

# ***Hanover Township Public Schools***

61 Highland Avenue  
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***Hanover Township Board of Education's Statement Concerning  
Board Policy 8463 - Parental Notice of Material Circumstances  
May 17, 2023***

On May 16, 2023, the Hanover Township Board of Education passed Board Policy 8463 known as ***Parental Notice of Material Circumstances***. Today, the Attorney General's Office commenced a lawsuit seeking to enjoin Board Policy 8463 asserting – albeit incorrectly – that this policy “targets students on the basis of gender identity, gender expression, and affectional or sexual orientation in clear violation of New Jersey Law and policy.”

Contrary to the Attorney General Office's erroneous assertions, Policy 8463 does not unlawfully discriminate against any student on the basis of any protected status whatsoever. Rather, a simple reading of Policy 8463 reveals that it requires school staff members to notify appropriate school administrators and a student's parents whenever the staff member is made aware of any facts or circumstances that may have a material impact on a student's physical and/or mental health and/or social/emotional well-being, including but not limited to the following issues: substance use; tobacco/vaping use; alcohol use; firearms; peer/academic/athletic pressures; school performance; eating disorders; suicide; self-harm; anxiety; depression; fatigue; isolationism / anti-social behaviors / social withdraw; truancy; theft; vandalism; unlawful activity; violent or aggressive behavior; preoccupation with anti-social music; pornography; sexual activity; sexuality; sexual orientation; transitioning; gender identity or expression; gang affiliation; obsessive compulsive behaviors; familial/cultural challenges; harassment; intimidation; or bullying.

Simply put, Board Policy 8463 merely requires that staff members “say something to the parents and appropriate school administrators,” if they “see something that could adversely affect the social/emotional well-being of a child.” The Hanover Township Board of Education believes that parents need to be fully informed of all material issues that could impact their children so that they – as parents – can provide the proper care and support for their children. The Board will vigorously defend this common-sense policy that protects parental rights and ensures the safety of all school children.