

Policy Subcommittee Special Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 7:00 PM

Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (9/24/25 at 7:00 p.m.) Web:
<https://zoom.us/j/97284658195> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 972 8465
8195, 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II.A. May 20, 2025 - Regular

III. INFORMATION / ACTION ITEMS

III.A. Policy 5135.1 - Bus Conduct

III.B. Policy 5118.2 – Educational Opportunities for
Military Children

III.C. Policy 5144.12 – Challenging Behavior Response
Policy

III.D. Policy 1321.2 - Public Videotaping of Educational
Activity

IV. OTHER

V. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Policy Meeting type: Special
Date of Meeting: 5/20/25 Place of Meeting: Zoom
Members present: Kathy Baker Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette,
Members absent: Samantha Mannion
Other attendees: Ken Craw, James D'Amico, Dominic Cipollone, Sue Huwer, Ed Sbordone
Minutes submitted by: Amy Johnson
Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (5/20/25 at 7:00 p.m.)
Web: <https://zoom.us/j/97786372146> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 977 8637 2146

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 30, 2025

Motion: To approve the minutes of April 30, 2025, as presented

Made by: Kim LaTourette

Seconded by: Amy Johnson

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Policy 5118 – Nonresident Students - Residency Update

Ken updated the Policy Subcommittee on the residency initiatives. Ken said it was an active year and thanked Paul and the registrar for their hard work. Paul shared information on the data they we are looking at for residency. Every month we get a report from the tax collector on homes bought and sold. There was an issue with the car transfer report, but it is working on getting cleaned up. The partnership with the town is working out great. We are also getting tips from staff, the bus company, community members, etc. We investigated 23 families last year and 24 families this year. With our new policies and procedures, we are able to prevent registration of nonresident students. There are currently 13 active investigations as of the June meeting.

B. Policy 5131.81 - Electronic Devices

Ken said this was a follow up from a previous update. We have had the policy about 8 months so far. Policy was updated to read "further violations of this policy shall be addressed by discipline in accordance with the student code of responsibility and respect and considered level 2 or above violations of section II: respect, courtesy and honesty and section IV respect for orderly teaching/learning environment." James recalls Saturday detention is the most effective discipline. The reason for this policy is their health. We take it very seriously. Kim says she likes it and when we find a consequence that works, she is in favor. Sue recalls that the new language is too vague. Sue says she would recommend a stronger offense on third offense. Ken says that level 2 and 3 are not working. James wants the same footing that we have in other policies. Ken said we want to build a common understanding in the community and James has some plans to make some adjustments next year. James says he is building the schedule for next year and broadening the definition of "classroom". Phones are detractors from work. Admin team hasn't reached consensus on the bell to bell regarding the cell phone conversations. Bell to bell needs to be a community conversation. Dom says it's ironic that we want our kids protected and we have to get the community behind the bell-to-bell conversation. Sue says that kids need to learn to manage cell phone use to be ready for college and workforce. Sue mentions a group called "Screen Savers." There is a toolkit on how to talk to parents and teachers. Kim makes a motion to move to the full board. Kathy agrees that this needs to move to the full board. Kathy says we need to teach them how to regulate phone use. Dom says we need to provide meaningful learning for our kids.

Motion: To bring Policy 5131.81 - Electronic Devices to the full Board

Made by: Kim LaTourette

Seconded by: Amy Johnson

Recording of Vote: All in favor

C. Policy 7000 - Concepts and Roles in Planning for Educational Facilities

Ken says that we have had a few requests from the community to name facilities after individuals. The board wants to be consistent in how we recognize individuals, and the preferred way is via the Hall of Honor. James and his team will review once a year the nominations and process.

James said that this establishes guidelines and that requests are equitable and consistent. Ken says that we have a great spot on the first floor for the Hall of Honor.

Motion: To bring Policy 7000 – Concepts and Roles in Planning for Educational Facilities to the full Board at the next meeting with suspension of the rules.

