

Guidelines for Parents Who Share Custody

Background: Our schools have increasingly become involved in disputes between parents who want nothing but the best for their children. Sometimes the school feels caught in the middle between parents. Our goal is to support both parents during these difficult times, but most importantly support our students. The purpose of this document is to clarify the role of the school and our legal requirements.

| Here are some important guidelines for schools to follow:

- Parents have rights to access their children at school unless their parental rights have been terminated or restrictions have been placed on their rights by a court.
- If either parent indicates that the other parent's rights are limited by a court order parents need to provide schools with any court documents that reflect those limitations.
- Schools will provide two copies of reports cards and other school records when requested. Schools will provide two copies of school newsletters. We need parents to tell us when duplicate copies are needed. Requests should be made to the school secretary.
- When a student is ill or needs to be picked up, we will work to contact either parent, regardless of any visitation schedule. We expect parents to communicate with each other. Schools cannot possibly keep track of whose week/day it is in regard to who has placement. It is entirely possible that the school contacts one parent when the other parent has the child for the week/day.
- We recommend parents keep the school informed of any recent developments with their children. Our goal is to support the student.
- We encourage parents to work with our Student Services staff to assist in supporting their children.
- Parents sometimes request school staff to write letters documenting information for the court. Schools will provide facts, but not opinions. We are **not** going to recommend placement with one parent over another (i.e we do not take sides).
- We sometimes have parents request that we have no contact with a non-custodial parent. Parents should provide the district a court order that specifically restricts access.
- Our student records system, Infinite Campus, is where we document parental information and who may pick up the student. We cannot change or delete parent information based on the word from the other parent.