

# POLICY GUIDE

## SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS 4161 Examination for Cause

### 4161 EXAMINATION FOR CAUSE

- A. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.3, the Board of Education may require physical or psychiatric examinations of a support staff member whenever, in the judgment of the Board, a support staff member shows evidence of deviation from normal physical or mental health, to determine the support staff member's physical and mental fitness to perform, with reasonable accommodation, the position the support staff member currently holds, or to detect any health risk(s) to students and other employees. When the Board requires a support staff member to undergo a physical or psychiatric examination:
1. The Board shall provide the support staff member with a written statement of the reasons for the required examination; and
  2. The Board shall provide the support staff member with a hearing, if requested.
    - a. Notice of the support staff member's right to a hearing shall be provided with the statement of reasons for the required examination;
    - b. The support staff member must request the Board hearing, in writing, within five working days of the support staff member's receipt of the written statement of reasons:
      - (1) The support staff member shall be ordered to submit to the appropriate examination(s) by the physician or institution designated by the Board if the support staff member failed to timely request a hearing before the Board;
    - c. The Board hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:25-7 and will offer the support staff member the opportunity to appear before the Board to refute the reason(s) for the required examination(s);
    - d. The support staff member shall be ordered to submit to the appropriate examination(s) by the physician or institution designated by the Board if the support staff member failed



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to persuade the Board at the hearing that the support staff member should not be required to submit to the appropriate examination(s); and

- e. The determination of such a hearing shall be appealable to the Commissioner pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and N.J.A.C. 6A:4 - Appeals.
3. The support staff member may, without reprisal, refuse to waive their right to protect the confidentiality of medical information, in accordance with P.L. 104-191, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.
- B. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:16-3, the Board shall bear the cost of examinations made by a physician or institution designated by the Board. However, the support staff member shall bear the cost if the examination is performed by a physician or institution designated by the support staff member with approval of the Board.
1. If the support staff member submits names of physicians or institutions to the Board for consideration to complete the appropriate examination(s), the Board is not required to designate the physician or institution submitted for consideration by the support staff member, but shall not act unreasonably in withholding its approval of the physician or institution.
  2. The support staff member shall authorize the physician or institution performing the examination to immediately release the examination results to the Superintendent.
  3. All records and reports relating to any such examination shall be the property of the Board, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-5.
    - a. Health records of support staff members, including computerized records, shall be secured, stored, and maintained separately from other personnel files; and
    - b. Health records may be shared only with authorized individuals in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-5.
  4. If the results of any such examination indicate mental condition or communicable disease, the support staff member shall be ineligible for further service until proof of recovery, satisfactory to the Board, is furnished, but if the support staff member is under contract or has tenure, they may be granted sick leave with



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compensation as provided by law and shall, upon satisfactory recovery, be permitted to complete the term of their contract, if they are under contract, or be reemployed with the same tenure as they possessed at the time their services were discontinued, if they have tenure, unless their absence shall exceed a period of two years in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-4.

- C. In order to return to work, the support staff member must submit to an appropriate examination and submit the results of the examination to the Superintendent.
1. The examination must be conducted by a physician or institution upon which the Board and support staff member confer and agree;
  2. If the physician or institution conducting the examination is conducted by the Board's choice, the cost shall be borne by the Board; if the physician or institution conducting the examination is conducted by the support staff member's choice, the cost shall be borne by the support staff member; and
  3. The support staff member shall authorize the physician or institution performing the examination to immediately release the examination results to the Superintendent.
- D. A support staff member who refuses to submit to the examination required by the Board in accordance with this Policy and has exhausted the hearing procedures established by law and this Policy shall be subject to discipline, which may include, but is not limited to, termination or certification of tenure charges to the Commissioner of Education, as applicable.

42 U.S.C.A. 12101

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10; 18A:16-2; 18A:16-3; 18A:16-4; 18A:16-5

18A:25-7; 18A:28-5; 18A:30-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-6.2; 6A:32-6.3

Adopted: 26 July 2010

Revised: 22 August 2022

Revised: 22 January 2024

