

CHILD CUSTODY

POLICY:

The board of directors presumes that the person who enrolls a student in school is the residential parent of the student. The residential parent is responsible for decisions regarding the day-to-day care and control of student. Parents or legal guardians have rights to receive information contained in the school records concerning their child and to forbid or permit the disclosure of such information to others, subject to the authority granted to the residential parent.

The board, unless informed otherwise, assumes that there are no restrictions regarding the nonresidential parent's right to be kept informed of the student's school progress and activities. If restrictions are made relative to the above rights, the residential parent will be requested to submit a certified copy of the court order that curtails these right(s). If the nonresidential parent questions these rights, the parent(s) must return to the courts or their dispute resolution provider for resolution.

Unless there are court-imposed restrictions, the nonresidential parent, upon request, will be given grade reports, notices of school activities, reports of disciplinary actions, or notices of teacher or principal conferences or summaries.

If there is a court order on file with the district that restricts and/or prohibits any parent or other person from contact with a student at school or picking up a student from school, then the district will not permit the student to visit with or be released to that parent, or other person unless the school has received authorization from the residential parent.

Cross References:	1420 - Safe and Orderly Learning Environment
	5150 - Student Protection
	5200 – Protection of the Rights and Privacy of Parents and Students
	5230 – Student Records
	5240 – Reporting on Pupil Progress

Legal References:	CFR 45, Part 99 Family education rights and privacy act
	RCW 13.34.200 Order terminating parent and child relationship - Rights of parties when granted
	RCW 26.09.184 Permanent parenting plan

PROCEDURES:

Child Custody

1. Non-custodial parents have the right to access their child's classroom or school-sponsored activities for the purpose of observing the class procedure, teaching materials, and class conduct, provided this does not disrupt the classroom procedure or learning activity. If the purpose of the classroom visitation is to observe learning and teaching activities, the visitor will be asked to confer with the teacher and the building administrator before or after the observation to enhance understanding of the activities.
2. If restrictions are made relative to the rights of the non-custodial parent to be kept informed of his/her student's school progress and activities, the custodial parent will submit a certified copy of the court order, which curtails this right(s). If the other parent questions these rights, the parent(s) must return to the courts or their dispute resolution provider for resolution.
3. Unless there are court-imposed restrictions, the non-custodial parent, upon request, will be given grade reports, notices of school activities, reports of disciplinary actions, or notices of teacher or principal conferences or summaries and will be allowed access to other educational records of the student as requested under Lake Stevens School District Records Policy 5230.
4. Unless the custodial parent provides the school with a certified copy of a court order restricting or prohibiting the student's contact with the non-custodial parent, a student shall be released to the custodial parent(s) or the non-custodial parent(s) or the "contacts/release" person(s) as authorized on enrollment or update forms.

Visits

Absent court-ordered restrictions, the non-custodial parent may interact with his/her child during a visit to the school provided there is no disruption to the educational process or school procedures. The principal or designee is responsible for verifying the parent's identity. Preferred identification is an entry in the electronic safety background checking system (i.e. SafeVisitor) and picture identification. As a courtesy, the principal or designee should notify the custodial parent as soon as practical if such a visit occurred.

Releases

Board policy 5150 pertaining to student protection should be readily accessible to direct staff if a non-custodial parent appears without prior notice to meet with the teacher of his/her child, to visit with his/her child, or to remove his/her child from the school premises. ([RCW 28A.605.010](#) – Removing child from school grounds during school hours.)

