
*Rescinds Policy Number:**Issued:*

The Orange County Board of Education encourages the community and parents to be involved in and support the schools and the educational program. To encourage involvement, the following opportunities are provided to visit the schools:

- Visitors are welcome at the schools to observe and learn about the educational program;
- Visitors are encouraged to use facilities made available to the public, such as the media centers or meeting space, as provided in board policy 5030, Community Use of Facilities; and
- Visitors are invited to attend public events, such as athletic events, musical programs, and dramatic productions.

While visitors are welcome, the paramount concern of the board is to provide a safe, orderly, and inviting learning environment in which disruptions to instructional time are minimized. The superintendent and each principal may establish and enforce reasonable rules to address this concern. In addition, the following requirements apply:

- All school visitors must report immediately to the administrative office at the school for permission to be in the school and receive permission to be in the school. Each principal is responsible for ensuring that signs are posted in the school to notify visitors of this requirement.
- If any school employee becomes aware that an individual is in a school without having received permission, the employee must either direct the individual to the administrative office or notify the principal, depending on the circumstances.
- Students should notify any staff member of any unusual or suspicious behavior by visitors or others. Staff must inform the principal immediately of any student's report of suspicious behavior or their own observation of such behavior.
- Any individual who disrupts the educational environment, acts in a disorderly manner, damages school property, or violates board policy or law, may be requested to leave. Such individual also may be prosecuted and may be prohibited from attending any other events sponsored by the school district for the remainder of the year. Failure to comply with requests to leave school grounds or other restrictions imposed by school staff may result in the filing of trespass charges against the offending individual.

Legal References: G.S. 14-132, -132.2, -159.11, -159.12, -159.13; 115C-523, -524, -526