

# POLICY GUIDE

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**Bias Hate Crimes and Bias-Related Acts**

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## 8465 BIAS HATE CRIMES AND BIAS-RELATED ACTS

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all children in the school district. **Bias Hate** crimes and bias-related acts involving students can lead to further violence and retaliation. **Bias Hate** crimes and bias-related acts, by their nature are confrontational, inflame tensions, and promote social hostility and will not be tolerated by the school district. The School district employees will work closely with local law enforcement and the county prosecutor's office to report or eliminate the commission of **bias hate** crimes and bias-related acts.

### Definitions

A "**bias hate crime**" **means** is any criminal offense where the person or persons committing the offense acted with a purpose to intimidate an individual or group of individuals because of race;; color;; **religion; gender;** disability;; ~~religion;~~ sexual orientation;; **gender identity or expression; national origin;** or ethnicity.

A "bias-related act" **means** is an act directed at a person, group of persons, private property, or public property that is motivated in whole or **in** part by racial;; gender;; disability;; religion; ~~or~~ sexual orientation;; **gender identity or expression; national origin;** or ethnic prejudice. A bias-related act need not involve conduct that constitutes a criminal offense.

All **bias hate** crimes are also bias-related acts, but not all bias-related acts will constitute a **bias hate** crime.

### Required Actions

**School employees shall immediately notify the Principal and the Superintendent or designee when in the** ~~Whenever any school employee in the course of their his/her employment they develops reason to believe that (1) a bias hate crime or bias-related act has been committed or is about to be committed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(e). on school property, or has been or is about to be committed by any student, whether on or off school property, and whether or not such offense was or is about to be committed during operating~~





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~~school hours, or (2) a student enrolled in the school has been or is about to become the victim of a hate crime, whether committed on or off school property or during operating school hours, the school employee shall immediately notify the Building Principal and Superintendent, who in turn,~~

**The Superintendent or designee shall promptly notify the \_\_\_\_\_ local pPolice dDepartment and the bBias iInvestigation oOfficer for the county prosecutor's office when a bias crime or bias-related act has been committed or is about to be committed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(e)1.**

~~The Principal and the Superintendent or designee shall immediately notify the \_\_\_\_\_ local pPolice dDepartment and the bias investigation officer for the county prosecutor's office immediately where if there is reason to believe that a bias hate crime or bias-related act that involves an act of violence has been or is about to be physically committed against a student, or there is otherwise reason to believe that a life has been or will be threatened in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.3(e)2.~~

~~Whenever any school employee in the course of his/her employment has reason to believe that a bias related act has been committed or is about to be committed on school property, or has been or is about to be committed by any student, whether on or off school property and whether or not such bias related act was or is to be committed during operating school hours, the school employee should immediately notify the Building Principal and Superintendent, who in turn should promptly notify the \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department.~~

~~In deciding whether to refer the matter of a bias related act to the \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department or the county prosecutor's office, the Building Principal and the Superintendent, should consider the nature and seriousness of the conduct and the risk that the conduct posed to the health, safety and well-being of any student, school employee or member of the general public. The Building Principal and Superintendent should also consider the possibility that the suspected bias related act could escalate or result in some form of retaliation which might occur within or outside school property.~~





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It is understood a referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ **local pPolice dDepartment** or county prosecutor's office **pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials** is only a transmittal of information that might be pertinent to a law enforcement investigation and is not an accusation or formal charge.

Unless the \_\_\_\_\_ **local pPolice dDepartment** or the county prosecutor's office request otherwise, the school district may continue to investigate a suspected **bias hate** crime or bias-related act occurring on school **grounds property** and may take such actions as necessary and appropriate to redress and remediate any such acts.

School officials will secure and preserve any such graffiti or other evidence of a suspected **bias hate** crime or bias-related act pending the arrival of the \_\_\_\_\_ **local pPolice dDepartment** or the county prosecutor's office. The school officials, **where when** feasible, will cover or conceal such evidence until the arrival of the \_\_\_\_\_ **local pPolice dDepartment** or county prosecutor's office.

N.J.S.A. 2C:16-1

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.1 et seq.; **6A:16-6.2**; 6A:16-6.3(e)

State Memorandum of Agreement approved by the Department of Law & Public Safety and the Department of Education

Adopted: 14 September 2021

Revised/Readopted: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022



