

REGULATION**Black Horse Pike Regional
School District**

Section: Community
9150. SCHOOL VISITORS
Date Created: April 2009
Date Edited: August 2024

9150. SCHOOL VISITORS**R 9150 SCHOOL VISITORS****A. Definition**

“Visitor” means any person requesting presence or being present on school grounds or in a school building on a school day during the hours school is in session, other than those persons whose presence is required by their enrollment in the school or employment by the Board and includes, but need not be limited to, parents or legal guardians, family members, district residents, guests, educational researchers, and members of the Board. For the purposes of this regulation, “visitor” does not include persons present in school buildings to attend meetings of the Board or events sponsored by organizations granted permission by the Board to meet in the school.

B. Registration

1. Prior to entering the main building, every visitor is required to check in with school security personnel and provide identification.
2. A notice will be prominently posted at each entrance to the school building, advising visitors to report to the school office or front security desk before advancing to any other part of the school. Additional signs should be posted in the lobby of each building to advise visitors not to proceed without stating their purpose or confirming an appointment, and registering in the school office or front security desk.
3. The school security desk personnel will maintain a logbook of visitors. Each visitor shall enter his/her name and the purpose of his/her visit in the logbook except those the Superintendent or Principal explicitly exempts.
4. Each visitor will be given an identification tag or badge, which must be worn while the visitor is in the school. The Principal may give a permanent identification tag or badge to a trades person who makes regular and frequent visits to the school. If visitors do not have an appointment, they will be denied access to the school or office.
5. The Principal or office personnel designated by the Principal shall arrange for an escort to accompany each visitor to his/her destination except that the Principal may permit visitors familiar with the school and personally known to the Principal to proceed unaccompanied.
6. A staff member who encounters a visitor without identification will escort the visitor to the main entrance, and if feasible, contact the School Resource Officer. A visitor who resists the request or refuses to be escorted to the main entrance shall be interviewed by the police and could possibly be charged with trespassing.
7. A teacher shall not admit a visitor to his/her classroom unless the visitor has the identifying tag or badge or is accompanied by the Principal or the Principal's designee.
8. When a visitor has completed the business of his/her visit, he/she will return directly to the main entrance, return the identification tag or badge, sign out, and promptly leave the building.
9. The provisions of this paragraph may be waived for parents or legal guardians attending scheduled parent-teacher conferences.

C. Permission to Visit Classroom

1. Permission to visit a classroom in session must be sought from and granted by the Principal.
2. In general, arrangements to visit a classroom should be made at least one day in advance of the intended visit.
3. If the intended visit would interfere with the planned instructional program, the Principal will so advise the visitor and suggest another time for the visit.
4. The Principal is authorized to exclude a visitor from a classroom if the Principal has reason to suspect that the visitor may disrupt the educational program or threaten the health and safety of students or staff members.
5. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who arrives at school without having sought advance approval of a classroom visit may be admitted to the classroom at the discretion of the Principal.
6. The Principal may arrange visits to classrooms by educators and student teachers with the cooperation and consent of the classroom teachers.
7. Teachers may invite guest speakers or observers to their classrooms with the approval of the Principal. Each such guest speaker and observer must sign the school logbook.
8. The Principal has the authority to evaluate all requests to visit a classroom. A denied request will be accompanied by an explanation of the denial. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who has been denied access to his/her child's classroom may appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent, whose determination may be appealed to the Board of Education in accordance with Policy No. 9130.

D. Outside Contractors

All outside contractors will have their workers identified and registered with the building administration before entering a school building. Work areas will be specified and workers will be overseen by a building designee. Workers will be restricted to the area under construction.

E. Limitations on Visits to School

1. Visitors are permitted in the schools only during school hours.
2. A visitor may remove a student from school only in strict accordance with Policy No. 5230.
3. A visitor may confer with a student in the school only with the approval of the Principal and in the presence of a teaching staff member.
4. A visitor to a classroom shall not interrupt the instructional program, speak to or disturb students, or distract the teacher. A visitor who wishes to confer with the teacher must make arrangements for a conference at a later date.

5. A visitor may not bring a child or children to a classroom without the express permission of the teacher and the Principal.
6. A classroom visit may ordinarily not exceed sixty minutes without the express permission of the teacher and the Principal.
7. The Principal may restrict the number of visitors to any classroom at any one time. Preference will be given to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of students in the classroom.

F. Disruptive Visitors

1. The Principal has complete authority to exclude from school premises any person whom he/she believes may:
 - a. Disrupt the instructional program;
 - b. Disturb teachers or students; or
 - c. Commit an illegal act.
2. A visitor whose presence or conduct is disruptive or whose conduct in the past suggests that he/she may be disruptive may be requested to leave the school premises. If the visitor so requested does not withdraw, the Principal may summon assistance from the local police department.
3. A visitor who presents a serious and immediate threat to the health and safety of persons in the school may be subdued by appropriate means pending the arrival of law enforcement officers.
4. If the Principal has been alerted to dangerous persons in the vicinity of the school or has been informed that a person intends to enter the school with the intent of doing harm, the Principal may, in his/her discretion:
 - a. Assign personnel to patrol entrances to the school and deny entrance to any person not properly identified or personally known to them;
 - b. Secure the services of professional security personnel to monitor entrances; and/or
 - c. Lock all school entrances other than the main entrance so that doors cannot be opened from the outside (taking all necessary steps to ensure that doors can be opened from the inside by pressure on crash bars).

5. Visitor Procedures for Contagion Prevention

In order to prevent the spread of disease during pandemic recovery and to protect the health and safety of students and staff against infection, no visitors shall be permitted in the schools until pandemic restrictions are lifted. The principal may admit a visitor if he or she determines that it is necessary. In all such cases, the visitor shall submit to the screening procedure (e.g., temperature and exposure questionnaire) and shall be required to wear a face mask while in the school building. The face mask shall be required in all cases. However, an accommodation may be made where the visitor can demonstrate, through medical documentation that wearing a face mask is detrimental to the visitor's health. A child under two years of age shall not be required to wear a face mask.

Issued: 9 April 2009

Revised: 17 June 2010

Revised: 15 November 2018

Revised: 13 August 2020

Revised: 22 August 2024