supports the use of both passive alcohol screening  
112 (“PAS”) devices and breathalyzers during the school day or at school-sponsored events,  
113 on or off campus, to deter the use of alcohol by students in the Madison Public Schools  
114 (the “District”) and to promote the health and safety of all students.  
115

116 This regulation provides the basic structure for the use of passive alcohol sensors and  
117 breathalyzers in this District to detect/confirm alcohol consumption by students. Such  
118 instruments shall be used by the District to 1) to confirm a reasonable suspicion that a  
119 particular student has used or is under the influence of alcohol at school during the school  
120 day, or at a voluntary, extracurricular school-sponsored event; and/or 2) systematically  
121 screen students attending extracurricular/voluntary school-sponsored events for possible  
122 alcohol use.  
123

124 The passive alcohol sensor (“PAS”) device is a non-invasive high-speed breath alcohol-  
125 screening instrument which can be used as a “sniffer” for overt or covert alcohol  
126 detection. This device may be used to sample a student’s breath in order to detect alcohol  
127 use, with results reported as either “positive” or “negative.” A breathalyzer is a device  
128 that detects and measures alcohol in expired air so as to determine the concentration of  
129 alcohol in a person's blood.  
130

131 Only designated school personnel will be trained in the use of the PAS device and/or  
132 breathalyzer test. All testing instruments shall be properly calibrated and will be checked  
133 for accuracy and for full calibration in accordance with the manufacturer’s standards.  
134 Testing of students using these devices will be conducted in a separate area, to the extent  
135 practicable, to maintain student privacy.  
136

137 Results from a PAS device or breathalyzer will be maintained in a confidential manner,  
138 and released in accordance with District policy and state and federal law.  
139

140 **A. Testing to Confirm Reasonable Suspicion of Alcohol Use**  
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142 If there is reasonable suspicion that a student is under the influence of alcohol at school  
143 or at a school-sponsored event, the student shall be removed to a separate area for  
144 observation and questioning concerning alcohol consumption. The student will be  
145 informed as to how the PAS device operates and will be asked to breathe across the  
146 intake part of the device. Testing will be conducted by trained personnel, in a separate  
147 area whenever possible, to maintain student privacy. Any student who tests positive will  
148 be asked to submit to a second test using a breathalyzer. If the student tests positive for a  
149 second time, the school will contact the student’s parents. If necessary, the student will  
150 be brought to the school nurse for medical treatment and emergency medical protocols  
151 shall be followed.

152  
153 If the student tests positive on either test, or if the student refuses to take the test when  
154 there is reasonable suspicion of alcohol use, the student may be subject to appropriate  
155 disciplinary action consistent with District policies and procedures.

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157 **Reasonable suspicion shall include**, but not be limited to, any of the following:

- 158  
159 1. Observed use or possession of alcohol;  
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161 2. Alcohol odor or the presence of an alcohol container;  
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163 3. Slurred speech, unsteady gait, lack of coordination, bloodshot or glazed  
164 eyes; or  
165  
166 4. Marked changes in personal behavior not attributable to other factors.

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169 **B. Extracurricular/Voluntary School-Sponsored Events**

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171 The Board also allows for the use of PAS devices and breathalyzers in connection with  
172 students' participation in extracurricular/voluntary school-sponsored events and activities  
173 without the need for school personnel to first have reasonable suspicion of alcohol use.  
174 Such suspicion-less testing will occur only if students are notified prior to the event or  
175 school-sponsored activity that a PAS or breathalyzer may be used, and that they may be  
176 denied entry and/or removed from the event or activity for either refusing to submit to  
177 such testing or for testing positive for alcohol use. Students will be notified through a  
178 variety of means, including orientation programs, student handbooks and/or electronic  
179 publication.

