

## **Students**

### **Relations with Non-custodial Parents**

Non-custodial parents usually have the right to access a student's educational records and should be encouraged to participate as fully as possible in a student's educational experience. Absent a court order limiting a parent's right to participate, schools should respect the non-custodial parents' interests in his/her child's education and development. Non-custodial parents are generally entitled to access student records, receive progress reports, visit their children at school, and participate in conferences.

The Board of Education, unless informed otherwise, assumes that there are no restrictions regarding the non-custodial parent's right to be kept informed of the student's school progress and activities. If restrictions are made relative to these rights, the custodial parent will be required to submit legal documents to the Superintendent which restrict the rights of the non-custodial parent (e.g. a court order).

Unless there are specific court-imposed restrictions, such as a final divorce decree which includes specific denial of rights or a restraining order denying certain rights, the non-custodial parent, upon written request may access school records. School records are those records maintained by the school district in the cumulative record and include report cards and progress reports.

The Board of Education presumes that the person who enrolls a student in school is the student's custodial parent. Further, the parent with whom the student resides is known as the custodial parent unless a legal document or signed parental agreement indicates otherwise. Verification may be required from the custodial parent.

Only the custodial parent has the right to remove the student from school property. Written authorization from the custodial parent will be cause for exception to this provision. If school personnel anticipate a possible student abduction, law enforcement personnel are to be notified immediately.

The custodial parent has the responsibility to keep the school office informed as to the address of residence, in a manner determined by the school, and how he/she may be contacted at all times.

(cf. 5113.2 - Attendance and Excuses)

(cf. 5118 - Nonresident Students)

(cf. 5124 - Reporting to Parents)

(cf. 5125/5125.1 - Student Records/Confidentiality)

(cf. 5142.2 - Student Dismissal Precautions)



## **Students**

### **Relations with Non-custodial Parents (continued)**

Legal Reference:      Connecticut General Statutes

10-15b Access of parent or guardian to student's records

46b-56 Access of records of minor children by non-custodial parent

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974

Department of Education 34 C.F.R. Part 99 (May 9, 1980 45FR 30802) regs. implementing

FERPA enacted as part of 438 of General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) - parent and student privacy and other rights with respect to educational records.