

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BUILDING ACCESS CONTROL

Schools cannot always control the crises/safety issues that may impact them. However, through the development and implementation of school safety plans, the District Code of Conduct, and various policies that address school security issues, the District is continually taking steps to improve the safety and culture of the school community.

All school safety plans shall be implemented, reviewed and/or revised as necessary in accordance with applicable law and Commissioner's Regulations. Appropriate school safety training for staff and students, the conduct of drills and other exercises to test components of the emergency response plan, as well as procedures for review, will be provided as mandated by law and regulation. Any suspicious activity observed any staff or students should be reported to an administrator. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave and police called if the situation warrants. Such suspicious activity may include, but is not limited to, unexplained presence of unauthorized persons in places where they should not be; discreet use of still cameras or video recorders; note-taking or the use of binoculars or maps near school locations; observation of security reaction drills or procedures; mobile surveillance from unauthorized vehicles on or around school grounds; the parking of a suspicious vehicle in the school's parking lot or in proximity to the school building, particularly for an extended period of time; and the discovery of an unattended package or object inside or around the premises of the school.

Visitors shall be directed to the Main Office for specific instructions regarding that building's procedures for visitors to the school.

Possession and Use of Cell Phones and Other Handheld Communication Devices

The Board recognizes that while carrying cell phones can be a safety measure for staff and students alike, problems arise when the inappropriate use of cell phones and other handheld communication devices interfere with the school's ability to maintain control in the school environment, giving rise to security as well as educational concerns. The use of cell phones and other handheld communication devices by visitors to the schools can also present a potential security concern.

Inappropriate or unauthorized use of cell phones can undermine (if not render inoperable due to system overload) the communication system in place per the school safety plans, impede evacuation plans if parents or other individuals are summoned to the school by non-designated persons, and potentially restrict the access of community emergency service providers to the site.

Use of cell phones and other handheld communication devices by students during the school day shall be governed by the District Code of Conduct.

(Continued)

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BUILDING ACCESS CONTROL (Cont'd.)

Policy Implementation

The Board directs that administration implement and review on a periodic basis building access control procedures, and provide IDs for staff and visitors as appropriate. Parents and students shall be informed of the school's access procedures; and visitors shall be required to follow the specific visitor procedures prescribed by that particular building and the District Code of Conduct.

This policy is intended to highlight our commitment to and planning for heightened security access to our schools. The policy shall be considered an adjunct to, not a replacement of, our school safety plans and the District Code of Conduct.

Adopted: 2/16/05

Revised: 3/24/11