

KM-R Visitors to School

1/21/21

RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:

The Cobb 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 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.

For information concerning professional visitors, see Administrative Rule ML-R (Private Service Providers).

RULE:**A. LIMITATIONS ON WHO MAY VISIT:**

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.

B. PROCEDURES:**1. All Visitors:**

Upon request, the Principal or designee may, at his/her discretion, grant permission for visits by the parents/guardians of current students, other family members of current students who are approved by the student's parent/guardian, and those persons invited by the District for official business. To minimize disruption to the instructional program, visits to classrooms or programs or requests to meet with specific personnel must comply with the following guidelines:

- a. All visitors must sign-in at the school office and obtain written permission to visit any part of the school;
- b. Visits generally require notice at least 24 hours in advance;
- c. Parents/guardians may observe for up to one hour during a classroom visitation. However, individuals who are invited by the District for official business may be granted extended time periods as necessary to perform their functions at the discretion of the District;
- d. Classroom visitations are not a time for parent-teacher conferences, and parents/guardians should not expect teachers to conference with them at these times;
- e. The regular school program must continue during such visits so parents/guardians must refrain from engaging the attention of the teacher or students through conversation or other means.

2. Limitations:

In addition to the limitations in Item B.1. above, parental and/or familial visitation may be limited by means of a court order, including but not limited to a parenting plan. The enrolling adult may provide a written statement to the school giving permission for the non-enrolling parent or family member to visit pursuant to this rule.

C. UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS ON CAMPUS:

A student or employee may not have an unauthorized visitor. When an unauthorized person enters District property:

1. School personnel shall warn persons trespassing to leave facilities or properties. Persons who refuse are subject to criminal prosecution under the laws of the State of Georgia.

2. The presence or visitation of unauthorized persons in and about District facilities or properties may constitute trespassing and may subject violators to criminal prosecution under the laws of the State of Georgia.

D. DISRUPTION:

State law expressly prohibits unauthorized presence and disruption on school grounds. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1180 makes it unlawful to loiter within a school safety zone. Principal or designee has the authority to exercise control over the building and grounds and prohibit any person who does not have a legitimate need or cause to be present thereon from loitering. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181 prohibits conduct which disrupts a school, school bus or school bus stop. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1182 prohibits parents from upbraiding, insulting, or abusing public school employees in the presence of pupils. Violations are punishable as a misdemeanor, up to a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

Adopted: 8/12/81

Revised: 4/13/83; 8/8/84; 5/23/91

Reclassified an Administrative Rule: 9/1/04

Revised: 12/9/04; 10/12/05; 3/23/06; 6/11/08; 4/15/09

Revised and re-coded: 10/25/12 (Previously coded as Administrative Rule KI)

Revised: 7/19/18; 1/21/20

Legal Reference

O.C.G.A. 20-8-6

O.C.G.A. 16-11-35

O.C.G.A. 20-2-1180

O.C.G.A. 20-2-1181

O.C.G.A. 20-2-1182

O.C.G.A. 20-8-5

Reports of criminal gang activity on or adjacent to campus

Removal from campus or facility of unit of university system or school; failure to leave

Penalty for loitering on school premises or within school safety zone

Penalty for disrupting public school

Authorization to order abusive people off school premises

Law enforcement powers of school security personnel; certification; carrying of weapons/firearms