

**NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CONCERNING ISSUANCE OF ANY NO TRESPASS ORDERS**

1. Issuance of No Trespass Orders (NTOs) as to school property, pursuant to G.L c. 266, §120 or otherwise, should always be a last resort, particularly as to parents/guardians/caregivers of children in the school system given the potential harmful impact on students' educational experiences.
2. Before issuing an NTO to a parent/guardian/caretaker, the school system must exhaust efforts to resolve any perceived issues without an NTO through attempts at dialogue with the parent/guardian/caretaker except in cases where there is an imminent threat of harm to the safety of student(s), school personnel or others on or in school property. In those cases the Superintendent of Schools or Building Principal may issue a Temporary NTO.
3. The Temporary NTO cannot be effective for more than 10 days without express written approval from the Superintendent. The Temporary NTO must state the specific grounds for the NTO and provide an opportunity for the individual to be heard by the Superintendent in a meeting to be held within that 10-day Temporary NTO period, including but not limited to reasons as to why the Temporary NTO is not necessary or is overly broad or why a Standard NTO should not be issued. The meeting with the Superintendent must be offered to be held in-person, but the subject may choose to be heard by ZOOM or other video option, by telephone, or through written submission. The subject of a proposed or issued NTO may be represented by and/or accompanied by a representative of their choosing. The purpose of the meeting will be to determine whether and under what conditions the NTO may be lifted, or if it is not, for the Superintendent to determine the terms and conditions of a Standard NTO.
4. A Standard NTO may be issued only after the subject of the NTO has been given notice of the specific allegations that the school believes provide the grounds for issuing the NTO and an opportunity to be heard by the Superintendent, including but not limited to reasons as to why the proposed NTO is not necessary or is overly broad. The meeting with the Superintendent must be offered to be held in-person, but the subject may choose to be heard by ZOOM or other video option, by telephone, or through written submission. The subject of a proposed or issued NTO may be represented by and/or accompanied by a representative of their choosing. The purpose of the meeting will be to determine whether a Standard NTO should be issued and, if so, for the Superintendent to determine the terms and conditions of the Standard NTO.
5. An NTO, whether Temporary or Standard, may not be issued based on a parent/guardian/caretaker expressing concerns about the conduct of school officials. The purpose of an NTO is to ban an individual from District property because of conduct that creates a serious risk to safety or school operations or true threats of physical violence. As stated previously, a Temporary NTO may only be issued in instances where there is an imminent threat of harm to the safety of student(s), school personnel or others on or in school property. Examples where a Standard NTO may be appropriate include but are not limited to the following:
  - Causing harm or inflicting injury on members of the school community;

- Threatening or intimidating members of the school community such as loud and verbally abusive interactions with school staff or faculty on a repeated basis, stalking, threats of physical violence;
  - Disrupting the academic and administrative business of the school such as persistent, unauthorized visits to classrooms by non-school individuals, intentionally damaging school or personal property of others on school property,
  - Engaging in criminal activity on school grounds.
6. A Standard NTO cannot be in effect for longer than 3 months and is subject to monthly reevaluation, as part of which the Superintendent must provide written findings as to why its continuance is justified.
  7. An NTO, whether Temporary or Standard, shall not be issued for more school property than needed to address the issues identified as the basis for the NTO.
  8. Any decision to issue an NTO, whether Temporary or Standard, to a parent/guardian/caretaker must take into account the impact on their child's (or children's) educational experience, as well as the burden on the family in fulfilling obligations to the child (or children), and the results of that evaluation shall be set forth in the written findings supporting the issuance of the NTO.
  9. Any decision to issue an NTO must be accompanied by written findings as to the specific circumstances that supposedly warrant it and an explanation as to why alternative measures or a narrower scope as to time and/or locations is not sufficient.
  10. No NTO as to school property may restrict access to public meetings or voting locations.
  11. Throughout the period of any issued NTO issued to a parent/guardian/caretaker of a child in the school system, the school must attempt to engage the subject of the NTO in ongoing dialogue to try to resolve issues so that the NTO can be lifted prior to its stated expiration. The school must also provide alternative means to keep the parent involved in their child's educational experience.
  12. When an NTO is issued to a parent/guardian/caretaker of a child in the school system, school personnel must consult with the parent/guardian/caretaker(s) of the child (or children) and, if they consent, consult with the child (or children) about the impact of the NTO on their educational experience and take affirmative steps to alleviate any adverse impact.

**Adopted by School Committee: April 11, 2024**