

**Regional School District #4
Chester – Deep River – Essex – Region 4**

Please note
earlier start time

**AGENDA & NOTICE FOR JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

To: Members of the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Joint BOE Policy Committee
Subject: May 20, 2019 Joint BOE Policy Committee Meeting
Time & Place: **6:00 p.m.** in Central Office Large Conf. Rm

If you are unable to be in attendance, please e-mail jbryan@reg4.k12.ct.us.

Mission Statement

We, the communities of Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4, engage all students in a rigorous and collaborative educational program. We prepare our learners to be respectful citizens who are empowered to contribute in a globalized society.

AGENDA

a. Call to order: Chair of the Policy Committee - TBD

b. Policies for review & discussion

b.1 Continue discussion and review #6172.6 Virtual High School (encl #1)

c. Administration Policies 5000 & 6000 Series – Finish 5000s and then continue review of all policies in the series last updated prior to the year 2009

Policy #: 5131.7 (encl #2)

c. Future Agenda Items: Continue review of policies last updated prior to 2009 – move on to 6000s once done with 5000s

Regional School District 4 Only

Distance Education

Policy for
Virtual/Online Courses

The Regional School District 4 Board of Education provides a comprehensive educational program to the students of Chester, Deep River, and Essex. The Board believes that enrollment in virtual/online courses provide enrichment opportunities for the students of John Winthrop Middle School and Valley Regional High School when taken as a part of a comprehensive educational program. Virtual/online courses increase instructional flexibility while enhancing opportunities for academic rigor through Internet or Web-based methods. In addition, virtual/online courses may extend the curriculum by allowing students to take courses not currently offered or unique courses of special educational interest.

Students enrolled at John Winthrop Middle School or Valley Regional High School shall be allowed to enroll in virtual/online courses as part of a pre-approved educational program. In addition to regular classroom-based instruction, high school students may earn credit toward graduation through virtual/online courses. Approved virtual/online courses must be consistent with the mission of the district and aligned with academic standards.

1. Virtual High School

The Regional School District 4 Board of Education belongs to a Virtual High School consortium. Students, with the endorsement of their parent/guardian, may enroll in online courses through the Virtual High School consortium to augment and expand their educational program within John Winthrop Middle School and Valley Regional High School, so long as this program is available.

2. Other Institutions

Students, with the endorsement of their parent/guardian, may elect to enroll in virtual/online courses from institutions other than the Virtual High School consortium. This virtual/online course delivery must be from institutions accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, or Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

3. Procedures

The following procedures shall be followed for students to enroll in virtual/online courses, whether through Virtual High School or other institutions, as part of the school's educational program.

- A. Request - The student, parent/guardian, and/or faculty member shall provide at least twenty (20) school days advance written notice to the principal of the request for approval for student enrollment in a virtual/online course. The request shall include:
 - a. A course description, course objectives, performance criteria, the name of the sponsoring institution, and any other pertinent information
 - b. A statement of how the course enhances the students' overall educational program
- B. Review - A committee composed of the principal, school counselor, and the department coordinator in the area related to the specific request shall review the request in a timely manner. The committee shall consider the following:
 - a. Course content, rigor, assessment method, and its connection to the mission of the district
 - b. Student completion of any necessary pre-requisites
 - c. If deemed necessary, name of a Region 4 teacher willing to supervise the student

- d. Student maturation, readiness, and other related factors
- C. Notification - The administration shall notify the parent/guardian in writing of the committee's decision in a timely manner.
 - a. The notification shall be included in the student's record
 - b. If approved, the notification shall include expectations for course completion including student monitoring and expected completion date
- D. Record - The administration shall maintain a record of the completion of virtual/online courses in the student's record.
 - a. The school must receive an official record of the final grade in the virtual/online course
 - b. The final grade in the approved virtual/online course shall be recorded on the transcript of John Winthrop Middle School and Valley Regional High School students
 - c. The final grade in the approved virtual/online course shall be factored into the student's grade point average and class rank up to 7 credits total per year, inclusive of online and VRHS courses. Courses taken beyond 7 credits per year will always be factored at a level 0.