180  
181 When PAS devices and/or a breathalyzer will be used at a voluntary school-sponsored  
182 event (i.e. school dances, proms, etc.), such devices shall be administered as follows:

- 183  
184 1. All students participating in the activity or school-sponsored event will be  
185 asked to submit to a PAS screening. Students will be asked to breathe  
186 across the intake part of the device.  
187  
188 2. If the PAS device detects alcohol, the student shall be removed to a  
189 separate area for observation and questioning concerning alcohol  
190 consumption. After fifteen (15) minutes, the student will be asked to  
191 submit to a breathalyzer test to confirm the presence of alcohol.  
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193 3. Should the student test positive after the second test, school personnel will  
194 contact the student's parents and the student shall be removed/denied entry  
195 to the activity or school-sponsored event.  
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4. Any student who refuses to breathe into the PAS device, or who refuses to submit to the breathalyzer test, may be excluded or removed from the activity or school-sponsored event and may face additional disciplinary actions.
  5. The District retains the right to contact local law enforcement officials at any time, as deemed appropriate, consistent with District practice and policy.

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**#5090.8.1  
Search and Seizure**

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**Desks and School Lockers**

Desks and school lockers are the property of the schools. The right to inspect desks and lockers assigned to students may be exercised by school officials to safeguard students, their property and school property, giving recognition to the Fourth Amendment rights of students.

The exercise of the right to inspect also requires protection of each student's personal privacy and protection from coercion. An authorized school administrator may search a student's locker or desk and seize contraband under the following conditions:

1. There is a reasonable belief that the student's desk or locker contains contraband material, or that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.
2. The probable presence of contraband material poses a serious threat to the maintenance of discipline, order, safety and health in the school. Contraband is defined as any object that is illegal or in violation of any Board policy.
3. The student has been informed in advance that school board policy allows desks and lockers to be inspected if the administration has a reasonable belief that materials injurious to the best interests of students and the school are contained therein.

District officials may seize any item which is evidence of a violation of law, Board policy, administrative regulation, school rule, or which the possession or use of is prohibited by such law, policy, regulation or rule.

**Student Search**

A student may be searched if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objectives of the



**#5090.8.1 (cont.)**

search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

(c.f. 1350 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies)  
(c.f. 5090.8.1.2 Vehicle Searches on School Grounds)  
(c.f. 5110.3.1 Police in Schools)  
(c.f. 5142.4 School Resource Officer)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-221 - Boards of Education to prescribe rules.  
*New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325; 105 S.Ct.733  
PA 94-115 An Act Concerning School Searches  
*Safford Unified School District #1 v. Redding (U.S. Sup. CT 08-479)*

Date of Adoption: September 19, 1995  
Date of Revision: March 18, 2014

#5090.3.1  
Student Dress

In order to maintain an environment conducive to the educational process, the Madison Board of Education (the “Board”) prohibits the following from wear during the academic school day, deemed disruptive to the educational environment:

- a. Coats, jackets, or other attire normally worn as outerwear.
- b. Head coverings. Head coverings shall not be worn, carried, hung on belts or around the neck, or kept in the classroom during regular school hours. Approved coverings worn as part of a student's religious practice or belief, or as required or permitted in conjunction with school district health and safety protocols, shall not be prohibited under this policy. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit protective hairstyles. “Protective hairstyles” includes, but is not limited to, wigs, headwraps and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros and afro puffs.
- c. Sunglasses unless required pursuant to a documented medical issue.
- d. Attire or accessories that may present a safety hazard to the student, other students, or staff.
- e. Attire or accessories that contain vulgarity or that contain overly offensive or disruptive writing or pictures.
- f. Attire or accessories depicting or suggesting violence so as to disrupt the educational environment or that provokes others to act violently or causes others to be intimidated by fear of violence or that constitute "fighting words," including but not limited to attire or accessories depicting the Confederate flag and/or the Nazi swastika.
- g. Attire or accessories that depict logo or emblems that encourage the use of drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages.
- h. Shirts and/or blouses that reveal the abdomen, ~~or~~ chest, or undergarments.

- 35 [i. See-through clothing.](#)
- 36 [j. Shorts, miniskirts, or pants that reveal undergarments.](#)
- 37 [k. Backpacks and/or book bags are permitted to be carried between classes, but shall not](#)
- 38 [obstruct safe passage in the classroom or in the corridors.](#)

39

40 Students who fail to comply with Board policy and regulations concerning student dress  
41 will be subject to school discipline up to and including expulsion in accordance with the  
42 Board's policy on student discipline.

