

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JOHNSON CREEK BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY	POLICY: 491
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Children of Divorced/Separated Parents

Consistent with the intent of the Johnson Creek School District to promote the best interests of each student enrolled in its schools in partnership with both parents of each student, it shall be the policy of the District to maintain strict neutrality toward parents who are involved in action affecting members of the family, unless otherwise directed by a court of competent jurisdiction. Therefore, except as otherwise provided, a parent shall have access to a child’s medical, dental, and school records regardless of whether the parent has legal custody of the child. Each parent may also be provided with copies of grade reports, notices of school activities, disciplinary action, conferences and meetings with teachers, principal appointments, and summaries of reports. Likewise each parent shall be entitled to participate in all school activities otherwise open to a child and his/her parents.

A parent shall not have access to a child’s records or official correspondence normally transmitted between home or school, if that parent has been denied periods of physical placement. Physical placement is hereby defined as the condition under which a party has the right to have a child physically placed with that parent and has the right and responsibility to make during that placement routine daily decisions regarding the child’s care. These decisions are consistent with major decisions made by a person having legal custody. In addition, orders from any other court of competent jurisdiction will be followed.

I. Enabling Rules

A. Enrolling Parent to Provide Information: Prior to the commencement of each school year or upon enrollment, each enrolling parent shall be requested to provide the following information on a form to be prescribed by the district administrator and made available in both building offices:

1. Name of enrolling parent
2. Type of action affecting the family
3. Name of each enrolling parent’s children subject to a court order affecting family members
4. Name of each school in which children affected by the court order will be enrolled
5. Identity and location of the court having jurisdiction over the action affecting the family
6. Identification of any court order dealing with physical placement as a result of the action affecting the family
7. Name and address of the other party to the action affecting the family
8. A description of any limitations affecting physical placement such as curtailment or restriction of rights and privileges and how these relate to advisories from the school regarding a child’s progress, activities, or other forms of participation, and
9. Any restrictions as to whether the child may be released from school to a parent

- B. Enrolling Parent to Provide Copy of Court Order: In the event that any enrolling parent advises the district administrator that the most recent court order in effect curtails or restricts the rights and privileges accorded by physical placement with respect to a parent's right to be kept informed of the child's school progress and activities, or participate therein, the enrolling parent shall be requested to provide to the district administrator a certified copy of the most recent court order which recites such curtailment or restriction.

- C. Failure to Provide Certified Copy of Court Order: In the event that an enrolling parent fails to provide the district administrator with a certified copy of the most recent court order dealing with physical placement of the child of such parent or fails to provide the address of the other parent, the other parent having right of physical placement may file a certified copy of the court order explaining the conditions of physical placement. If the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of physical placement are assigned to both parents, the district administrator shall notify the enrolling parent that thereafter all copies of grade reports, notices of school activities, disciplinary action, conferences and meetings, with teachers or principal, appointments, and summaries of reports will be made available to both parents. In the meantime, the enrolling parent shall be deemed to have the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of physical placement.

- D. Release of Child: No child enrolled in any school subject to district control shall be released from the school to any person other than the enrolling parent without written permission from the enrolling parent. The most recent court order should be examined for any allowable exceptions to this rule.

- E. Right of Visitation at School: Either parent shall have the right to visit his/her child at school for a reasonable length of time that will not unduly infringe on the child's school program, unless the most recent certified court order restricts such visitation. In the event of any uncertainty with regard to this rule, the building administrator shall use the following guidelines before allowing such visitation during the normal school day:
 - 1. Visitation is deemed to be in the best interests of the child
 - 2. Such visitation is not prohibited by a certified copy of the most recent court order on file in the school of the child, and
 - 3. The enrolling parent is notified of the request for such visitation beforehand and is given reason for such request and the anticipated time and duration of the requested visitation

II. Requirement to Follow Policy

- A. No employee of the district shall disobey or disregard any provision of a court order relating to any child enrolled in a school subject to district control upon

receiving a certified copy of such court order. Receipt by the district administrator shall be deemed notice to all employees of such order.

- B. If any part of this policy is held invalid by action of the law, it shall not affect other parts of the policy which may be in compliance.

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