



House of Representatives

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STANDING
COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH
RETIREMENT

January 19, 2026

Interim Superintendent Al Taylor
Gwinnett County Public Schools

Re: GCPS Policies and Communications re: Law Enforcement

Dear Dr. Taylor:

As we have previously discussed, I greatly appreciate the work that Gwinnett County Public Schools has done to set and communicate policies for interactions with law enforcement, including ICE. Many of these policies are longstanding, set well before 2025-2026, and apply across all law enforcement, state and federal. I have also appreciated being of service, particularly this school year, in communicating these policies to constituents and the greater school community.

In efforts at further transparency and addressing what amount to frequently asked questions within the school community, I request the district to ensure that the following *already*-publicly accessible documents are made even more readily available – centrally compiled and translated as much as possible – on GCPS's website (e.g., on its FAQs at <https://www.gcpsk12.org/about-us/frequently-asked-questions-in-gcps>) and other, most-critical public repositories for GCPS information:

- Policy, K-General Public Relations: Visitors to Schools
- Policy, L-Interorganizational Relations: Police Interrogations and Investigations
- Nov. 21 Email to Principals and District Leaders ("Important Reminder: GCPS Procedures for Visits by Law Enforcement Officials")
- Nov. 21 All Staff Message ("Supporting Our Students and Families")
- GCPS Talking Points for Conversations with Students & Families Supporting Safety, Trust, and Student Well-Being

I have included these documents as attachments, to facilitate further this request.

Respectfully,

Marvin Lim
State Representative
HD 98 (uninc. Norcross-Tucker-Lilburn)



**GWINNETT
COUNTY
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

Gwinnett County Board of Education

Level: Policy K-General Public Relations	Accompanying Procedure:	Descriptor Code: KM	Rescinds May 8, 2008
Descriptor Term: Visitors to Schools		Effective Date: November 17, 2022	Last Reviewed Date: June 1, 2023

Any visitor with legitimate business on school grounds must sign in at the Main Office (or an Administrative Office) and request a visitor's pass. The visitor's pass must be clearly visible the entire time the visitor is on campus. To ensure the safety and confidentiality of students, Gwinnett Public Schools limits classroom visitors to:

During School Hours

- The parents/guardians (or court appointed guardians) of current students;
- Other family members of current students who are approved by the student's parent/guardian; and
- Those persons invited by the Gwinnett County Public Schools for official business.

The principal or designee may, at his/her discretion, grant or deny permission for classroom visits and determine the duration of time.

Students should not bring student visitors to school.

Parents and visitors should make an appointment to see a teacher, the principal, the counselors, or to visit their children's classes.

Conferences

Parents wishing to have a representative accompany the parent to any scheduled meeting, for the purpose of supporting or assisting, must notify the principal or designee at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to any scheduled meeting. The parent's request should identify the representative. In addition, if personally identifiable information contained within student records will be disclosed or discussed at the meeting, the parent must provide a FERPA authorization authorizing the disclosure of personally identifiable information to the representative prior to or at the meeting. All participants will adhere to the established norms of conduct in order to ensure an effective and efficient meeting. The norms may include but are not limited to the following:

- Scheduled meetings should begin on time
- All parties agree to exhibit respectful behavior by allowing each party to express their concerns or point of view without interruption.
- All parties agree that profanity, insulting language and/or the use of abusive words will not be used and/or tolerated.

- All parties agree to terminate meetings in which the established norms are not followed.

After School Hours

No students or unauthorized visitors may remain on the school campus after regular school hours without supervision.

School Authority

School personnel have the authority to warn persons trespassing to leave the facilities or properties. Persons who refuse are subject to prosecution under the laws of the State of Georgia.



FERPA Release.docx



**GWINNETT
COUNTY
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

Gwinnett County Board of Education

Level: Policy L-Interorganizational Relations	Accompanying Procedure:	Descriptor Code: LDAJA	Rescinds August 9, 2001
Descriptor Term: Police Interrogations and Investigations		Effective Date: May 13, 2004	Last Reviewed Date: October 26, 2023

In the interest of the larger welfare of all citizens, the Board encourages cooperation between school officials and law enforcement agencies. Schools also have a responsibility to parents for the welfare of the students while they are in the care of the school and should observe the following:

1. A student in school may not be interrogated by any authority without the knowledge of the school official. School officials should request official identification.
2. Any interview should be done in private and a school official may be present unless the student requests the official's attendance be waived. If a school official is present, they may be subject to subpoena to give evidence concerning the interview. Every effort should be made to limit the number of persons in the interview to an absolute minimum. The school official sits in the interview as a passive observer and is not to ask questions or make comments.
3. A student may not be released to the custody of persons other than parent or legal guardian, unless placed under custody of legal authority or DFACS.
4. If a student is interviewed at school or taken into custody by a legal authority, school officials have the right to notify the parents. However, before notifying the parents, school officials should check with the involved agency official, whether law enforcement or DFACS, to determine whether notification is advised or not advised under the circumstances and who will do the notifying.
5. The following officials have access to students in the schools under the provisions as outlined in paragraphs 1-5.
 - Law Enforcement Officers
 - DFACS Case Workers
 - Officers of the Court (Guardian Ad Litem and probation officers)
6. Private Attorneys and investigators do not have access to students without subpoena.
7. When the local school is not sure what to do, contact any of the following: the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Superintendent; the Office of Safety and Security; or the Office of Student Services and Interventions.

