

ACADEMY FOR SCIENCES & AGRICULTURE

Adopted: October 22, 2019

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814 VISITORS TO ACADEMY PROPERTY AND FACILITIES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish rules and procedures governing visits to Academy property and Academy facilities.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Board of Directors encourages interest on the part of parent/guardians and community members in the Academy's programs and activities. At the same time the Board of Directors recognizes that reasonable restrictions must be placed on visits to Academy facilities in order to maintain an environment that is safe and conducive to learning and working. The Board of Directors has adopted this policy after considering and weighing these and other social, political, economic, and educational factors.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Academy facility" means any building that is owned, leased, or operated by the Academy.
- B. "Academy property" means any real property that is owned, leased, or operated by the Academy, including, but not limited to, athletic stadiums and athletic fields.
- C. "parent/guardian" means a biological parent, adoptive parent/guardian, legal guardian, or conservator.
- D. "School building" means any Academy facility where a program of education is offered to preschool, elementary school and middle school students.
- E. "Visitor" means any person who enters an Academy facility during the regular school year between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. except for the following: enrolled students who are in the facility to attend school, to participate in a school sponsored event or activity, or to attend a meeting of a student-initiated, non-curriculum related group that is recognized by the Academy; employees who are assigned to work at the facility or are otherwise authorized to enter the facility; and volunteers who have been assigned to be in the facility at the time of the visit.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Visitor Procedures.** All visitors must comply with the following procedures when entering an Academy facility, unless they are attending an event or activity that is open to the public, such as parent/guardian-teacher conferences, a school board meeting, or an athletic contest:
1. Immediately upon entering an Academy facility, all visitors must report to the administrative office or reception desk. Signage to this effect must be prominently displayed on or near all unlocked doors to the facility.
 2. Upon reporting to the administrative office or reception desk, all visitors must complete a form that requires them to do the following: print and sign their names, state the purpose of their visit, state the time of their arrival, and state the location of the building in which the visit will occur.
 3. Subject to the requirements of this policy, parent/guardians may observe their child in the classroom for up to two hours on two occasions per school year. parent/guardians who wish to observe their children in the classroom during the regular school day must schedule the visit at least three (3) school days in advance with the building administrator. The Executive Director or designee may reschedule or terminate any visit in the event of an emergency or unforeseen circumstance.
 4. The Executive Director or designee may impose additional restrictions on any parent/guardian who has caused a disruption in an Academy facility.
 5. The Executive Director or designee will follow this policy in determining whether or not permission will be granted for a visit to a school building. The Executive Director or designee will follow this policy in determining whether or not permission will be granted for a visit to an Academy facility that is not a school building.
 6. If permission for a visit is granted, the visitor will be given a visitor's identification badge stating the visitor's name and the location in the building where the visit will occur.
 7. All visitors must wear the issued visitor identification badge in a conspicuous location at all times while in an Academy facility.
 8. If a school employee sees a visitor in a school building without a visitor's identification badge, the employee must either escort the visitor to the administrative office or immediately notify the administrative office of the presence of the visitor.

9. Upon completing a visit, a visitor must return to the administrative office or reception desk, return the visitor's identification badge, sign his/her name on the same form that was signed upon entering the building, and state the time of his/her departure.

B. Parent/guardian Procedures for Communicating with Children. The Academy recognizes that under limited circumstances parent/guardians may occasionally need to communicate with their children during the school day. When this need arises, parent/guardians must follow one of the following procedures:

1. Parent/guardians may call the office and ask to speak with their child. School staff will then locate the child and instruct the child come to the office to speak with the parent/guardian by telephone. This may occur by making an announcement over the school's intercom system. Students generally will not be permitted to place or receive a call from a classroom.
2. Parent/guardians may enter the administrative office of a school building and ask the office staff to call their child to the office. Parent/guardians may not go directly to a classroom or to any other location in an Academy facility without complying with the Visitor Procedures stated in this policy.
3. Students will not be permitted to make calls or receive calls on personal cell phones during any class period.

C. Administrative Procedures in Response to Inappropriate Conduct. The Executive Director and designees are encouraged to take the following steps when a visitor violates this policy or engages in any other inappropriate conduct:

1. Notify the offending visitor that his or her conduct is inappropriate.
2. Notify the offending visitor that if the conduct does not cease immediately, the visitor will be required to leave the building.
3. Notify the offending visitor that he or she is required to immediately leave the building.
4. Contact law enforcement.
5. Document the incident.
6. Take other action that the Executive Director or designee reasonably deems to be prudent or necessary in order to: (a) protect the safety of students, staff, or school property; (b); maintain an environment that is

conducive to learning and working; and (c) maintain an environment that is free from all forms of abusive and disruptive conduct.

7. Any step or steps of this procedure may be skipped or addressed at a later time if the Executive Director or designee determines, in the exercise of his or her professional judgment, that immediate removal of the offending visitor is in the best interests of the students or the staff.

V. RULES OF CONDUCT FOR VISITORS

A. Required Conduct. All visitors must demonstrate respect and civility when interacting with other individuals during a visit. In addition, all visitors must immediately comply with any and all lawful directives given by an Academy employee, including a directive to leave the building.