Made by: Kim LaTourette

Seconded by: Amy Johnson

Recording of Vote: All in favor

IV. OTHER

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Kim LaTourette

Seconded by: Amy Johnson

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 7:59 p.m.

Students

Bus Conduct

School transportation is a student privilege conditional upon satisfactory behavior on buses and at bus stops.

Students will be advised that, while awaiting or receiving transportation to and from school, they may be suspended from transportation services for unsatisfactory conduct which endangers persons or property or violates a Board policy or administrative regulation. Principals shall follow procedures in Policy 5114 Suspension/Expulsion/Exclusion/Removal when suspending student bus privileges.

(cf. 5114 Suspension/Expulsion/Exclusion/Removal)

(cf. 5131.5 Vandalism)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-186 Duties of local and regional Boards of education re school attendance.

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

10-221 boards of education to prescribe rules.

10-233c Suspension of students.

Policy adopted: December 4, 2008

Policy reviewed:

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Fairfield, Connecticut

Students

Conduct on School Bus

The New Fairfield Board of Education is committed to maintaining and improving the safety and well-being of students and employees. The Board of Education adopts the following policy:

1. Passengers riding in vehicles owned and/or operated by the Board of Education must wear seat belts when vehicles are so equipped.
2. Passengers must remain seated while any such vehicle is in motion.
3. Students shall treat bus equipment properly. All damage will be paid for by the offenders or their parents.
4. Students shall behave in an orderly manner while waiting, boarding, riding on, and leaving busses. They shall obey the instructions of the driver at all times.
5. If a student is unruly on the bus and refuses to obey the driver, the driver will take the student to his destination and report him/her in writing to the building administrator.

Unless there is a reasonable doubt with respect to the safety and welfare of a student or students, no child shall be denied the privilege of riding a school bus to and from school on the same day of an infraction of the rules established by the Superintendent of Schools.

The administrator will discuss the situation as soon as possible with the parent and student. If the administrator decides to revoke bus privileges the parent will be notified promptly that the child may not ride the bus. It will be the responsibility of the parent to transport the child to school during the period that the privilege of bus transportation is withdrawn. If a parent cannot provide transportation, in-school or out-of-school suspension may be substituted.

6. The Board is responsible for student safety only while the students are in the Board's custody, that is, from the time the child boards the bus and until he/she is safely discharged and across the street. Parents are responsible for the safety of the child at all other times, including the time when the student is waiting for the bus at the bus stop.
7. ~~Consolidated students~~ **New Fairfield Elementary School students K-3** will be dropped off at bus stops if there is an adult or student (aged 12 or older) to meet the child. If there is no adult or appropriately aged student present, the child will be returned to school.

The exception to this regulation will be a child whose parent has completed a [signed agreement](#) with the building principal and Superintendent.

A mandated policy for your consideration.

Students

Educational Opportunities for Military Children

To facilitate the placement, enrollment, graduation, data collection, and provision of special services for students transferring into or out of the District because of their parents being on active duty in the U.S. Armed Services, the District supports and will implement its responsibilities as outlined in the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*. The Board of Education believes it is appropriate to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of their parents' frequent moves and deployment.

Definitions

Children of military families means school-aged children, enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, in the household of an active-duty member of the uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve.

Deployment means the period one month before the service members depart from their home station on military orders, six months after return to their home station.

Education(al) records means official records, files, and data directly related to a student and maintained by the school, including, but not limited to, records encompassing all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder.

The requirements applicable to eligible students, which must be fulfilled, are listed below. Eligible students are those who are children of active-duty personnel, active-duty personnel or veterans who have been severely injured and medically discharged, and active-duty personnel who die on active duty within one year of service. Students are not eligible for the provisions of the *Compact* if they are children of inactive Guard or Reserves, retired personnel, veterans not included above, or U.S. Department of Defense personnel and other federal civil service employees and contract employees.

The District's responsibilities to eligible children include the following:

- Sending schools must send either official or unofficial records with the moving students, and District receiving schools must use those records for immediate enrollment and educational placement.
- Simultaneously, the receiving school must request official records, and the sending schools shall respond within 10 days with the records.
- Immunization requirements of the District may be met within 30 days from the date of enrollment (or be in progress).

