

# **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

## **POLICY 5131.4**

### **DEMONSTRATIONS AND STRIKES**

The Cherry Hill Board of Education provides students with a rich academic and social environment in which all students are encouraged to achieve. The board recognizes that students and staff have opinions about issues and often feel the need to express those feelings. While the board recognizes that citizens possess the inherent right to peaceful protest, any action which disrupts the educational process or normal district operations shall not be tolerated. The superintendent or designee shall provide opportunities for students and staff to express their concerns. In this context, the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. Local school districts are required by law to provide proper school facilities and to maintain an appropriate program of education.
2. All children of school age have a right to attend the public schools and to receive a suitable education.
3. Any disruption of the schools or interference with their normal operation offends this right, which is constitutional in origin, violates the law and cannot be condoned or tolerated. Violence, disruption, vandalism or seizure of school buildings cannot be permitted under any circumstances.
4. This Board of Education, as a local representative of the State Board of Education, subscribes to the basic principle of the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education who deplore the use of means which flout the law and condemn any resort to such methods to express protests or enforce demands for redress of grievances.
5. Students should have means by which their concerns may be effectively expressed, considered, and disposed of fairly. Legal and orderly procedures for expressing student concerns are delineated in administrative regulations.
6. Persons who enter into school buildings or grounds to cause disruption or distribute literature may be prosecuted in accordance with state law and may be disciplined for violation of Policy 1250: Visitors and Policy 1315: Free Materials Distribution in Schools.
7. Pupils who are guilty of continued and willful disobedience, or of open defiance of the authority of any teachers or persons having authority over them, shall be liable to suspension or expulsion from school in accordance with Title 18A:37-2.

*Legal Reference*

N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2 *Causes for suspension or expulsion of pupils*

Formerly Policy JCEC

Adopted: 4/21/69

Amended: 10/20/75, 8/24/04