

The safety of students is a paramount concern of the Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) and school system. The principal or designee shall make reasonable efforts to verify that any person appearing at a school and requesting permission to take a student from the school is properly identified before the student is released to him or her.

Except in the most extreme circumstances, custody of a student shall not be relinquished to any person without the prior approval of the parent or guardian who has physical custody of the student. However, if the parents are divorced or separated, the student may be released to either parent, unless the principal has been provided with a copy of a court order or agreement that specifies otherwise.

If the principal or designee judges that the student's health or safety may be harmed by releasing the student, the principal shall contact law enforcement and/or the department of social services as appropriate.

Principals are encouraged to develop guidelines as necessary to implement this policy.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -47, -288

Cross References: Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety (policy 4240/7312), Relationships with Other Governmental Agencies (policy 5100)

Adopted: November 10, 2014

Revised: August 12, 2020 (Legal references only)