

FILE: JP

MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE ADOPTED: March 19, 1992
DATE REVISED: May 16, 2002
DATE REVISED: March 20, 2008
DATE REVISED: August 20, 2015

FILE SECTOR: STUDENTS
**POLICY TITLE: CHILDREN OF DIVORCED/
SEPARATED PARENTS**

The Medford Area Public School District shall maintain neutrality between parent(s)/guardian(s) who are involved in an action affecting the family, unless otherwise directed by court order. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to notify the district of any such court order.

The residence of the parent(s)/guardian(s) enrolling a student in school shall be considered to be the student's residence for school purposes unless a court order or other satisfactory documentation is presented which specifies otherwise.

Either parent(s)/guardian(s) of any student enrolled in a school subject to district control may be provided all report cards, notices of school activities, disciplinary reports, conference appointments or summaries, or other student records unless otherwise expressly curtailed or restricted by a provision of a court order which has been provided to the principal. Either parent(s)/guardian(s) may also participate in all activities, including conferences unless a court order provides otherwise. The school generally will conduct only one meeting for parent(s)/guardian(s) at appropriate times in which both parent(s)/guardian(s) will be permitted to participate.

A student enrolled in the district may be released from school to either parent(s)/guardian(s) unless a court order or other legally binding document has been presented which prohibits such a release. In cases where no court order or other legally binding documents have been presented, the principal may, where the safety or welfare of the student is concerned and for the purpose of exercising reasonable care of the student, notify the other parent(s)/guardian(s) before releasing the student and/or take other action with the approval of the district administrator.

CROSS REFERENCE: JO

LEGAL REFERENCE: Section 118.125(2)(m) and 767.245 Wis. Stats.

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A. Definitions

For the purposes of this procedure, the following terms have the meanings indicated:

Behavioral records are those student records which include psychological tests, personality evaluations, records of conversations, any written statement relating specifically to an individual student's behavior, tests relating specifically to achievement or measurement of ability, the student's health records other than his or her immunization records or any lead screening records required by law, law enforcement officers' records obtained by law, and any other student records that are not progress records.

Progress records are those student records which include the student's grades, a statement of the courses the student has taken, the student's attendance record, the student's immunization records, any lead screening records required by law, and records of the student's school extracurricular activities.

B. Court Order

Upon receiving written notice of a court order granting one parent/guardian the right to make major decisions regarding a student's education, the district will enter the information into the student's record. The district will presume the order remains in effect until notified in writing that the order has changed.

C. Conflicts Between Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

When the district is notified that the parent(s)/guardian(s), each having the authority to make a choice regarding the student's education, are unable to agree on the choice to be made, the matter shall be referred to the district administrator. The district administrator will not make the decision for the parent(s)/guardian(s) but may provide them with such assistance as the administrator deems appropriate under the circumstances.

D. Student Records

The district will presume both parent(s)/guardian(s) are entitled to full access of all student records unless advised in writing that a court has issued an order restricting a parent/guardian access to the records.

E. Participation in Custody and Placement Proceedings

The district and its employees shall maintain neutrality in an action affecting the family of a student.

The district recognizes that a child's adjustment to the school and community are included among the many factors a court must consider in making decisions regarding the custody and placement of the child. To aid the court, school personnel, upon presentation of a proper request and authorization, shall provide the court, the parent(s)/guardian(s), their attorney, the child's guardian ad litem, or other person designated in the authorization, a copy of the student's progress records. In addition, upon presentation of a proper request and authorization, school personnel shall provide the court, the parent(s)/guardian(s), the parent/guardian's attorney, the child's guardian ad litem, or other person designated in the authorization, a copy of the student's behavioral records, and the building administrator may designate a person qualified to explain and interpret the records to assist the recipient to understand the behavioral records.

While district personnel should not restrict access to data contained in progress and behavioral records, they should exercise caution when asked to express an opinion regarding the parent(s)/guardian(s). In almost all cases, regardless of the court's decision, both parent(s)/guardian(s) will continue to be involved in the student's education, and both parent(s)/guardian(s) will have an ongoing relationship with the school. The objective data contained in behavioral and progress records may aid the court in resolving custody and placement disputes, and school personnel may aid the court in understanding this objective data; however, the ultimate decision by the court must take into consideration factors that are outside of the expertise of school personnel. Actions that suggest school personnel or the district are supporting the efforts of one parent(s)/guardian(s) over the other may impair the ability of the staff member and the district to work with both parent(s)/guardian(s).

F. Mail Materials

All schools in the district shall routinely mail materials given to parent(s)/guardian(s) to both parent(s)/guardian(s) upon request and provisions of current demographic information.