

February 10, 2025

Dear Cheltenham School District Community,

I hope this message finds you doing well. I write today to reinforce our community's common understanding of the district's policies and procedures with regard to law enforcement activities near and around our school. We understand that there are heightened concerns within our community, particularly regarding the potential impact of law enforcement activity on the well being of our students.

All children have a federal and state right to a public education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. That said, Cheltenham School District is proud to reaffirm that our schools are and will remain dedicated to the safety, respect, and inclusion of all students, regardless of their background or circumstances. Please understand that the Cheltenham School District is committed to ensuring our schools are safe spaces where each and every student can focus on learning and growing, free from discrimination or harassment based on ancestry, national origin, language, or immigration status.

With that as a backdrop, I am sharing important information about our district's procedures regarding law enforcement officials requesting access to our schools, students, or student records. These procedures reflect the district's commitment to student safety and our legal obligations under the law.

Cheltenham's Commitment to Students and Families

The Cheltenham School District Board of School Directors has affirmed the district's commitment to "creating an equitable and inclusive community that fosters social and emotional well-being and a passion for learning" ([Mission Statement](#)).

We maintain clear procedures for any situation where outside law enforcement officials request access to our students, schools or student information. We remain dedicated to:

- Maintaining high standards of behavior for adults and students,
- Being non-discriminatory,
- Creating a safe and inclusive environment, and
- Treating all constituents with respect, compassion, and tolerance.

What Are the Procedure for Law Enforcement Officials Who Come to Our Schools?

With respect to law enforcement officials who request access to our schools, CSD follows a particular set of procedures, including verification of credentials and review of any documentation presented. Parents/guardians are notified if their child is the subject of any official request.

How Does Current Federal Guidance Impact Student Records and Privacy?

Federal law provides specific protections for student records. We maintain student records in accordance with the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#). Access to student records, outside of emergency situations where the health, safety, or welfare of students or others is in jeopardy, requires written parent/guardian consent; or a valid court order or judicial warrant.

CSD administrators and building leaders have received guidance and procedures for responding to law enforcement officials at school sites. The school district is monitoring the situation and will be prepared to respond should a situation arise. We will demonstrate our values through our response.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation, which will help us maintain a safe and inclusive environment. Together, we will navigate these challenges and ensure that our schools remain places of learning, growth, and inclusivity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Scriven
Superintendent of Schools