



NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION Newark, New Jersey POLICY



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CONSERVATION SUSTAINABILITY AND GREEN INITIATIVES

The board of education recognizes that responsible environmental stewardship is an integral part of its mission in ensuring that schools are well run. The board supports conservation and sustainable planning, operations and maintenance, and shall endeavor to implement *green initiatives in all day-to-day district operations. *Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present while not compromising the future. The board recognizes that sustainability through the adoption of green initiatives in all day-to-day district operations will only succeed with the cooperation and support of the board, the students, the parents/guardians and the community. The district shall endeavor to engage all members of the school community in the conservation and green initiatives of the district.

The board directs the chief school administrator or his or her designee(s) and other key stakeholders to contribute and oversee the districts programs for conservation and green initiative including but not limited energy efficient practices, recycling, sustainable programs and business practices within the district, environmental assessments, green construction within school facilities, and education and training programs for students, staff and the community.

The board will introduce consider sustainability goals and objectives as part of strategic planning process. Sustainability goals and objectives shall be reviewed and adjusted as part of the regular strategic planning process.

The district shall endeavor to implement a 3E approach to sustainability:

- A. **Economy** – actions to reduce operating cost, save money and redirect saving towards school improvement.
- B. **Education** – actions to train district staff members and engage students in the academics of the districts sustainability initiatives increase student's connections to an Integrative Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (*iSTEM) process thereby increasing student achievement.
- C. **Environment** – actions to create healthy and safe places for students and staff to learn work and play.

Target Areas/Goals

A sustainable environmental future means that the board will assess, devise and implement initiatives focused on achieving the following goals:

- A. Implementing strategies that improve conservation of resources by managing and minimizing waste, reducing the amount of waste generated and maximizing district recycling efforts. This may include paper, plastic, glass, metal, textile and electronics recycling, paperless management and classroom procedures, and investigating and implementing plans for composting, storm water runoff reuse, and school gardens;

- B. Promoting energy management to reduce energy consumption and costs, expand the scope of school and district energy audits, and maximize the use of renewable energy resources. This may include energy efficient lighting and light bulbs, sun and daylight management, solar panel technology, well timed and controlled air conditioning devices, and geothermal wells and heat;
- C. Promoting environmentally sustainable business practices including EPP (environmentally preferred purchasing) of products and shared services agreements that improve efficiency and reduce cost and waste all areas in school operations;
- D. Implementing health and wellness strategies to improve personal fitness and healthy living such as initiatives to create toxin free indoor air quality, low emission and fuel consuming transportation options, safe management of chemical use and disposal, physical activity in the educational program, heat acclimation procedures for school athletics and healthy nutrition.
- E. Promoting environmentally responsible and sustainable business practices in collaboration with the local municipality that improves operations and maintenance in areas such as, but not limited to, energy conservation and management, renewable energy, waste management, water conservation, green purchasing and indoor air quality measures.

School District Green Team

A district Green Team may be appointed by the chief school administrator with approval by the school board. The team may include teaching staff members, administrators, board members, facility staff members, community members including experts from the local municipality, students, and parents/guardians. The team shall be responsible for investigating and proposing district wide sustainability audit, conservation and green initiatives for day-to-day operations and practices that promote a sustainable environment that is conducive to learning and lowers the operational cost of the district.

Recycling, Composting and Waste Management

Each building principal may designate staff to investigate, develop and/or implement the following:

- A. Recycling initiatives in every school room that are appropriate to the materials used in each school setting. Every classroom and every room in the school shall have a highly visible and convenient recycling bin. If recyclables require separation, bins shall be provided and clearly labeled. The placement of the recycling bins shall be reviewed at the end of each term. All staff shall report repairs or replacements as needed;
- B. Electronic waste recycling as appropriate including the proper handling of electronic waste which may include hazardous waste;
- C. Waste reduction procedures (such as by going paperless to the extent possible) throughout the educational program, to the extent possible.

Curriculum Component

Opportunities to introduce sustainability best practices will be used as “teachable moments” for students:

- A. iSTEAM (Integrative Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) and related curriculum initiatives will be linked to problem-solving on how to improve conservation, sustainability and green initiatives;

- B. Link green initiatives to teaching and learning practices that focus on 21st century skills (workplace preparedness) [8.1 Educational Technology](#), [8.2 Technology Education, Engineering and Design](#), Next Generation Science Standards, project and problem based learning and design based pedagogy;
- C. As the New Jersey Student Learning Standards are implemented in the district, components of the curriculum will include elements on conservation, sustainability and green initiatives whenever possible;

Adopted by the Board of Education: August 27, 2020

Key Words

Sustainability, Conservation, Green Policy, Green Initiative, Environment, Environmental, Recycling, Solar

Possible

Cross References:

*1100	Communicating with the public
*1330	Use of facilities
*2130	Evaluation of principals
*3100	Budget planning and preparation
*3320	Purchasing procedures
3508	School gardens
*3510	Operation and maintenance of plant
*3516	Safety
*3542.1	Wellness and nutrition
*4112.4/4212.4	Health
*4115	Supervision
*4116	Evaluation of teaching staff members
*4131/4131.1	Staff training and development
*4215	Supervision
*4216	Evaluation
*4231/4231.1	Staff training and development
*5141	Student health
*5142	Student safety
*6010	Goals and objectives in instruction
*6114	Emergency and disaster preparedness
6142.15	STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)
*7110	Long-range facilities plan

*Indicates the policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

*Green – Anything environmentally friendly

*Sustainability - Sustainability is based on a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.