

NOTIFICATION OF SEX OFFENDERS

The Board of Education acknowledges the efforts of local law enforcement to notify the District when a person with a history of sex offenses against a child is being paroled or released into the community, in accordance with the provisions of the Sex Offender Registration Act, commonly known as Megan's Law. The purpose of this notification is to protect members of the community, particularly children, by notifying them of the presence of individuals in their midst who may present a danger. Consistent with its duty to protect students under its care, the District shall cooperate with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services and local law enforcement agencies in this endeavor. This policy is intended to help minimize the possibility that a child will come into contact with an individual registered as a sex offender for whom the District has received notification from a local law enforcement agency.

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services is responsible for maintaining the New York State Sex Offender Registry. Any interested individual, such as parents, guardians, school staff, students, and community members, may access the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Sex Offender Registry directly via its website at <https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/> to obtain the most current information regarding registered sex offenders in the area.

Any information provided to the District by local law enforcement officials pursuant to Megan's Law shall be posted in an appropriate location in all school buildings. In addition, the Superintendent of Schools shall ensure the dissemination of any such information to all staff who might come into contact with the offender in the course of doing their jobs, including, but not limited to, building principals, staff who issue visitors' passes, teachers, teaching assistants, school aides, custodians, security personnel, and coaches as well as contracted transportation staff, including bus drivers and monitors. All other staff members and community residents shall be informed of the posting requirement for such information established by this policy and of the availability of the information, upon request.

Community residents shall also be reminded of the security measures and personal safety instruction provided at school. All staff requests for information provided by the law enforcement agencies shall be directed to the Building Principal. Requests for information from community residents shall be directed to the Office of Safety and Security.

If an individual observes a person who they know to be a registered sex offender or who they believe matches the description of a registered sex offender provided to the District either on school grounds, at a school function, at a bus stop and/or route, or within close proximity to any of these locations, he/she/they shall immediately inform the building principal. The building principal shall then immediately notify the Office of Safety and Security as well as the local law enforcement agency, as warranted. If the building principal is not available or the individual does not observe the suspected registered sex offender at or near a school building, the individual should immediately contact the Office of Safety and Security directly. As warranted, the Office of Safety and Security shall contact the local law enforcement agency if the agency has not yet been contacted by the building principal.

Any individual who uses information provided to the District by local law enforcement officials pursuant to Megan's Law or obtained directly from the New York State Sex Offender Registry to injure, harass, or commit a criminal act against any person may be subject to criminal prosecution.

The Superintendent may establish any necessary regulations, procedures, and/or protocols for implementing this policy with the advice of the school attorney.

This policy shall be disseminated at least once a year to all District residents.

Ref: 34 U.S.C. §§20901 et seq.
Correction Law, Article 6-C (Sex Offender Registration Act)
Penal Law §220.00(14)

Adoption date: May 8, 2007

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