43

44 [Legal Reference:](#)

45

46 [Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-51 \(definition of protective hairstyles\)](#)

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49 Date of Adoption:      October 6, 2020

First Reading:            December 12, 2023

Second Reading:        January 23, 2024

~~Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline~~ Recess and Play-Based Learning

It is the policy of the Madison Board of Education (the “Board”) to promote the health and well-being of district students by encouraging healthy lifestyles and mental health wellness, including promoting physical exercise, ~~and~~ activity and play as part of the school day within the Madison Public Schools (“District”).

For the purposes of this policy, a “school employee” is defined as (1) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by the Board or working in the district schools, or (2) any other individual who, in the performance of their duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in the district schools pursuant to a contract with the Board.

For purposes of this policy, “recess” means the time during the regular school day for each student enrolled in elementary school that is devoted to physical exercise of not less than twenty minutes in total pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221o.

**I. Deprivation of ~~Physical Exercise Period~~ Recess or Undirected Play Period as a Form of Discipline:**

For elementary school students, the Board includes a time of not less than twenty (20) minutes in total, during the regular school day, ~~to be devoted to physical exercise~~ for recess, except that a planning and placement team (“PPT”) may develop a different schedule for students requiring special education and related services.

The administration may include additional time, beyond the twenty minutes required for ~~physical exercise~~ recess, devoted to undirected play during the regular school day for elementary school students.

33 In an effort to promote physical exercise and undirected play, the Board prohibits school  
34 employees from disciplining elementary school students by preventing them from participating in  
35 the full 20 minutes of ~~time devoted to physical exercise~~recess or additional time devoted to  
36 undirected play during the regular school day, except in accordance with this policy or as  
37 determined by a student’s Section 504 team or PPT.

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39 A. *Physical ~~Exercise~~Recess Period*  
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41 School employees may prevent or otherwise restrict a student from participating in the entire  
42 time devoted to ~~physical exercise in the regular school day~~recess as a form of discipline, only  
43 under the following circumstances:

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45 1) When a student poses a danger to the health or safety of other students or school  
46 personnel; or  
47

48 2) If there are two or more periods devoted to ~~physical exercise~~recess in a school day,  
49 then when the prevention or restriction of ~~physical exercise~~recess is limited to the  
50 period ~~devoted to physical exercise~~of recess that is the shortest in duration,  
51 provided that the student still participates in at least twenty minutes of ~~physical~~  
52 ~~exercise~~recess in a school day.  
53

54 School employees may prevent or restrict a student from participating in the entire ~~time~~  
55 ~~devoted time~~ devoted to physical exercise in the regular school dayrecess as a form of discipline, in  
56 accordance with this policy, only one time during a school week, unless the student is a danger  
57 to the health or safety of other students or school personnel.

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59 School employees may not prevent or restrict a student from participating in the entire time  
60 devoted to ~~physical exercise in the regular school day~~recess if such prevention or restriction is  
61 related to the student’s failure to complete school work on time or to the student’s academic  
62 performance.

63

64 This policy distinguishes between a) discipline that is imposed before ~~the time devoted to physical~~  
65 ~~exercise~~recess begins and b) discipline imposed during ~~such time devoted to physical~~  
66 ~~exercise~~recess or methods used to redirect a student’s behavior during ~~such time~~recess. School

67 personnel may impose discipline during ~~time devoted to physical exercise~~recess as a result of  
68 student’s behavior during ~~such time~~recess, if such discipline is in accordance with Board policies  
69 and procedures. School personnel may also use methods to redirect a student’s behavior, in the  
70 event such behavior warrants redirection, during ~~the time devoted to physical exercise~~recess. For  
71 clarity, the prohibition against preventing or restricting a student’s participation in the time  
72 devoted to ~~physical exercise~~recess shall apply to student conduct that occurs prior to the ~~physical~~  
73 ~~exercise~~recess time, rather than during the ~~physical exercise~~recess time.

75 B. *Undirected Play Period*

76  
77 School employees may not discipline elementary school students by preventing them from  
78 participating in the full time devoted to undirected play, if any, during the regular schoolday,  
79 except when a student poses a danger to the health or safety of other students or school personnel,  
80 or as determined by a student’s Section 504 team or PPT.

81 **II. Play-Based Learning Requirements for Pre-Kindergarten to Grade Five**

82  
83 Effective July 1, 2024, the Board directs the District administration to 1) provide for play-based  
84 learning during the instructional time of each regular school day for all students in kindergarten  
85 and any preschool program operated by the Board; and 2) permit a teacher to utilize play-based  
86 learning during the instructional time of the regular school day for all students in grades one to  
87 five, inclusive.

