

**SEXUAL OFFENDER**

**1. Policy and Purpose**

The Barbour County Board of Education recognizes the danger sex offenders pose to student and employee safety. 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, upon receipt of notification of registered sex offenders who reside in Barbour County, shall observe procedures calculated to inform appropriate persons of the presence of such offenders.

**2. Receipt and Dissemination of Sex Offender Registry Information**

Once notified that a registered sex offender resides in Barbour 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 employees assigned to 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 operators; employees responsible for visitor registration; employees responsible for bus duty; security staff; coaches; playground supervisors; and, maintenance personnel. When the Superintendent disseminates registry information, it shall include a notice that such information should not be improperly shared with others and may only be used for the purposes discussed below. Employees who improperly publish registry information shall be subject to disciplinary action.

**3. Notification of Parent and Community Members**

The Barbour County Board of Education recognizes that it is the responsibility of local law enforcement to notify the community of potential public danger. Therefore, Barbour County Schools will not disseminate registry information to parents. However, the Superintendent may recommend that local law enforcement officials consider notification of community members, including parents, regarding the presence of a registered sex offender.

**4. School Volunteer**

Each staff member shall submit to the Principal the name and address of each potential volunteer whose presence will involve contact with students. The Principal shall determine whether the volunteer's name appears on the registry information that has been supplied by the Superintendent. The Principal shall notify the Superintendent of any potential volunteer who is identified as a registered sex offender. The Superintendent shall provide written notice to the offender that he or she may not be on school property without prior written authorization. The Superintendent shall also inform the Principal and employees that the individual may not be used as a volunteer.

**5. School Volunteer Screening**

The Superintendent shall develop a volunteer application form that includes mandatory reporting of prior arrests or convictions of any offense that involves misconduct toward a minor.

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Any person who fails or refuses to complete this portion of the volunteer application form shall not be permitted to serve as a volunteer.

**6. 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. However, the Superintendent may direct that appropriate measures be taken to lessen the risk of the unsupervised presence of registered sex offenders in schools or school-sponsored activities. 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.

**7. Reporting Requirements**

All school personnel are required to report to a Principal or the Superintendent any suspicious or inappropriate activity toward students (including stalking behavior) by a registered sex offender.

**Source:** Board of Education Minutes

**Dates:** 4/30/07

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