4. Limitations

The Regional School District 4 Board of Education believes enrollment in virtual/online courses, whether through Virtual High School or other institutions, provide enrichment opportunities for students when taken as a part of a comprehensive educational program. However, an important component of a comprehensive educational program includes the opportunity for substantial, personal, and timely interactions between staff and students and among students in academic and co-curricular settings. Therefore, the following limitations shall apply:

- A. John Winthrop Middle School students may enroll in a maximum of ~~three~~ one (1) pre-approved virtual/online class, ~~es within the following guidelines:~~
 - a. ~~No more than a total of two (2) courses may be taken in any combination of English, mathematics, science, or social studies~~
 - b. ~~Virtual/online courses may be taken as elective courses~~
- B. Valley Regional High School students may earn a maximum of ~~three~~ two (2) credits by successfully completing pre-approved virtual/online courses within the following guidelines:
 - a. No ~~more than one (1)~~ credit may be applied toward the required credits for graduation in any combination of English, mathematics, science, or social studies
 - b. Credit earned from virtual/online courses may be applied toward graduation requirements as elective credits
 - b-c. Students cannot enroll in a Virtual/Online course that is included in the Valley Regional High School course catalog

Student participation in virtual/online courses requires a high degree of maturity and ethical behavior. It is the expectation that students will demonstrate the maturity and ethical behavior necessary to protect their well-being and maximize their educational growth in any virtual/online course taken pursuant to this policy. The administration may withdraw students from virtual/online courses if they fail to demonstrate the necessary maturity or ethical behavior. In this event, the cost for the virtual/online course may be non-refundable. Furthermore, students enrolled in virtual/online courses must comply with all board policies, school rules, and/or student handbook regulations.

~~The cost for a virtual/online course provided through the Virtual High School consortium shall be borne by the District. The cost for a virtual/online course provided through other institutions shall be borne by the parent/guardian.~~

The cost for a virtual/online course shall be borne by the parent/guardian. All costs must be paid in full before students are registered for virtual/online courses.

The administration shall periodically review student enrollment in virtual/online courses and the consistency of such courses with the mission of the district, instructional goals, and alignment with academic standards.

Virtual/online courses may serve as an option for students placed on extended homebound instruction.

Virtual/online courses may serve as an option for students expelled from the regular school setting, provided educational services are to be continued.

Exceptions to this policy may be made by the Superintendent or designee based on supporting psychological and/or educational evidence.

Legal reference: 10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies, and procedures.

Policy revised: TBD Regional School District 4 Board of Education

Students

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

The Board of Education determines that possession and/or use of a weapon by a student is detrimental to the welfare and safety of the students and school personnel within the district. Possession and/or use of any dangerous or deadly weapon in any school building on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity is prohibited. Such weapons include but are not limited to any pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, air gun or spring gun; slingshot; bludgeon; brass knuckles or artificial knuckles of any kind; knives having a blade of greater than two inches, any knife the blades of which can be opened by a flick of a button or pressure on the handle, or any pocketknife where the blade is carried in a partially opened position; martial arts weapon; destructive device.

The possession or use of any such weapon will require that the proceedings for the suspension and/or expulsion of the student involved will be initiated immediately by the principal. If the student is found to have possessed a firearm or other dangerous weapon as defined in C.G.S. 53a-3 in violation of 29-35 or 53-206, in or on the real property of a school or at any school activity as defined in C.G.S. 10-233a, he/she must be expelled for one calendar year. The Board of Education or hearing board may modify the period of expulsion on a case by case basis. All legal restrictions and requirements will be adhered to pertaining to special education students.

The Board shall consider a student's conduct off school grounds that is seriously disruptive of the educational process or is violative of publicized policies of the Board as grounds for expulsion. If any of the aforementioned weapons are in a student's possession off school grounds without a permit to carry them or if they are used in committing a crime, the Board shall consider this as grounds for expulsion.