Students

Educational Opportunities for Military Children (continued)

- Receiving schools must honor placement of students in all courses from the sending school. These include, but are not limited to, Honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, vocational-technical, and career pathway courses if those courses are offered in the receiving school.
- In compliance with federal law, special education students must be placed by the existing IEP with reasonable accommodations in the receiving school.
- If a child of a member of the armed forces is enrolled in a school under the jurisdiction the district, and such member has received military orders directing them from such town, or any other documents from the armed forces indicating a change of residency from such town during the school year, the child may continue to be enrolled in the school until the end of the school year while such member remains a member of the armed forces, except that any such child in grade eleven may continue to be enrolled in the school for an additional school year while such member remains a member of the armed forces
- The District will exercise, as deemed appropriate, the right to waive prerequisites for all courses and programs, while also maintaining its right to re-evaluate the student to ensure continued enrollment, as deemed appropriate.
- Students of active-duty personnel shall have additional excused absences at the discretion of the District for visitations relative to leave or deployment.

(cf. 5111 – Admission)

(cf. 5113 – Attendance and Excuses)

(cf. 5123 – Promotion/Retention)

(cf. 5125 – Student Records; Confidentiality)

(cf. 5141.3 – Health Assessments and Immunizations)

(cf. 6146 – Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6171 – Special Education)

Students

Educational Opportunities for Military Children

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-15f Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Public Act 25-15 An Act Concerning Various Measures Recognizing and Honoring the Military Service of the Armed Forces in Connecticut. (Section 7)

Policy adopted:

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Fairfield, Connecticut

rev 11/11
rev 7/25

Students

Challenging Behavior Response Policy

The New Fairfield Board of Education (the “Board”) is committed to identifying strategies to improve school climate, including, but not limited to, by responding to challenging behavior and implementing evidence and research-based interventions, including restorative practices. Restorative practices may be implemented by school employees for incidents of challenging behavior, bullying, and/or harassment in the school environment, or other forms of student conflict that is nonviolent and does not constitute a crime. Restorative practices shall not include the involvement of a school resource officer or other law enforcement official unless such challenging behavior or other conflict escalates to violence and/or constitutes a crime. In addition, the New Fairfield Public Schools (the “District”) shall address challenging behavior, bullying, and harassment in accordance with the Board’s Student Discipline policy and any other applicable Board policy, administrative regulations, and/or school rules.

For purposes of this policy:

- “Restorative practices” means evidence and research-based system-level practices that focus on (A) building high-quality, constructive relationships among the school community, (B) holding each student accountable for any challenging behavior, and (C) ensuring each such student has a role in repairing relationships and reintegrating into the school community.
- “Challenging behavior” means behavior that negatively impacts school climate or interferes, or is at risk of interfering, with the learning or safety of a student or the safety of a school employee.
- “Bullying” means unwanted and aggressive behavior among children in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. “Bullying” includes “cyberbullying”, which means any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any other electronic communication.
- “School climate” means the quality and character of the school life, with a particular focus on the quality of the relationships within the school community, and which is based on patterns of people’s experiences of school life and that reflects the norms, goals, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching, learning, leadership practices and organizational structures within the school community.

Students

Challenging Behavior Response Policy

- “School climate improvement plan” means a building-specific plan developed by the school climate committee, in collaboration with the school climate specialist, using school climate survey data and any other relevant information, through a process that engages all members of the school community and involves such members in a series of overlapping systemic improvements, school-wide instructional practices and relational practices that prevent, identify and respond to challenging behavior, including, but not limited to, alleged bullying and harassment in the school environment.
- “School environment” means a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program, whether on or off school grounds, including at a school bus stop or on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by the Board, and may include other activities, functions or programs that occur outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program if bullying at or during such other activities, functions or programs negatively impacts the school environment.

