

Regulation

EARLY DETECTION OF MISSING CHILDREN

The Alloway Township Board of Education is committed to ensuring the early detection of any missing or abused children. Attendance at school can be a means of identifying such children. Accordingly, the superintendent shall ensure the implementation of procedures designed to provide for reporting to appropriate law enforcement and child welfare authorities when a potential missing or abused child is detected.

The administrators are encouraged to take bold steps and to act sooner than the limits established in every category. Additionally, it is recognized that the administrator's daily procedures may demand more stringent accounting from parents/guardians than provided for herein; it is most appropriate that these practices should be continued and form a sound base for the implementation of board policy and procedure for the detection of missing children.

Attendance

- A. Any child absent from our schools for five consecutive days without the administration being aware that the absence is for a known cause shall be considered at risk as a potentially abused or missing child;
- B. Any absent child for whom there are grounds for the reasonable suspicion of the potential for abuse or abduction shall be considered an at risk child;
- C. A student who never appears on the school's register because he/she has the status of a "did not enter" student shall be considered an at risk child and every effort shall be made to account for his/her welfare and safety, as indicated below;
- D. The schools shall attempt to contact the home of each at risk child by phone on a daily basis or by mail. An attempt should also be made to locate the child through the emergency notification information that the parents have provided the school, and any other information that is available to the school;
- E. If, after three days, there is no response affirming the safety of the child, the attendance officer shall make an on-site investigation at the child's home;
- F. If the attendance officer is unable to confirm the safety of the child, the school shall consider the child to be missing and shall notify the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), the proper police authorities, and other appropriate agencies and organizations. The school shall provide these agencies all information from the school records that could help in search for the child.

Release from School

During the school session, a child may be excused only into the custody of his/her custodial parent/guardian. The school may release a child into the care of another person with written permission from the parent/guardian. The persons who are listed on a properly completed emergency notification form may be treated by the school as in loco parentis.

Students Transferring to Another School

When issuing a transfer card, the school shall attempt to ascertain all possible information about the destination of the child's family, including the future address, job site, names of relatives or friends in the area, and the anticipated date of the student's arrival at the new school.

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If the school has not received confirmation of the student's arrival at the new district within one week of the anticipated date of arrival, the new school district should be called and attempts made to locate the child through school districts and the other information that the school has available. If these attempts prove to be fruitless, reports shall be made to DCP&P and the appropriate police authorities indicating that the school is unable to confirm that the child has reached his/her destination. The proper police authorities, DCP&P, and other appropriate agencies and organizations shall be provided any information from the school records that could help in a search for the child.

Students Transferring from Another School

When a student transfers in from another school, the guardianship of the child will be verified from the transfer card, through contact with the previous district, by court records, the child's school records, or other appropriate means. If the child is residing with someone other than the apparent legal guardian, the school must report this discrepancy to DCP&P, the proper police authorities, and other appropriate agencies and organizations. In the meantime, the school must verify the student's entitlement to a free public education in this school district in a reasonable amount of time. A week of free public education in this school district is reasonable amount of time. A week, except in unusual circumstances, through all of the following means, as prescribed by law:

- A. A sworn statement by the person with whom the child resides that he/she:
 - 1. Is domiciled in the district;
 - 2. Is supporting the child gratis;
 - 3. Will assume all personal obligations of the child relative to school requirements;
 - 4. Intends to keep and support the child gratuitously for a longer time than merely through the school term;
- B. A copy of the lease of the person with whom the child resides, if the person is a tenant, or a sworn statement of the landlord acknowledging that such person is residing as a tenant without written lease;
- C. A sworn statement by the child's legal parent that he/she is not supporting the child;
- D. A satisfactory documentation as to the validity of the sworn statement.

Student Registration

- A. A child may be registered into school while documentation of guardianship is being resolved, provided however, that proper health records have been verified and there is adequate information on which to make an educational placement;
- B. If the school is not able to verify the student's entitlement to a free public education in this district through the means listed in "A" above, in a reasonable amount of time, the student shall be excluded from school;
- C. If the non-parent with whom the child resides chooses to contest the school's decision before the Commissioner of Education, the school shall admit and register the child during the pendency of such proceedings.

Registered Students Not in the Custody of a Person with Legal Parental Status

If a registered student should reside out of the custody of a legal guardian, all of the procedures of document custody and residence which are listed in Students Transferring from Another School above, shall be instituted, as if the child were transferring in from another school.

Adopted: October 22, 2002
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 Readopted: