

POLICY

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Student Supervision After School Dismissal (M)

8601 Student Supervision After School Dismissal (M)

The Board of Education adopts this Student Supervision After School Dismissal Policy as a result of the New Jersey Supreme Court's decision in *Joseph Jerkins, an infant by his Guardian Ad Litem, Charles Jerkins; Charles Jerkins and Toni Jerkins, individually, v. Soweto Anderson; Kemba N. Anderson; John Does 1-10 (fictitious individuals) and ABC Corporations 1-10 (fictitious entities), and Board of Education of Pleasantville Public Schools and Rosemary Clarke*.

The New Jersey Supreme Court, in *Jerkins*, indicated dangers exist for younger students at dismissal, as children are susceptible to numerous risks, including negligent conduct, when leaving school property. Because of these risks, the Board of Education adopts and requires the implementation of Policy 8601 for the supervision of younger students after dismissal. The supervision provisions of Policy Guide 8601 are applicable to parents or legal guardians of students attending district-operated schools or programs in grades Pre-K to six who elect not to use district-provided transportation after dismissal.

Any parents or legal guardians of a student attending a district-operated school or program in grades Pre-K to six who elects not to use district-provided transportation after dismissal may request that the school or program release the student to walk home after dismissal. Unless the parents or legal guardians of a student request that the student be released to walk home, the student will only be released to the student's parent, legal guardian, or Designated Escort listed by the student's parents or legal guardian.

Any parents or legal guardians of a student attending a district-operated school or program in grades four to six who utilizes district-provided transportation after dismissal may request that the school or program release the student to the designated bus stop after dismissal without a parent and/or guardian escort. Unless the parents or legal guardians of a student request that the student be released at bus stop without any parent and/or guardian escort, the student will only be released to the student's parent, legal guardian, or Designated Escort listed by the student's parents or legal guardian upon being dropped off at the designated bus stop.

Grades Pre-K through 3

Students in grades Pre-K through 3 shall be released at dismissal or at designated school bus stop to the student's parent or legal guardian, or to a Designated Escort, designated on the Supervision After School Dismissal Form (hereinafter "Supervision Form"). A Designated Escort shall be the individual or individuals specifically listed on the Supervision Form by a



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parent or legal guardian. All parents and legal guardians must submit a completed Supervision Form.

Under no circumstances shall a pupil in Pre-K through grade 3 be released to walk home after school dismissal unless the student is released to the care of a parent, legal guardian, or Designated Escort as provided on the Supervision Form. In the event that any Designated Escort identified by the parents or legal guardians on the Supervision Form is under the age of 18, an additional acknowledgement and waiver signed by the parents or legal guardians on the Supervision Form will be required.

Grades 4 through 6

Students in grades 4 through 6 shall be released at dismissal to the student's parent or legal guardian, or to a Designated Escort, designated on the Supervision Form. A Designated Escort shall be the individual or individuals specifically listed on the Supervision Form by a parent or legal guardian. All parents and legal guardians must submit a completed Supervision Form.

In the alternative, for students in grade 4 through 6, parents and legal guardians may elect that a pupil be released unattended following dismissal at school or release from designated school bus stop. This election shall be made on the Supervision Form with the appropriate acknowledgements. Additionally, parents and legal guardians may select on the Supervision Form to allow a student in grades 4 through 6 to be released to walk home unescorted or released at school bus stop unescorted. This election requires an additional acknowledgement and waiver signed by the parents or legal guardians on the Supervision Form.

The Supervision Form is required to be submitted by the parents or legal guardians of each student to indicate the appropriate dismissal or school bus stop release procedure. Failure to provide the District with an executed Supervision Form will result in dismissal or school bus stop release to only the student's parents or legal guardians on file with the District.

The Parents or legal guardians are responsible for reviewing the school calendar and complying with all school dismissal times, school bus schedules, and all applicable procedures. It is the Designated Escort's responsibility to take physical custody of the pupil at the end of each school day following by the designated time, or school bus stop release. Each Designated Escort is responsible for ensuring timely arrival by regular scheduled dismissal time.

