

Houston County Board of Education

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| Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April | Descriptor Term: <h2 style="text-align: center;">Release During School Hours</h2> | Descriptor Code: <h3 style="text-align: center;">6.208</h3> | Issued Date: <h3 style="text-align: center;">12/12/16</h3> |
| | | Rescinds: <h3 style="text-align: center;">JBF</h3> | Issued: |

The following procedure will be observed with regard to dismissal of students:

1. No student will leave school prior to regular dismissal hours, except with the approval of the principal and parent. Elementary students will be permitted to leave school prior to regular dismissal time only in the company of a parent, legal guardian, school employee, police officer, court officer, or a person designated in writing by the parent(s).
2. No student will be sent from the school during school hours to perform an errand or act as a messenger.
3. When dental and medical appointments cannot be scheduled outside school hours, parent(s) must send a written request for dismissal or call for the student in person.
4. Children will be released only upon the request of the parent whom the court holds directly responsible for the child, or who is the parent or guardian registered on the school record.
5. High school students may be released for jobs and approved training at centers outside their home schools under regulations approved by the Board.¹

Release of Students to Persons Exhibiting Risky Behavior

It is the policy of the Houston County Schools that school staff take specific precautions when a parent/legal guardian or other responsible person as designated by the parent, requests release of a student while exhibiting behavior that school staff deems may place the children at risk.

Release to Parent or Legal Guardian

School personnel may not withhold access of a child to a parent or legal guardian unless presented with a current court order or court approved parenting plan removing the rights of a parent or legal guardian from the child or a current court order restraining a parent or legal guardian from the child.

If the person requesting release of the child is a parent or legal guardian and is deemed by school staff as demonstrating behavior which may place the child in imminent risk, school staff will immediately call 911, local law enforcement or other emergency services prior to release of the child. Staff members will base determination of imminent risk on the observation of behaviors that in their view may result in the child being placed in harm's way. School staff may request the parent or legal guardian not to take the child and may call another parent or legal guardian or other approved responsible person but cannot physically detain the individual or refuse release of the child prior to the arrival of law enforcement.

Release to Other Authorized Individual(s)

If the person requesting release of the child is not a parent or legal guardian but is authorized to pick up the child yet is deemed by school staff as demonstrating behavior which may place the child in imminent risk, school staff will not release the child to such individual. Staff members will base determination of imminent risk on the observation of behaviors that in their view may result in the child being placed in harm's way. School staff will immediately contact a parent or legal guardian. Under no circumstances will school personnel release the child to the individual demonstrating such behavior even if the parent or legal guardian verbally authorizes such release. Staff members will call 911, local law enforcement or other emergency services if deemed necessary based on the behavior of person requesting release of the child.

Legal References:

1. TRR/MS 0520-1-7-.03