From: Melissa Laramie <Melissa.Laramie@gcpsk12.org>
Sent: Friday, November 21, 2025 10:49 AM
To: Leadership Development I <LeadershipDevelopmentI@gcpsk12.org>
Cc: Jorge Gomez <Jorge.Gomez@gcpsk12.org>
Subject: Important Reminder: GCPS Procedures for Visits by Law Enforcement Officials

Dear Principals and District Leaders,

Gwinnett County Public Schools remains steadfast in our commitment to provide a safe, welcoming place for every student, every day. Our schools serve families from many cultures, languages, and immigration experiences, and our shared responsibility is to ensure all students feel protected, cared for, and ready to learn, grow, and thrive.

As leaders, it is essential that you are prepared, confident in the district's expectations, and ready to support your school communities should questions arise. Later today, we will share brief, reassuring messages with both staff and families via ParentSquare. The messages are attached for your review.

This communication is a reminder of our standard operating procedures for how we interface with any law enforcement officials that come onto any GCPS campus or facility. It is important to understand that, by law, a child's immigration status (or that of their parents) does not affect their right to receive a public education. Your leadership and clarity in following these procedures are critical to keeping students and staff safe and ensuring our district remains firmly student-centered.

Thank you in advance for your attention, professionalism, and steady leadership. As leaders we must continue to remind our staff of such critical procedures on an ongoing basis. We have provided a resource of talking points (attached) for you and your staff, these are to support conversations with students and families.

GCPS Procedures if Law Enforcement or Immigration Officials Come to a School

1. Greet, pause, and immediately notify the principal (or designee if principal is offsite).
 - Treat agents respectfully, as you would any visitor, but do not provide access beyond the main office or vestibule and do not share any information.
 - Suggested language: "Welcome. We require all visitors to sign in. I need to contact our principal to assist you further. Please have a seat while I do so."
 - Important reminders:
 - Ask the officials to wait in the main office or vestibule.
 - Do not permit access beyond that area until identity is verified, and the principal (or designee) is involved.
 - After identity is confirmed, the principal or designee may escort the agent to a private room to continue the conversation.
2. Notify district leadership
 - Make a copy of the agent's ID.
 - The principal or designee must immediately contact the Chief of Staff at: (678) 301-6006 or (770) 375-6201.
 - Do not provide student, family, or staff information. FERPA protects student records. No student record may be released without proper legal documentation and approval from the district office.

3. If an agent requests access or information
 - If the agent asks to enter the school beyond the main office:
 - “We will cooperate within the boundaries of the law, but to ensure minimal disruption, please have a seat until the principal arrives.”
 - If the agent asks to speak with students or requests student information:
 - “Student records are protected by FERPA. We cannot share any personal or educational information about students or families without a court order or legal requirement.”
 - If the agent presents a judicial warrant (for a student or an adult):
 - “May I make a copy? To ensure we comply with the law and protect our students, we will need to contact the district’s legal counsel to review the situation and provide guidance.”
 - The principal or designee should then:
 - Make a copy or scan of the warrant.
 - Document:
 - Agent’s name
 - Badge number
 - Agency
 - Time and date of the visit
 - Purpose of the visit and summary of the request
4. Reporting and follow-up
 - Email the scanned judicial warrant and documentation to the Chief of Staff at:
jorge.gomez@gcpsk12.org.
 - Then call (678) 301-6006 or (770) 375-6201 to confirm receipt.
 - The District Office will contact legal counsel to verify the warrant and provide next steps.
 - When possible, staff will make an effort to notify parents or guardians if officials request to interview their child.

Thank you again for your calm leadership, vigilance, and commitment to our students. Your role is essential in ensuring that every student, every day, continues to feel safe, welcomed, and supported in our schools.

In service of students and families,
Melissa

Melissa Laramie
Chief Engagement Officer



Gwinnett County Public Schools
437 Old Peachtree Rd, NW, Suwanee, GA 30024

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CAUTION: Unless otherwise specified, this email is not intended to form a binding written contract and no sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with this email was done so with the intent to sign the record or constitute an electronic signature.

November 21, 1 PM - ALL STAFF MESSAGE

Subject: Supporting Our Students and Families

Gwinnett County Public Schools is committed to providing a safe, welcoming place for every student, every day. We know our schools serve families from many backgrounds, languages, and immigration experiences. Our responsibility is to ensure that all students feel protected, cared for, and ready to learn, grow, and thrive.

We understand that news about immigration actions locally and nationally can create fear or uncertainty for some students, families, and staff. Please continue to focus on our students and respond with empathy, kindness, and professionalism. If a student or family member expresses worry about safety at school, remind them that our focus is on learning, belonging, and student well-being.