In the event of an emergency school closing or child illness, pupils may also be released to the designated contacts on the Emergency Contact Form on file.



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In order for the school administration to effectively implement the requirements of this Policy and to ensure the safety and security of students that will be released to a parent, legal guardian, or Designated Escort, the parental request shall be applicable for every school day or school bus stop release, and shall apply for a duration period of the entire school year. The Supervision Form must be re-submitted at the end of the duration period. In addition, parents or legal guardians may rescind their request by submitting a written request to the Principal or program administrator indicating the date in which the parents or legal guardians no longer request the school release their child(ren) to walk home or to be released from school bus stop without a parent, guardian, or Designated escort after school dismissal. The child(ren) will be dismissed in accordance with typical dismissal protocol effective the date indicated in the rescinding request.

The Principal or designee, or program administrator upon receiving the Supervision Form, shall notify the appropriate school staff members who are responsible for supervision of the student at dismissal time at the end of the school day or school bus release of the parent's or legal guardian's request. The supervising staff members that receive such notice shall retain supervision of the student when other students are dismissed from school at the end of the school day or released from school bus stop.

The Principal will communicate a dismissal plan school bussing plan and supervision procedures for students at the end of the school day to the designated area in the school building or program and the location of the designated area in the school building or program. The plan shall be based on the school's or program's ability to provide supervision, the accessibility for the parents, legal guardians or Designated Escorts to pick up children without disrupting dismissal of the remaining school population, and other considerations unique to the school building or program location. The school's or program's dismissal plan and school bus release procedure shall be communicated to all parents or legal guardians.

In the event that no parent, legal guardian or designated escort arrives to pick up a child after the release to the designated school bus stop, the Principal or designee will attempt to contact the student's parents or legal guardians using the district's emergency call procedures. The student shall be supervised by school staff on the school bus and will only be released when the student's parent, legal guardian, or Designated Escort arrives to pick up the student at the designated school bus stop or at the School building.

In the event that no parent, legal guardian or Designated Escort arrives to pick up a child after the dismissal time of school, the Principal or designee will attempt to contact the student's parents or legal guardians using the district's emergency call procedures. The student shall be supervised by



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school staff in the designated area of the building and will only be released when the student's parent, legal guardian, or Designated Escort arrives to pick up the student.

In order to ensure the safety of other students being dismissed from school in accordance with typical school dismissal protocol, to limit interaction of parents, legal guardians and Designated Escorts with other students within the building, and to avoid traffic and vehicular safety problems outside the school building, the Principal or program administrator may prohibit the parents, legal guardians or Designated Escorts from entering the school building until a time period after school has dismissed or until school buses and other vehicular traffic have cleared the school site. This determination shall be made by each Principal or program administrator after considering the unique circumstances at the school building and the building's typical dismissal protocol.

In the event of an emergency such that, when an unforeseen event prevents a parent, legal guardian, or Designated Escort from arriving for a child at dismissal or at designated school bus stop for release within the time period designated by the Principal or program administrator, the student will remain in the same location or same school bus supervised by school staff in the school building or school bus until the parents, legal guardian, or Designated Escort arrives at the designated pickup location or school bus stop location or the student shall be relocated to the Main Office in the school building and will remain in the Main Office, supervised by the Main Office staff, until a parent, legal guardian, or Designated Escort arrives and signs the student out.

This Policy shall be published in student /school handbooks. In addition, the school district shall provide to parents or legal guardians in the beginning of the school year, the school's calendar to include the starting and dismissal times for full session, half-session, and early dismissal days due to weather or other emergencies. Parents or legal guardians shall be required to return to the school a signed acknowledgement of receipt of the student / school handbook, which shall include this Policy and the school calendar. In addition, any changes to the school's calendar made during the school year shall also be provided to parents or legal guardians.

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