

7.80 SCHOOL VISITORS

The Board welcomes and encourages visits to school by parents/guardians, adult residents and interested educators. To assure order that the greatest benefit can be derived from such visits and to ensure order in the schools and the safety of students and staff; the following guidelines shall govern school visitations. The Superintendent may also prohibit entry of visitors in accordance with public health and safety standards in accordance with an OST Health Order.

The Superintendent or designee and building principal have the authority to prohibit the entry of any individual to a school, in accordance with Board guidelines.

Guidelines:

1. Reporting To The Office

All visitors are to report to the building office to register before proceeding to their destination in the building regardless of whether prior approval for the visit has been given. Upon registering, guests will be issued a visitors badge and a pass with their destination.

2. Scheduling Appointments

All visitors are to have scheduled appointments. Meetings and activities where parents/guardians receive written invitations from the building administration are considered scheduled appointments. Exceptions may be made in the case of emergencies.

3. Interruptions

Visitors may not interrupt a teacher who is teaching a class. Visitors are not to interrupt a teacher during preparation times or other related instructional duties unless an appointment has been made or other advance notice given according to the guidelines provided in this policy.

4. Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged. Such conferences may be requested by either the parent/guardian or the teacher and should be scheduled at a time convenient to all parties. Drop in conferences are discouraged.

5. Classroom Observations

Classroom observations by parents/guardians, community members or interested educators can be valuable, even though they may disrupt the class. It is believed that parents/guardians, other community members and educators can gain a better sense of the instruction process by observing teaching and learning activities. The principal must evaluate the benefit of the visit and compare it with the potential for disruption.

Observation may be approved when the following have occurred:

- a. A written request to visit has been submitted to the principal on the form provided by the school at least two (2) school days prior to the visit and is subsequently approved by the building principal or building special education supervisor. When there are scheduled classroom visits individual written requests will not be required.
- b. The principal has consulted with the teacher and has decided that the visit will be beneficial. The principal will notify parent/guardian by phone, of the appropriateness of the visit. The decision of the principal may be appealed to the Superintendent.

The principal will consider the following factors in deciding whether the visit will be beneficial:

- a. The purpose of the observation.
- b. The duration of the observation.
- c. The classroom activities planned during the observation.
- d. The number of previous observations of that particular class.
- e. The needs of the children in that class.

When a parent/guardian is involved in a special education hearing or other litigation with the school, teacher or other staff at the time of a requested observation, an administrator will observe the class with the parent/guardian if permission to visit is granted.

6. Speaking With Students

Only visitors who are the parent/guardian, or surrogate parent of a student may confer with a student in school and only with the prior permission of the building principal. Exceptions to this policy will be granted in emergency situations and in the case of military recruiters, college recruiters, etc., where advance arrangements are made with the building principal. Visits or conferences with students during the school day result in the interruption of the overall educational process and are generally discouraged, except in emergency or unusual circumstances.

7. Discussions Of Students

School personnel should not discuss individual students or the performance of those students with any non-school persons except that student's parent/guardian without the written permission of such parent/guardian. Exceptions to this policy may apply in connection with cooperation with law enforcement officials.

8. Recording Events

No visitor shall be allowed to photograph or videotape any person or any part of any building or to tape record any conversation of any kind without prior approval by the building principal and/or building special education supervisor.

9. Loud, Abrasive And/Or Profane Language Or Behavior

It is the policy of the school to prevent disruptions to school operations and the instructional process. All persons, including but not limited to students, parents/guardians, employees, visitors and members of the general public are prohibited from the use of foul, profane and abusive language, whether spoken or written, or for a tirade in any manner in the school buildings or upon school grounds. This policy will be particularly enforced if language or actions are professed in a loud and/or offensive manner or in a manner observable by other persons. School security may be notified and proper legal action taken.

All persons are therefore warned that violation of this policy may result in removal from school property by appropriate school authorities. Members of the public may be subject to removal from school property and may be charged with trespassing for failure to promptly vacate the property upon proper notice of notification. In all cases, violators may be subject to appropriate laws of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.