

**CRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY**

POLICY: MEGAN'S LAW - SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION

The Cranford Board of Education and administration will comply with the guidelines developed by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and will work cooperatively with the County Prosecutor's Office and local Police Departments relative to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 2C:7-2 et seq. (Megan's Law).

The Megan's Law notification statute applies to all sex offenders who are required to register pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:7-1 et seq. The offenses requiring registration by persons convicted, an adjudicated delinquent or a person acquitted by reason of insanity are as indicated in New Jersey Statutes annotated.

Definitions:

- A. Tier One offenders encompass those that are a "low risk of re-offense", thus constituting a low risk of harm to the community. This offender is one who, because of the type of crime, the lack of violence in his/her behavior, the lack of a substantial criminal history, and the existence of ties to the community presents no more than a possible risk of re-offense.
2. Tier Two offenders encompass those who are a "moderate risk of re-offense", thus constituting a moderate risk of harm to the community in that the pertinent documents demonstrate that they are reasonably likely to re-offend, warranting limited notice for the protection of the public.
3. Tier Three offenders encompass those who are a "high risk of re-offense" in that the available record demonstrates that there is a probable risk of re-offense, warranting notice to the community likely to encounter the offender.

The County Prosecutor's Office determines the specific schools, community organizations, and residences to receive notification. This determination must be approved by the Supreme Court before notification may proceed.

The Cranford Board of Education is automatically included on the notification list and is not required to register to be notified under Tier Two or Tier Three notifications. Where the risk of re-offense is determined by the County Prosecutor's Office to be moderate or high in accordance with the law, the County Prosecutor's Office and/or the appropriate law enforcement office will notify the Principal of the targeted school(s). The school district is entitled to receive the offender's name and a recent photograph, along with a physical description, the offense of which he/she was convicted, their address, place of employment, and/or schooling, and vehicle license number.

The Principal shall institute steps to educate and alert those staff members who are charged with the care and supervision of children, emphasizing that this is for the protection of their charges, not to provide notification to the community at large. All sex offender notification information to the community must be released by the appropriate law enforcement agency or the County Prosecutor's Office. The Principal and/or any school staff member shall keep all sex offender notification information confidential. In the event the Principal is notified that a pupil is a Tier Two or Tier Three sex offender, the Principal will cooperate with the local law enforcement and the County Prosecutor's Office on community notification consistent with the law and guidelines of the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

The Principal of each school notified by the Prosecutor's Office of a Tier Two offender will have the discretion to make the determination as to which employees within the school should be informed of the notification. The

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Principal should share the notice with any person who in the course of the duties of his or her employment or assignment is regularly in a position to observe unauthorized persons in or near the property of the notified school. If any persons to be notified by the Principal are employees of private contractors, such as bus drivers, the Principal or the Superintendent will notify the private vendor who will provide notice to the employees. The Principal shall only notify appropriate school staff of Tier Two notifications and not provide notification to the community at large or any outside organization using the school facilities. In Tier Three notification the Principal shall notify all staff and all parents in accordance with the Attorney General's School Guidelines for Megan's Law notification. Guidance to the Principal in providing this information to staff members will be obtainable from the County Prosecutor's Office or the Cranford Police Department.

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 2C:7-2 et seq. Registration and notification of release of certain offenders
N.J.S.A. 18A:17.42,43 Public School Safety Law
and 45 through 48

Possible Cross References:

	Attorney General's School Guidelines for Megan's Law Notification
3516	Safety
5020	Role Of Parents/Guardians
5131.5	Vandalism And Violence
5141.4	Child Abuse And Neglect
5142	Pupil Safety

Adopted: December 13, 1999

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