

Descriptor Term:  
VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

Descriptor Code:  
5.0200

Legal References: G.S. 14-132, -132.2, -159.11, -159.12, 159.13, -208.18; 115C-523, -524, -526

Cross References: 5.0220 Registered Sex Offenders; 5.0250 Prohibition of Alcoholic Beverages;  
5.0260/7.4876 Prohibition of Use of Tobacco Products, 5.0270/7.2750 Weapons  
and Explosives Prohibited; 9.2300 Use of Facilities

The board encourages the community and parents to be involved in and support the schools and the educational program of the schools.

A. OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT THE SCHOOLS

To encourage involvement, the following opportunities are provided to visit the schools:

1. Visitors are welcome to observe and learn about the educational program at each school subject to reasonable rules developed by school administrators;
2. Visitors are encouraged to use facilities made available to the public, such as the media centers or meeting space, as provided in policy 9.2300 Use of Facilities;
3. Visitors are invited to attend school events that are open to the public, such as athletic events, musical programs, and dramatic productions.

B. REQUIREMENTS OF VISITORS TO SCHOOLS

While the board welcomes visitors to the schools, the paramount concern of the board is to provide a safe, orderly and inviting learning environment in which disruptions to instructional time are kept to a minimum. The superintendent and each principal may establish and enforce reasonable rules to address this concern. In addition, the following requirements apply:

1. All school visitors during the school day must report immediately to the administrative office at the school to request and receive permission to be in the school and on school grounds. Each principal shall ensure that signs are posted in the school and on school grounds to notify visitors of this requirement.
2. School visitors shall comply with all school rules and school board policies, including policy 5.0250 Prohibition of Alcoholic Beverages, policy 5.0260/7.4876 Prohibition of Use of Tobacco Products, and policy 5.0270/7.2750 Weapons and Explosives Prohibited.
3. Persons who are subject to policy 5.0220 Registered Sex Offenders must comply with the provisions of that policy.

C. UNAUTHORIZED, DISRUPTIVE OR DANGEROUS VISITORS

If a school employee becomes aware that an individual is on a school property without having received permission or that an individual is exhibiting unusual, disruptive, threatening or dangerous behavior, the employee shall either direct the individual to the administrative office or notify the principal, designee or school resource officer, depending on the circumstances.

If a school employee suspects that an individual is on school property in violation of policy 5.0220 Registered Sex Offenders, the employee must immediately notify the principal, designee or school resource officer.

Students shall be instructed to notify a school employee of the presence of any non-employee on school grounds and of any unusual or suspicious behavior of any visitor or non-employee. Upon receipt of such information from a student, school employees must immediately report this information to the principal or his/her designee.

If an individual disrupts the educational environment, acts in a disorderly manner, damages school property, or violates board policy or the law, the principal or his/her designee has the following authority:

1. to order the individual to leave school property;
2. to order the individual to leave any activity or event sponsored by the school or school system;
3. to notify law enforcement; or
4. to take any other action deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

Failure of any individual to comply with a request to leave school grounds may result in the school system filing trespass charges or other charges as appropriate against the offending individual. Such individual also may be prohibited from entering upon school grounds, entering the school building, entering other property or premises owned or operated by the board, or attending any other events sponsored by the school or school system or in which the school or school system is involved or participates.

The superintendent, upon recommendation from the principal, may deny an individual permission from entering upon school grounds, entering the school building, entering other property or premises owned or operated by the board, or attending any other events sponsored by the school or school system or in which the school or school system is involved or participates.