

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

It is the policy of the Board of Education to encourage parents/guardians to visit schools and classrooms. The Douglas County School District (District) will make reasonable efforts to accommodate parent/guardian requests to visit a school, yet it also recognizes concerns for the welfare of the students. Part of that concern is to assure that students and staff are not distracted from the task of learning by the presence of visitors on campus. To ensure the safety and confidentiality of students, the District limits visitors to:

1. the parents/guardians of current students;
2. other family members of current students who are approved by the student's parent/guardian; and
3. those persons invited by the District for official business and members of the Board of Education.

Visitors shall have reasonable access to observe classes, activities, and functions at the schools upon advance notice to, and authorization by, the building principals.

In order to ensure that no unauthorized persons enter buildings with wrongful intent and that the educational process or other school operations are not disrupted, all visitors to the schools shall report to the school office when entering, and must receive authorization before visiting other parts of the building. This requirement does not apply when visitors are attending an assembly, athletic event, or other school program in areas typically used for large group assembly such as gymnasiums and auditoriums, or when parents are attending activities clearly for the purpose of parent involvement such as an open house or parent-teacher conferences. Principals may adopt additional building regulations pertaining to school visitors in order to preserve a proper and safe learning environment. All visitors are expected to abide by this policy and the principals' building regulations.

Visiting schools is a privilege, not a right, which may be limited, denied, or revoked by a school administrator or designee based on considerations of student and/or staff health, safety, efficient school operations, maintenance of a proper educational environment, or failure to comply with this policy. Therefore, if in the judgment of the principal or principal's designee a visitor's presence may have or is having a disruptive effect on school operations, is interfering with the educational process, and/or may have or is having a negative impact on student and/or staff health and safety, the visitor may be denied access to the school or school site, the visitor's access may be restricted as to time or place, and/or the visitor may be directed to leave the school or school site. Unauthorized persons shall not loiter on school property at any time. Law enforcement authorities may be called if necessary to enforce the provisions of this paragraph.

Current practice codified 1978 Adopted:
date of manual adoption Revised:
August 1, 2000

Revised: June 16, 2009

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LEGAL REFS.:

C.R.S. 18-9-112 (Loitering – definition – legislative declaration)

C.R.S. 18-9-117 (Unlawful conduct on public property)

C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(7) (Board of education – specific powers and duties – safe schools – open school policy)