District administration will implement a continuum of tiered strategies aligned to Connecticut School Climate Standards to prevent, identify, and respond to challenging behavior, bullying, and harassment. Such strategies shall include research-based interventions, including restorative practices, and may be included in each school’s school climate improvement plan. These strategies and tiered responses will be reviewed annually and updated as needed by the district administrative team and district school climate coordinator.

(cf. 1110.1 – Parent Involvement)
(cf. 4131 – Staff Development)
(cf. 5114 – Suspension/Expulsion; Student Due Process)
(cf. 5131 – Conduct)
(cf. 5131.1 – Bus Conduct)
(cf. 5131.6 – Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco)
(cf. 5131.7 – Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)
(cf. 5131.8 – Out of School Grounds Misconduct)
(cf. 5131.911 – Connecticut School Climate Policy)
(cf. 5131.913 – Cyberbullying)
(cf. 5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect)
(cf. 5145.4 – Nondiscrimination)
(cf. 5145.5 – Sexual Harassment)

Students

Challenging Behavior Response Policy

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222aa

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222dd

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222jj

Policy adopted:

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Fairfield, Connecticut

Community Relations

Public Videotaping of Educational Activity

The Board of Education (Board) hereby establishes limits on the use of recording equipment in order to minimize disruption and protect instructional time essential to improving student achievement. Any recording activity, even activity permitted under this policy, will be prohibited if the activity creates a disruption to the education process.

Definitions

Visual Recording: Registering visual images on film, tape, digitally or by other mechanical or electronic means.

Audio Recording: Registering sounds on tape, digitally or by other mechanical or electronic means.

Outside Entity: Any individual, group, organization or corporation other than the administration, officers, staff or students of the District or individuals authorized to act on behalf of the District.

Recording by Outside Entities

The Board prohibits the use of video or audio recording equipment on District property or at District activities by outside entities without permission from the Superintendent or his/her designee unless authorized by law.

This prohibition shall not apply to:

1. Performances or activities to which the general public is invited, such as athletic competitions, concerts and plays.
2. Recording of staff for the sole purpose of professional training or development.
3. Open meetings of the Board or committees appointed by or at the direction of the Board.
4. Outside entities, including student-initiated groups, using or renting District facilities in accordance with Board policies and established administrative procedures.

Recording by District Personnel

The District may make audio or visual recordings to provide security, to maintain order, for professional staff development use or for other purposes related to furthering the educational mission of the District. This may include the use of video equipment in school buildings and on District transportation. No recording equipment will be placed in areas of the building where the occupant would have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as restroom facilities or locker rooms. Recordings by and on behalf of District personnel that include students and are considered student records will be maintained in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other applicable laws.

Community Relations

Public Videotaping of Educational Activity (continued)

Recording by Students

The District limits the use of video or audio recording equipment on District property or at District activities by students unless:

1. Required by a school-sponsored class or activity.
2. At performances or activities to which the general public is invited such as athletic competitions, concerts and plays.
3. At open meetings of the Board of Education or committees appointed by or at the direction of the Board.
4. As otherwise permitted by the Building Principal or classroom teacher.

Recording of Meetings

The Board of Education recognizes a parent's/guardian's right to record a PPT meeting held pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Board prohibits the use of audio, video, or other recording devices at other meetings held between District employees and parents/guardians. Exceptions to this prohibition will be made only in accordance with Board policy and law. Requests for such exceptions must be made within a reasonable period of time prior to the scheduled meetings. This prohibition does not apply to conversations held within view of District security cameras or devices.

(cf. 1112 – News/Media Relationships)

(cf. 1112.6 – Video Taping of Staff/Students)

(cf. 5125 – Student Records; Confidentiality)

(cf. 5131.11 – Video Cameras on School Buses)

(cf. 5131.111 – Video Surveillance)

(cf. 9320 – Board Meetings)

(cf. 9322 – Public and Executive Sessions)

(cf. 9326 – Taping of Meetings)

Legal Reference: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§1400-1487,
34 C.F.R. Part 300

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g 34
C.F.R. Part 99

Policy adopted: November 17, 2011

Policy amended: June 21, 2018

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Fairfield, Connecticut