B. Prohibited Conduct. Visitors must not do any of the following during a visit:

1. No visitors will be allowed on school buses or vans during morning and afternoon routes.
2. Violate any law, violate data privacy laws;
3. Violate any Academy or school policy, regulation, rule, or procedure;
4. Make any threat or engage in any threatening or intimidating behavior;
5. Engage in any conduct that is designed to intimidate another person or that could reasonably be perceived as being designed to intimidate another person;
6. Demonstrate hostility toward another person;
7. Engage in conduct that is objectively rude;
8. Use any obscene or foul language;
9. Make or participate in making any personal attacks against another person;
10. Make or participate in making any objectively disrespectful, demeaning, disparaging, or insulting comments or statements about or to another person;
11. Make unwelcome physical contact with any person other than their own child, unless the physical contact is part of the normal greeting process,

such as a handshake, or is reasonably necessary to prevent imminent harm to another person or serious harm to property;

12. Photograph, film, or otherwise create an audio or video record of any students, employees, or volunteers of the Academy, unless the visitor is on Academy property or in a limited part of an Academy facility to attend an event or activity that is open to the public, such as a school board meeting or an athletic contest;
13. Enter onto school property while impaired from the use of alcohol or any other chemical;
14. Create or participate in creating a disruption to the learning or working environment. Examples of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to, using a raised voice, shouting, or yelling; swearing; talking with a teacher, classroom aide, or a student while observing in a classroom; using or allowing a cellular device make noise in the classroom; and engaging in other conduct that interrupts a lesson while observing in a classroom.

VI. GROUNDS FOR DENYING A REQUEST TO VISIT

A. Parent/guardian Visits for Purpose Other than Classroom Observation. The Executive Director or a designee may deny permission for a parent/guardian to visit any part of an Academy facility if the Executive Director or the designee determines that:

1. The parent/guardian has refused or failed to comply with any part of this policy;
2. The parent/guardian violated any rule or procedure of this policy while visiting an Academy facility on a prior occasion during the school year;
3. The requested date or time for the visit is educationally inappropriate or inconvenient;
4. The parent/guardian has created a disruption during a prior visit and is likely to create a disruption if permitted to visit again;
5. The parent/guardian's presence in the Academy facility is not in the best interests of student or staff;
6. The parent/guardian presents a risk of harm to a student, to a staff member, or to Academy property;

7. The parent/guardian's parent/guardian rights have been terminated or the parent/guardian does not have physical custody or visitation rights during the school day or the period of time when the parent/guardian wants to visit the Academy facility; or
8. The parent/guardian's actions or words suggest that the parent/guardian is impaired from using alcohol or another chemical.

B. Classroom Observations by parent/guardian. The Executive Director or a designee may deny a parent/guardian's request to observe his or her child in the classroom, or may revoke permission for such a visit, if the Executive Director or designee determines that:

1. Any of the reasons for denying a visit in Section V(A) of this policy have been met;
2. The parent/guardian has failed or refused to schedule the classroom observation in advance;
3. The parent/guardian observed in the classroom on a prior occasion during the school year and created a disruption;
4. The requested date or time for the observation is educationally inappropriate or inconvenient, such as when a test is being administered, when a substitute teacher or guest speaker is present, or when students are attending an assembly or going on a field trip;
5. The parent/guardian has already observed the child in the classroom on two occasions during the school year;
6. The parent/guardian's presence in the classroom is not in the best interests of the student, other children, or staff.

C. Classroom Observations by an Independent Examiner. If the parent/guardian of a special education student requests an independent educational evaluation (IEE) or hires an independent examiner to evaluate a child, and the parent/guardian requests that the independent examiner be permitted to observe the child in the classroom, the Academy will allow the independent examiner to visit and observe the student in the classroom to the extent permitted by law, provided that the independent examiner complies all provisions of this policy and does not create a disruption.

The Academy may assign a staff member to accompany an independent examiner during all observations. An independent examiner may not interview any students

at school or any Academy employees without prior written permission from the Academy. An Academy representative will be present during any interviews.

- D. Parent/guardian's Right to Appeal.** If a parent/guardian believes that a request to visit an Academy facility has been improperly denied, the parent/guardian may submit a written appeal to the Executive Director. The decision of the Executive Director, or a designee of the Executive Director, is final.
- E. Visits by Third Parties.** The Executive Director or a designee may, as he or she sees fit, deny a visitor's request to visit any part of an Academy facility if the visitor is not a parent/guardian or guardian of a child who attends school in the facility.

VII. PARKING

During school hours, visitors must park their vehicles in spaces designated for visitors. Vehicles that are parked in unauthorized spaces may be towed to a different location at the vehicle owner's expense.

VIII. PENALTIES.

Permission to be in an Academy facility is conditioned upon compliance with this policy. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 609.605, subdivision 4, any person who violates this policy may be found guilty of a misdemeanor. Such persons may be detained by the school principal or a person designated by the school principal in a reasonable manner and for a reasonable period of time pending the arrival of a law enforcement officer. In addition to imposing other consequences specified in this policy, the Executive Director may issue an order prohibiting a person from entering onto school property.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 124E.07, subd. 6 (duties of board of directors)

Minn. Stat. § 609.605, subd. 4 (trespass to school property)