

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date Submitted: January 18, 2000 Date Reviewed: August 2003 January 17, 2006 February 17, 2009	Number: 600-01
Subject: Student' Rights and Responsibilities and Goals for Student Policies	Date Approved: February 15, 2000 September 16, 2003 February 21, 2006 March 17, 2009 Date Revised: December 19, 2005 February 17, 2009 Date Effective: February 15, 2000 September 16, 2003 February 21, 2006 March 17, 2009

1. PURPOSE

To establish goals for the student section of the policy manual and to inform all parties of interest of student rights and their concomitant responsibilities within the school system.

2. GUIDELINES

- A. A primary task of the school is to provide the means whereby an active pursuit of knowledge and personal development within a democratic society may be sought by all students. Such a posture includes an adequate exposure to the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our society. This document is intended to present opportunities for students and other parties-of-interest to understand their rights and concomitant responsibilities for citizenship.
- B. The rights of an individual are preserved only by the protection and preservation of the rights of others. A student is responsible for the way he or she exercises their given rights, and must accept the consequences of chosen actions and recognize the boundaries of those rights. To achieve this goal, the staff, students, and parents must work cooperatively. Uppermost responsibility of the school system is to provide an environment that is responsive to student effort and behavior, providing positive reinforcement for good and negative for bad. Students must understand that the situation remains dynamic and that success is always possible based on present and future effort and achievement, not the past.
- C. The rights and responsibilities of students attending Somerset County Public Schools are set forth in the Policy Manual (600 Series) of the Somerset County Board of Education.

3. GOALS

The Somerset County Board of Education will develop policies which will:

- (1) Promote student academic achievement.
- (2) Promote positive behavior and work habits.
- (3) Help create a clean and safe environment for students.
- (4) Set standards which will promote achievement.

4. PRACTICES REGARDING STUDENT RIGHTS TO ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION

- A. Somerset County Board of Education ensures the rights of students to information regarding alternative instructional content and methods available for gaining access to curricular knowledge and understanding.
- B. It is the responsibility of the superintendent or his/her designee to identify those curricular areas where alternatives should be available for students and oversee the development, communication of availability, and appropriate use of such alternatives.
- C. Somerset County Board of Education takes the position that while animal dissection may be an integral part of many science lessons, alternatives must be offered to students without penalty. In support of that position:
 - (1) Program guides, course descriptions, and class syllabi will describe all animal dissections to be included in the course. Available alternatives and the process for accessing those alternatives will also be included.
 - (2) A student's request for exemption from participation in an activity involving animal dissections or experiments will be recognized and accommodated with alternative methods of learning.
 - (3) All such requests must be accompanied by written notification from a parent or guardian.
 - (4) Implemented alternatives to dissection participation must be pre-approved by the building principal and the Supervisor of Secondary Education. Alternatives to dissection may include but are not limited to:
 - * textbook diagrams or pictures
 - * videotape instruction
 - * computer simulations of dissections
 - * models
 - (5) Under no condition is a student who requests alternative activities to be academically or socially penalized.