

MISSING CHILDREN POLICY

Mounting concern over missing children has resulted in new New Jersey legislation assigning to local districts the obligation to develop policies and procedures for identifying and reporting to appropriate authorities potential cases of missing children.

Parents/guardians are responsible for notifying the school on each day of a student's absence. In the event this procedure is not followed by the parent/guardian, assigned school personnel shall contact the parent/guardian by phone or by personal contact.

No student shall be permitted to leave the school before the end of the school day unless met in the school office and signed out or approved by a parent/guardian or a person authorized to act in his/her behalf.

Each school shall set up procedures to validate requests for early dismissal to assure that children are released only for proper reasons and into proper hands. No student may be released on the basis of an unvalidated telephone call. No teacher shall send any pupil on a private errand.

Children of estranged parents may be released only upon the request of the parent whom the court holds directly responsible for the child and who is the parent/guardian registered on the school record. The schools shall not be a party to other arrangements with estranged parents.

Prompt identification of children who have withdrawn from this district without enrollment in another school or district and those who have been wilfully or neglectfully removed from school by protracted absences without good cause is essential. The Board authorizes release of the child's name, age, gender, last known address, physical description, and the parent's name and work place, if known, to the local police, DYFS, local and county superintendents.

The Superintendent shall develop and implement early warning procedures to identify such children. The program shall require parent notification when children are unaccountably absent on any given school day.

Dated:
October 28, 1985

10/28/85