

Rights of Custodial & Non-Custodial Parents of Minor Children

The Bethany Board of Education, unless informed otherwise, assumes that there are no restrictions regarding the non-custodial parent's right to be kept informed of the student's school progress and activities. If restrictions are made relative to these rights, the custodial parent will be required to submit to the school administration a copy of the court order which curtails these specific rights.

Unless there are specific court imposed restrictions, such as a final divorce decree which includes specific denial of visitation rights or a restraining order denying such rights, the non-custodial parent, upon written request and in accordance with Board of Education records policies and regulations may view the student's educational, medical or similar records maintained in such student's cumulative record, receive school progress reports and have an opportunity to confer with the student's teacher(s).

In addition, upon the non-custodial parent's written request to the school administration or his/her designee, the school will subsequently and routinely mail/email to that parent copies of all school information which is normally sent home with the child. This will include mailings of copies of report cards and class and school newsletters during the school year in which the request is made. Non-custodial parents and parents with shared custody not normally receiving materials from the school may annually request this service.

The custodial parent has the responsibility to keep the school office informed as to the address of residence and how he/she may be contacted at all times. Any legal documents which restrict the rights of the non-custodial parent must be provided by the custodial parent. Unless otherwise indicated by a verified note from the parent or by a legal document provided by a parent, only the custodial parent has the right to remove the student from school property. If school personnel anticipate a possible student abduction, law enforcement personnel are to be notified immediately, and the student will remain on school property pending the arrival of law enforcement officials.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-15b
 Connecticut General Statutes § 46b-56
 Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g et seq. (as amended)
 34 C.F.R. Part 99 (May 9, 1980 45FR 30802)

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