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“Only together can we really make a difference.”

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focus

on New Hampshire School Boards

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Policy Pointers: No Child Left Behind - Required Policies

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)* stipulates that school districts must have certain policies in place to implement the requirements of the law.

As the governing body for your district, you are ultimately responsible for your district’s compliance.

Your New Hampshire School Boards Association has developed sample policies addressing all mandated areas of NCLB, and these sample policies have been sent to all policy member districts *at no charge*.

NHSBA continues to monitor NCLB changes, and we update sample policies as necessary. There is *no reason* to pay for duplicate policies from other organizations. However, we do recommend that you consult your local counsel on the specifics of your policies prior to adoption.

The list of NHSBA sample policies that address NCLB compliance is provided below. Please feel free to contact us with any questions about NCLB — we have a wealth of information on compliance issues.

ADMISSIONS

Admission policies must be free of any barriers to enrollment by homeless children.

NHSBA sample policy: JFAB, Admission and Tuition of Nonresident Students

DISCIPLINE

NCLB requires districts to have discipline policies that prohibit disorderly conduct, illegal possession of weapons, and the illegal use, possession, distribution and sale of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs by students. Districts must also report weapons offenses to local law enforcement officials.

NCLB §4114, NHSBA sample policies: JICD, Student Conduct in School/Safe School Zone, JICG, Tobacco Use by Students, JICH, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students, JICI, Weapons in School

FACILITIES

If the district has a designated open forum or limited public forum that allows groups to use district facilities it must afford the Boy Scouts and other similar groups to use facilities as well. The district must also prohibit all indoor smoking or face civil penalties.

NCLB §4303 & §9525, NHSBA sample policy: KF, Community Use of School Facilities

HEALTH SERVICES

Districts must adopt policies concerning the administration of physical exams or screenings and notify parents of any non-emergency, invasive physical examinations or screenings of students that are required as a condition of attendance and that they have the option of opting their child out. This does not include,

Note: This policy is only required if your district uses federal funds to administer physical examinations/screenings.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Districts must adopt policies to ensure that homeless children and youth are not segregated or stigmatized, are provided transportation as necessary, and that all educational decisions are based on the best interests of the child. Districts must also designate a homeless coordinator, provide parents with a written notice of a right to appeal placement decisions, and remove any enrollment barriers from current policies. The definition of homeless includes children living in “trailer parks” and “substandard housing.”

Title X, Part C, NHSBA sample policy: JFABD, Admission of Homeless

INTERNET SAFETY

Any district not already subject to the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), must adopt a policy on internet safety and install filtering devices.

NCLB §2441, NHSBA sample policy: EGA, Communication Services/Internet Access

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT (LEP)

If a district receives federal funding for Limited English Proficient programs, it must adopt a parental involvement policy for all parents who have students participating in such language programs.

NCLB §1112 & Title III, NHSBA sample policy: IHBBA, Limited English Proficiency Instruction.

Note: This policy is only required for districts that receive federal funding for these programs.

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NCLB Required Policies

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PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Districts must adopt parent involvement policies for parents of all students in Title I programs.

NCLB §1118, NHSBA sample policy: KB, Parent Involvement in Education. *Note: This policy is only required of those districts receiving Title I funds.*

STUDENT RECORDS

NCLB makes it clear that even though assessment results are publicly reported in a number of ways, reporting of individual results is still covered by the Family Educational Rights and privacy Act (FERPA). The new law also amends FERPA by requiring districts to release student names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters and recruiters from institutions of higher education. The district must notify parents that it will release the information unless parents specifically object.

NCLB §9528, NHSBA sample policy: JRA, Student Records (FERPA)

As the link between your schools and your community, board members should be taking proactive measures to make the public aware of what your district is doing to reach the important goals of NCLB. Adopting strong policies is the best way to assure your community that your district is striving for educational excellence on behalf of your children.

NCLB presents many other challenges for school districts in areas that do not directly affect policy. Board members need to be aware of these additional requirements of the law, and take steps to ensure that your district has the procedures in place to comply.

NCLB Jargon

Board members should be familiar with the jargon associated with NCLB, and use this terminology as you conduct your regular school board business.

Achievement Gap The difference between how well low-income

yearly progress toward achieving state academic standards, AYP is the minimum level of improvement that schools must achieve each year.

Alternative Certification Most teachers are required to have both a college degree in education and state certification before they may enter the classroom. NCLB encourages states to offer other methods of qualification to allow talented individuals to teach subjects they know well.

Assessment Under *No Child Left Behind*, tests are aligned with academic standards. Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, tests must be administered every year in grades 3–8 in math and reading. Beginning in the 2007-08 school year, science achievement must also be tested in each of the three grade spans.

Corrective Action When a school or school district does not make AYP, the state will place it under a corrective action plan. The plan will include resources to improve teaching, administration or curriculum. If failure continues, then the state has increased authority to make necessary additional changes to ensure improvement.

Disaggregated Data “Disaggregate” means to separate from the whole into its parts. Test results are sorted into groups of students: economically disadvantaged, racial and ethnic minority groups, physically disabled, or limited English fluency. This practice allows parents and teachers to see more than just the average score for their child’s school.

Early Reading First The Department of Education will make competitive six-year grants to local education agencies to support early language, literacy and pre-reading development of preschool-age children, particularly those from low-income families.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) An independent benchmark, NAEP is the only national assessment of what American students know and can do in various subject areas. Since 1969, the National Center for Education Statistics has conducted NAEP assessment in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, geography, civics and the arts.

Public School Choice Students in failing schools will have the option to transfer to a better public school or charter school within the same district. The school districts will be required to provide transportation.

Supplemental Services Students from low income families who are attending schools that have been identified as failing for two years will be eligible to receive outside tutoring or academic assistance. Parents can choose the appropriate services for their child from a list of approved providers. The school district will purchase the services.

Title I Programs aimed at America’s most disadvantaged students.

Unsafe School Choice Option Students who attend persistently dangerous public schools or have been victims of violent crime at