

# BERNARDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BASKING RIDGE, N.J. 07920

Board of Education Offices  
101 Peachtree Road  
Basking Ridge, N.J. 07920

Telephone: (908) 204-2600  
FAX: (908) 766-7641

Dear Parents:

We want to notify you of a recent update made to our **M5530 Substance Use – Pupils Policy and Procedures**, also known as the “Suspicion Based Testing Policy”. The new updates have been put into place to coincide with the beginning of the spring semester. The changes were made to align our district policy with revised NJ DOE regulations. Much of the policy and procedures have remained untouched. Yet, changes to take note of in the procedures are as follows:

1. If contacted by a school administrator that your child is suspected to be under the influence of a mind-altering substance at school or at a school sponsored event, a **medical examination must be initiated within 4 hours** of being contacted by your child’s school
2. The number of substances that can be requested by the school to be screened by the doctor has increased from **7 to 12 different substances**
3. If your child’s urine screen tests positive, the procedures articulate that a suspension of not less than **4 days and no more than 10** will be administered, and
4. A meeting with one of the building’s Student Assistance Counselors will take place in order to help determine the scope of the recommendations to be made.

The updated policy can be reviewed at your convenience on our district’s website at:

[http://www2.bernardsboe.com/BernardsBOE/Policies\\_and\\_Procedures.aspx#50005999](http://www2.bernardsboe.com/BernardsBOE/Policies_and_Procedures.aspx#50005999)

We want to stress the importance of continued dialogue between you and your children. Additionally, we want to encourage you to review the changes made in this important policy at home as we work together to support the students of Bernards Township to make safe and healthy decisions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bush, PsyD, Student Assistance Counselor, WAMS  
Chad Gillikin, MSW, LCSW, Student Assistance Counselor, RHS  
Megan Hoffman, MSW, LCSW, Student Assistance Counselor, RHS