

REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS

I. PURPOSE

To ensure the safety of the students and employees of the Shelby County Schools District.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all applicants, internal and external, applying for positions with the Shelby County Schools; all existing employees; vendors, contractors, parents, and visitors on school grounds.

III. DEFINITIONS

Individuals registered as sex offenders in Tennessee or any other state are prohibited from being on the premises of any school in this District, except for the limited circumstances stated in this policy.

Employment

An individual listed by the state of Tennessee or any other state as a registered sex offender is ineligible for employment within the school District.

Presence on School Property

No registered sex offender whose victim was a minor shall come on, about, or within 1,000 feet of a local school's property line except as provided below.²

No registered sex offender who is employed and/or contracted by any person, corporation, or other entity who enters into or renews a contract with the District shall have direct contact with students, or have access to the school grounds during the course of permitted contracted duties when students are present.

If any employee of the school district becomes aware of any registered sex offender's presence on school property, he/she shall immediately inform the principal, who shall direct the individual to leave the premises immediately. The principal shall request assistance from local law enforcement authorities if an offender resists the principal's directives. If the registered sex offender comes on to school property again, the principal shall confer with the Office of General Counsel to take appropriate legal action.

Neither this policy nor state law imposes any duty upon a principal or any other employee of the local school district to review the sex offender registry for individuals who may come upon the property.

Parents Who are Registered Sex Offenders

Child Drop-off and Pick-up

A parent/legal guardian who is a registered sex offender may drop-off and pick-up his/her child from school provided that he/she submits written notice of his/her offender status upon the child's enrollment to:

1. The principal; or
2. A school administrator.

School Conferences

A parent/legal guardian who is a registered sex offender may enter campus for his/her child's parent/teacher conferences provided that he/she has received the following from the school's principal or facility administrator:

1. Written permission to attend a school conference; or
2. A request to attend a school conference.

The parent, however, may come to the school for the stated business only. Further, when coming in the building, the parent must come to the front office only.

Principals shall speak with the parent upon learning of his/her status as a sex offender to communicate the restrictions of this policy and to establish open dialogue with the parent, as much as is possible or reasonable. The principal shall take all appropriate measures to protect the privacy of the sex offender's child.

Students Who are Registered Sex Offenders

As provided by state law (TCA 40-39-211), a student who is a registered sex offender is allowed to attend and be on the grounds of any school in which he/she is duly enrolled. For enrollment criteria, see Shelby County Schools' policy on School Admissions (6002).

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. It is the responsibility of employees to notify the principal if they become aware of any registered sex offender's presence on school property.
- B. It is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian who is a registered sex offender to request, in writing, permission to attend parent/teacher conferences for his/her child(ren). Additionally, when dropping-off and/or picking-up his/her child(ren), it is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian who is a registered sex offender to provide written notice to the school's principal or administrator of his/her offender status upon his/her child(ren)'s enrollment.
- C. It is the responsibility of the principal to provide written permission to a parent/legal guardian who is a registered sex offender to attend parent/teacher conferences for his/her child(ren), and take appropriate action when notified of the presence on school property of an unauthorized registered sex offender.
- D. Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to the office responsible for Human Resources and the office responsible for Security Services.
- E. The Superintendent is responsible for determining if this policy has been followed.

Legal References:

- 1. TCA 40-39-201, *et seq.*
- 2. TCA 40-39-211 (a)
- 3. TCA 49-5-413
- 4. TCA 49-10-608
- 5. TCA 37-1-131

Cross References:

- 1. 6002 School Admissions
- 2. 4053 Background Checks
- 3. 4016 Application and Employment