

KANAWHA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY
Series: C54 - Sex Offender Registry Notification

54.1. Purpose. The Kanawha County Board of Education recognizes the danger sex offenders pose to student and employee safety. Therefore, to protect students while they travel to and from school, attend school or at school-related activities, and to provide a safe working environment, the Superintendent of Schools receives notification of registered sex offenders who reside in Kanawha County.

54.2. Receipt and Dissemination of Sex Offender Registry Information. Once notified that a registered sex offender resides in Kanawha County, the Superintendent shall notify the Principals and determine which central office and other school employees should be provided the registry information. The Principal of each school shall determine which persons employed at the school should be provided the information. Sex offender registry information should be provided to employees who are most likely to observe unauthorized persons on or near school property including but not limited to:

- school bus drivers
- employees responsible for visitor registration
- employees responsible for bus duty
- security staff
- coaches
- playground supervisors, and
- maintenance personnel.

When registry information is disseminated by the Superintendent, it shall include a notice that such information should not be shared with others and may only be used for the purposes discussed below. Employees who share registry information with others may be disciplined. The Kanawha County Board of Education recognizes that it is the responsibility of local law enforcement to notify the community of potential public danger. Therefore, Kanawha County Schools will not disseminate registry information to parents. However, the Superintendent will work closely with local law enforcement to determine when and under what circumstances local law enforcement officials notify the community about the presence of a registered sex offender.

54.3. Use of Sex Offender Registry Information. Registry Information shall only be used for the purposes of the administration of law enforcement, screening current or prospective school employees or volunteers and for the protection of students and employees. Registry information shall not be used to intimidate or harass others.

54.4. School Volunteers and Student Teachers. Each staff member shall submit to the principal the name and address of each volunteer the staff member is or may be using as soon as the person is identified. The Principal shall screen each student teacher and volunteer's name and address against the registry information. If a match is found, the Principal shall notify the Superintendent, who shall confirm the match. If the match is confirmed, the Superintendent shall inform the individual, by mail, that he or she may not be on school property without permission of the Superintendent. The notice shall provide the reason with reference to this policy. The Superintendent shall also inform the Principal and employees that the individual may not be used as a volunteer.

54.5. Contractors' Employees. The Superintendent shall include the following language in all contracts that may involve an employee of the contractor having any contact with a student: *The contractor shall not send any employee or agent who is a registered sex offender to any school building or school property. Quarterly, the contractor shall check the registry to determine if the employee is registered.*

54.6. School Employees. Each time sex offender registry information is received, the Human Resources Division shall review it to determine if a school employee is registered. If a match is found, the Human Resources Division shall confirm or disprove the match with local law enforcement. If the match is confirmed, the Superintendent shall notify the Board of Education. The Board of Education will take the appropriate action, which may include termination of employment.

54.7. Applicants for Employment. Before hiring any person, the Human Resources Division shall determine whether the prospective employee is a registered sex offender. If the prospective employee is a registered sex offender, he or she shall not be hired by Kanawha County Schools.

54.8. Students and Parents of Students. A sex offender registrant who is the parent or guardian of a student, shall be permitted to participate in appropriate parent or guardian activities, unless prohibited by court order. Students who are registered sex offenders may not be precluded from attending school.

54.9. Precautions to Protect Students. When the Superintendent determines it is necessary, because of the presence of a registered sex offender, alternative arrangements may be made for bus and walking routes to and from school, recess and physical education periods, or any other activity in order to protect students.

54.10. Requests for Registry Information. Anyone requesting registry information from Kanawha County Schools shall be referred to the State Police.

Reference: W.Va. Code §15-12-1 et seq.

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