(cf. 5114 - Suspension/Expulsion)

(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

Students

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments (continued)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.

10-233a through 10-233f - Expulsion as amended by PA 95-304

53a-3 Definitions.

53a-217b - Possession of firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds

53-206 Carrying and sale of dangerous weapons.

PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety.

GOALS 2000: Educate America Act

18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.

Policy adopted: November 10, 1997

CHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEEP RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ESSEX PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4

Policy Service

CABE Model Policy

The Connecticut Reference Manual of School Board Policies, Regulations, and Bylaws

5131.7

Students

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

The Board of Education determines that possession, concealment, and/or use of a weapon by a student is detrimental to the welfare and safety of the students and school personnel within the district. Possession and/or use of any dangerous or deadly weapon, firearm, or destructive device in any school building on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity is prohibited.

Such weapons include but are not limited to any pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, air gun or spring gun; slingshot; bludgeon; brass knuckles or artificial knuckles of any kind; knives having a blade of greater than two inches, any knife the blades of which can be opened by a flick of a button or pressure on the handle, or any pocketknife where the blade is carried in a partially opened position; martial arts weapon; destructive device.

Alternate language: A “dangerous weapon” is any weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, which under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used or threatened to be used is readily capable of causing death or serious injury. A “deadly weapon” is any instrument, article or substance specifically designed for and presently capable of causing death or serious injury.

Pursuant to federal law, the term firearm includes, but is not limited to, any weapon designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or destructive device. A student who violates this policy will be reported to law enforcement authorities.

A “destructive device” is considered any device with an explosive, incendiary or poison gas component or any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device or from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. A destructive device does not include any device which is designed primarily for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line-throwing, safety or similar device.

The possession or use of any such weapon or devices will require that the proceedings for the suspension and/or expulsion of the student involved will be initiated immediately by the principal. If the student is found to have possessed a firearm or other dangerous weapon as defined in Connecticut General Statutes 53a-3 in violation of 29-35 or 53-206, in or on the real property of a school or at any school activity as defined in Connecticut General Statutes 10-233a, he/she must be expelled for one calendar year. The Board of Education or hearing board may modify the period of expulsion on a case by case basis. To comply with federal law, any finding of an exception shall be reduced to writing. All legal restrictions and requirements will be adhered to pertaining to special education students.

The Board shall consider a student's conduct off school grounds that is seriously disruptive of the educational process or is violative of publicized policies of the Board as grounds for expulsion.

Sample policies are distributed for demonstration purposes only. Unless so noted, contents do not necessarily reflect official policies of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

Policy Service

The Connecticut Reference Manual of School Board Policies, Regulations, and Bylaws

5131.7(b)

Students

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments (continued)

Additional optional language to consider:

Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted. The Superintendent may authorize other persons to possess weapons for courses, programs and activities approved by the District and conducted on District property.

In accordance with the federal Gun-Free School Zone Act, possession or discharge of a firearm in a school zone is prohibited. A "school zone" is defined by federal law, means in/on school grounds or within 1,000 feet of school grounds.

"Gun-Free School Zone" signs will/may be posted in cooperation with city/town officials as appropriate. Violations, unless otherwise excepted by law or this policy, shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

(cf. 5114 - Suspension/Expulsion)

(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.
 10-233a through 10-233f - Expulsion as amended by PA 95-304
 53a-3 Definitions.
 53a-217b - Possession of firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds
 53-206 Carrying and sale of dangerous weapons.
 PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety.
 Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990, 18 U.S.C. §§ 921(a)(25)-(26), 922(q)
 (2006)
 GOALS 2000: Educate America Act
 18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.
 USCA 7151 – No Child Left Behind Act
 Youth Handgun Safety Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(x), 924(a)(6) (2006)
 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7117

Policy adopted:

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