

Novato Unified School District

Board Policy 1250 Community Relations

Visitors/Outsiders

The Board of Education believes that it is important for parents/guardians and community members to take an active interest in the issues affecting district schools and students. Therefore, the Board encourages parents/guardians and interested members of the community to visit the schools and view the educational program.

To ensure the safety of students and staff and minimum interruption of the instructional program, the Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures which facilitate visits during regular school days. Visits during school hours should be first arranged with the teacher and principal or designee. If a conference is desired, an appointment should be set with the teacher during noninstructional time.

Any person who is not a student or staff member shall register immediately upon entering any school building or grounds when school is in session.

No outsider shall enter or remain on school grounds during school hours without having registered with the principal or designee. If signs posted in accordance with Penal Code 627.6 restrict entrance or route that outsider may use to reach the office of the principal or designee, an outsider shall comply with such signs. (Penal Code 627.2)

The Board encourages all individuals to assist in maintaining a safe and secure school environment by behaving in an orderly manner while on school grounds and by utilizing the district's complaint processes if they have concerns with any district program or employee. In accordance with Penal Code 626.7, the principal or designee may request that any individual who is causing a disruption, including exhibiting volatile, hostile, aggressive, or offensive behavior, immediately leave school grounds.

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

For purposes of school safety and security, the principal or designee may design a visible means of identification for visitors while on school premises.

No electronic listening or recording device may be used by students or visitors in a classroom without the teacher and principal's permission. (Education Code 51512)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32210 Willful disturbance of public school or meeting

32211 Threatened disruption or interference with classes; misdemeanor

32212 Classroom interruptions

35160 Authority of governing boards

35292 Visits to schools (board members)

51512 Prohibited use of electronic listening or recording device

EVIDENCE CODE

1070 Refusal to disclose news source

LABOR CODE

230.8 Discharge or discrimination for taking time off to participate in child's educational activities

PENAL CODE

626-626.10 Schools

627-627.10 Access to school premises, especially:

627.1 Definitions

627.2 Necessity of registration by outsider

627.7 Misdemeanors; punishment

COURT DECISIONS

Reeves v. Rocklin Unified School District, (2003) 109 Cal.App.4th 652

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

95 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 509 (1996)

Policy NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: September 30, 2008 Novato, California

revised: November 16, 2010

Novato Unified School District

Administrative Regulations 1250 Community Relations

Visitors/Outsiders

The Superintendent or designee shall post at every entrance to each school and school grounds a notice describing registration requirements, school hours or hours during which registration is required, the registration location, the route to take to that location, and the penalties for violation of registration requirements. (Education Code 32211; Penal Code 627.6)

Unless otherwise directed by the principal or designee, a staff member shall accompany visitors while they are on school grounds. (Current NUSD language)

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

Registration Procedure

In order to register, a visitor shall, upon request, furnish the principal or designee with the following information: (Penal Code 627.3)

1. His/her name, address, and occupation
2. His/her age, if less than 21
3. His/her purpose for entering school grounds
4. Proof of identity
5. Other information consistent with the provisions of law

Principal's Registration Authority

The principal or designee may refuse to register any visitor if he/she reasonably concludes that the individual's presence or acts would disrupt the school, students, or employees; would result in damage to property; or would result in the distribution or use of a controlled substance. The principal or designee or school security officer may revoke any visitor's registration if he/she has a reasonable basis for concluding that the individual's presence on school grounds would interfere or is interfering with the peaceful conduct of school activities or would disrupt or is disrupting the school, students, or staff. (Penal Code 627.4)

When a visitor fails to register, or when the principal or designee denies or revokes an visitor's registration privileges, the principal or designee may request that the individual promptly leave school grounds. When a visitor is directed to leave, the principal or designee shall inform him/her that if he/she reenters the school within seven days he/she may be guilty of a misdemeanor subject to a fine and/or imprisonment. (Penal Code 627.7)

Appeal Procedure

Any person who is denied registration or whose registration is revoked may appeal to the Superintendent or principal by submitting, within five days after the person's departure from school, a written request for a hearing. This request must state why he/she believes the denial or revocation was improper and must provide an address to which the hearing notice may be sent. Upon receipt of the request for a hearing, the Superintendent or principal shall promptly mail a notice of the hearing to the person requesting it. A hearing before the Superintendent or principal shall be held within seven days after receipt of the request. (Penal Code 627.5)

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Communications

1. All schools will inform parents about the existence of the school safety plan and the rules and regulations regarding visitors and outsiders and communication procedures.

2. In case of incidents that could represent a threat or danger to the safety of children on campus or in the vicinity of school grounds, the principal or designee shall communicate with parents/guardians in writing in a timely manner. Depending upon the circumstances, the principal or designee shall work with the local law enforcement agency and with any other appropriate agency to develop the communications and subsequent plan of action. The principal or designee shall seek advice from the district administration, and school leadership (PTA, School Site Council/Leadership Team officers, staff representatives) in the preparation of communications.

Regulation NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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