A reminder about procedures if law enforcement or immigration officials (including ICE) come to a district campus:

- Our district does **not ask for or document information about the immigration status** of any student or family. It is important to understand that, by law, a child's immigration status (or that of their parents) does not affect their right to receive a public education.
- Direct all ICE or other federal immigration officials to the **principal or designee** if the principal is off-site who will immediately contact the district's Chief of Staff for guidance. Treat officials as you would any visitor, but **do not** give access beyond the main office or vestibule and **do not** share information.
- ICE officials **must have a judicial warrant** to enter school property beyond the normal visitor area.
- **Do not share** student, family, or staff information, including where a student is or personal details. FERPA protects student records. **No student record may be released without proper legal documentation and approval from the district office.**
- If a judicial warrant is presented, and when possible, the school will make an effort to notify parents or guardians if there is a request to interview their child.
- **Continue normal school routines** unless directed otherwise by the principal.

Our students depend on us to create a stable, caring learning environments. We know that even talking about immigration enforcement can be frightening for students. Please:

- Respond with empathy and calm.
- Avoid making predictions or political comments.
- Connect students who show distress with a counselor, social worker, or trusted adult in the building.

Thank you for continuing to show compassion, professionalism, and support for every student entrusted to our care. Your commitment helps keep our schools safe, welcoming places where all students can focus on learning.

Committed to excellence, together,
Dr. Al Taylor
Interim Superintendent

November 21, 2 PM - ALL FAMILIES MESSAGE

Subject: A Caring Message for Our GCPS Families

At Gwinnett County Public Schools, we want every student to feel safe, welcome, and ready to learn. We know our families come from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, and we are proud of the diversity that makes our community strong. We are proud to serve one of the most diverse communities in the nation, and we remain deeply committed to leading with empathy, equity, effectiveness, and excellence in all we do.

We understand that recent news about immigration actions around the country may cause stress or worry for some families. Please know that **your child's safety, well-being, and ability to learn in a peaceful environment are our top priorities.**

Here is what you can expect from GCPS:

- **Our schools remain safe, caring, and supportive places for all students.**
- **GCPS staff are trained to protect student information** and follow all district policies and procedures to keep our campuses safe.
- **Our district does not ask for or document information about the immigration status** of any student or family. It is important to understand that, by law, a child's immigration status (or that of their parents) does not affect their right to receive a public education.
- **Student records are private** and will not be shared with any outside agency without proper legal documentation required by law.
- **GCPS will continue to follow our school safety procedures, district policies, and all applicable state and federal laws.** We also follow clear legal guidelines about who is allowed to contact students during the school day.

If your child feels scared, anxious, or unsure, our school counselors, teachers, and trusted adults are here to help. Please reach out to your child's school if your family needs support, has questions, or has concerns.

Thank you for being a valued part of the GCPS community. We are here for you, and we remain firmly committed to your child's learning, safety, and well-being every day.

Committed to excellence, together,
Dr. Al Taylor
Interim Superintendent
Gwinnett County Public Schools

GCPS Talking Points for Conversations with Students & Families

Supporting Safety, Trust, and Student Well-Being



1. Our Commitment to Every Student and Family

- "In GCPS, every student is welcome and supported—no matter their race, nationality, ZIP code, language, or immigration status."
- "Our priority is your child's safety, well-being, and ability to learn in a calm, caring environment."
- "We know national conversations can feel stressful. We want you to know we are here for your family."

2. How We Keep Students Safe

- "Schools remain safe, caring, and supportive learning environments for all students."
- "GCPS follows all district safety procedures and all state and federal laws."
- "We do not ask for or track any information about a student's or family's immigration status."
- "It is important to understand that, by law, a child's immigration status (or that of their parents) does not affect their right to receive a public education."
- "Student records are private and protected by federal law. We cannot share personal or educational information without proper legal documentation."

3. If Students Are Feeling Worried or Confused

- "It's okay to feel nervous or unsure when there is a lot of news or conversation happening."
- "If you ever feel scared, anxious, or distracted, please let a trusted adult at school know."
- "Our counselors, teachers, and support staff are here to listen and help you."
- "You belong here, and you are safe at school."

4. How Staff Will Respond if Federal Officials Visit a School

(Only share these points when asked directly, using parent-friendly language.)

- "There are clear district procedures that staff must follow to keep students safe."
- "If any law enforcement official, including federal immigration officials, come to a school, they must speak with the principal. They cannot go beyond the main office unless they have the proper legal documents."
- "We will always follow the law and protect student privacy."
- "If a valid court document, like a judicial warrant, includes a request to speak with a student, the school will make an effort to notify the parent or guardian when possible."

5. What Families Can Do

- "If your child has questions or is feeling anxious, please talk with them and remind them they are safe and supported at school."
- "If you need help or have concerns, you can reach out to your child's school at any time."
- "We want to partner with you to support your child's emotional well-being."

6. Reassurance & Closing

- "We are proud to serve all families in our diverse community."
- "GCPS is committed to leading with empathy, equity, effectiveness, and excellence."
- "Your child belongs here. Your family belongs here. We are here for you."