

## Board Policy

Code No. 507.7

### CUSTODY AND PARENTAL RIGHTS

In situations in which the parents of a student do not reside together, but have joint custody, the school recognizes the custodial parent as the primary caregiver. While the school recognizes and respects the rights of non-custodial parents, it is charged with maintaining each child's safety. If a non-custodial parent requests to pick up his or her child from school and a note giving permission has not been received from the custodial parent, the school will make a reasonable attempt to contact the custodial parent before releasing the student to the non-custodial parent.

Disagreements between family members are not the responsibility of the school district. The school district will not take the "side" of one family member over another in a disagreement about custody or parental rights. Court orders that have been issued are followed by the school district. It is the responsibility of the person requesting an action by the school district to inform and provide the school district the court order allowing such action.

This policy does not prohibit an employee from listening to a student's problems and concerns.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure employees remain neutral in a disagreement about custody and parental rights.

*Legal Reference:* Iowa Code §§ 232.67, .70, .73, .75; 235A; 279.8; 710.6 (2011).  
441 I.A.C. 9.2; 155; 175.

*Cross Reference:* 506 Student Records  
507 Student Health and Well-Being

*Approved:* April 23, 2001

*Reapproved:* April 6, 2004  
March 5, 2007

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