



Registered Sex Offenders Policy

Purpose: To clearly identify how registered sex offenders will be expected to respect the boundaries set forth by Voyager.

Pursuant to Session Law 2008-117, *The Jessica Lunsford Act for North Carolina* (the "Act"), the General Assembly of North Carolina has recognized that sex offenders often pose a high risk of engaging in sex offenses after being released from incarceration or commitment and that the protection of students from sex offenders while on School property and at School-sponsored activities serves an important governmental interest.

School is committed to the following

1. Sex offenders are banned from all School property and School events

In accordance with G.S. 14-208.18, all persons who (1) are required to register under the Sex Offender and Public Protection Program AND (2) have been convicted of certain sexually violent offenses or any offense where the victim was under the age of 16 years at the time of the offense ("Prohibited Persons") are expressly forbidden to be present on any property owned or operated by the Voyager system, including Voyager buildings, athletic fields, playgrounds, parking lots, activity buses or other property of any kind for any reason, including attendance at sporting events or other School-related functions, whether before, during or after School hours. In addition, Prohibited Persons may not attend or be present at any student function or field trip on or off of School property which is 1) School-sponsored or 2) otherwise under the official supervision or control of School personnel. This policy applies to all Prohibited Persons regardless of their relationship to, or affiliation with, a student in the School system (i.e. step parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.).

A. Prohibited persons

The Director or designee shall insure that administration is familiar with the criminal offenses that qualify an individual as a Prohibited Person under this policy. The Director will also subscribe to electronic notification of Registered Sex Offenders and access the state database as needed.

B. No special permission

There shall be no "special permission" given for Prohibited Persons to be on Schools grounds or attend events or activities in violation of this policy.

C. Possible exceptions for students

Students who meet the definition of a Prohibited Person may be on School property only in accordance with state law.

D. Limited exception for prohibited persons who are parents / legal guardians of a student

a. A Prohibited Person who is the Parent/Legal Guardian of a student may be on School property only for the following reason:

1. To attend a previously scheduled School conference with School personnel to discuss their child's academic or social progress; or
2. At the request of the Director/designee, for any other reason relating to the welfare or transportation of their child.

b. The procedure for making a request is as follows:

1. For each visit authorized by subsection (a)(1) above, the Parent/Legal Guardian must provide the Director with prior written notice of their registration on the Sex Offender Registry.
2. A request for presence at Voyager must be submitted to the Director in writing, minimally 72 hours in advance.
3. The request must include the nature and specific times of the requested.
4. The Director or designee will respond within 48 hours either authorizing or denying the request.
5. The decision of the Director or designee is final.
6. The Director will notify the Board of any such requests and the decision.

c. For each visit authorized by subsection (c) above, the Parent/Legal Guardian must check in at the front office upon arrival and departure. In addition, during each and every visit, the Parent/Legal Guardian must be under the direct supervision of School personnel at all times. If personnel are not available to supervise the Parent/Legal Guardian during any visit then they shall not be permitted on Voyager property.

d. For each visit authorized by subsection (c) above, the Parent/Legal Guardian shall comply with all reasonable rules and restrictions placed upon them by the Director, including any restrictions on the date, time, location and length of meetings.

2. Enforcement

Any suspected violation of this policy shall be reported by a School administrator to the Director and to law enforcement for immediate investigation. All School personnel should report the presence or suspected presence of a Prohibited Person to a School administrator and take appropriate action. The Director shall immediately notify the Voyager Board Chair of any known or suspected Prohibited Person who is a student, or a parent or legal guardian of a student, at their School.

3. Applicability

This policy shall supersede any conflicting provisions in all other School Board policies regarding School safety, parental involvement, School field trips, School visitors, School volunteers and student transportation.