88  
89 A. Definitions for Section II

- 90  
91 1) “Free play” means unstructured, voluntary, child-initiated activities that are performed by  
92 a child for self-amusement and have behavioral, social and psychomotor rewards, except  
93 free play may be structured to promote activities that are child-directed, joyful and  
94 spontaneous.
- 95  
96 2) “Guided play” means learning experiences that combine the child-directed nature of free  
97 play with a focus on learning outcomes and adult guidance.
- 98  
99 3) “Play-based learning” means a pedagogical approach that emphasizes play in promoting  
100 learning and includes developmentally appropriate strategies that can be integrated with  
101 existing learning standards. Play-based learning does not mean time spent in recess or as  
102 part of a physical education course or instruction.
- 103  
104 4) “Mobile electronic device” means any hand-held or other portable electronic equipment  
105 capable of providing data communication between two or more individuals, including,  
106 but not limited to, a text messaging device, a paging device, a personal digital assistant, a

107 laptop computer, equipment that is capable of playing a video game or a digital video  
108 disk, or equipment on which digital images are taken or transmitted.

109  
110 5) “Instructional time” means the time of actual school work during a regular school day.  
111

112 B. Play-Based Learning Requirements for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten  
113

114 Play-based learning shall be provided during the instructional time of each regular school day for  
115 all students in kindergarten and any preschool program operated by the Board. Such play-based  
116 learning shall:

117  
118 1) be incorporated and integrated into daily practice;

119  
120 2) allow for the needs of such students to be met through free play, guided play and games;  
121 and

122  
123 3) be predominantly free from the use of mobile electronic devices.  
124

125 C. Play-Based Learning Requirements for Grades One to Five, Inclusive  
126

127 The Board permits teachers to utilize play-based learning during the instructional time of a  
128 regular school day for all students in grades one to five, inclusive. Such play-based learning:

129  
130 1) may be incorporated and integrated into daily practice;

131  
132 2) shall allow for the needs of such students to be met through free play, guided play and  
133 games; and

134  
135 3) shall be predominantly free from the use of mobile electronic devices.  
136

137 D. Play-Based Learning for Students with IEPs or Section 504 Plans  
138

139 Any play-based learning utilized shall comply with a student’s individualized education program  
140 (“IEP”) or Section 504 plan.

141  
142 E. Deprivation of Play-Based Learning as a Form of Discipline  
143

144 School employees may not discipline elementary school students by preventing them from  
145 participating in the full time devoted to play-based learning, if any, during the regular school  
146 day, except when a student poses a danger to the health or safety of other students or school  
147 personnel, or as determined by a student’s Section 504 team or PPT.  
148

149 **H.III. Prohibition on Compulsion of Physical Activity as a Form of Discipline:**  
150

151 For all students, the Board prohibits school employees from disciplining students by requiring  
152 students to engage in physical activity as a form of discipline during the regular school day.

153  
154

155 **III.IV. Disciplinary Action for Failure to Follow Policy:**

156

157 Any employee who fails to comply with the requirements of this policy may be subject to  
158 discipline, up to and including termination of employment. Any contracted individual who  
159 provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in the district and who fails to comply with  
160 the requirements of this policy may be subject to having the individual’s contract for services  
161 suspended by the district.

162

163 **Legal References:**

164

165 **Connecticut General Statutes:**

166

167

168

169 § 10-221o Lunch periods. Recess. Boards to adopt policies addressing the  
170 limitations of physical exercise

171

172 § 10-221u Boards to adopt policies addressing the use of physical activity as  
173 discipline

174

175 [Public Act No. 22-81 “An Act Expanding Preschool and Mental and Behavioral](#)  
176 [Services for Children”](#)

177 [Public Act No. 23-159, “An Act Concerning Teachers and Paraeducators”](#)

178

179 [Public Act No. 23-101, “An Act Concerning the Mental, Physical and Emotional](#)  
180 [Wellness of Children”](#)

181

182

183

184 Date of Adoption: March 7, 2023

185

186 [First Reading: December 12, 2023](#)

187 [Second Reading: January 23, 2024](#)