

CUSTODIAL AND NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the Augusta School Department to protect the rights of all students. School staff members sometimes face a dilemma between their responsibilities to assure the safety of students and their desires to respect the rights of parents. In situations involving divorced or estranged parents, the following policy will be in effect until or unless an official court order is received by the school.

1. Both natural parents have the right:

- to view the child's school records;
- to receive school progress reports;
- to participate in parent and teacher conferences (not necessarily in the same conferences)
- to receive notices of school activities

Only a legal document (e.g., final divorce decree which includes specific denial of visitation rights or a restraining order denying visiting rights) can prevent a parent from participating in the activities named above. It is the responsibility of the custodial parent to notify the school principal of any restrictions on school-related rights and to provide a certified copy of any legal action.

2. For the school's purposes, the parent who resides with the child is considered the resident parent. In situations where the divorce decree grants joint custody, if the student resides with one parent during the school week, that parent shall be considered the resident parent for purposes of this policy.

Only the resident parent has the right to visit a student at school or remove the student from school property. A student will be released to a non-custodial parent only with the permission of the resident parent. If a question arises as to who is the parent in residence, the school principal should require a notarized statement from the parent attesting to custody.

Adopted May 12, 1993

Department of Public Schools, Augusta, Maine