

Unity School District

Board Policy Administrative Rule 491.1

Children of Divorced or Separated Parents

Last Revised 11/8/2022

The District will respect the rights of parents/legal guardians with joint custody. The District will observe any restrictions as to custody and physical placement as required by court order, provided that it has been given a copy of such order. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) with legal custody to provide the school principal with a copy of the most recent court order, if restricted access to students or student information is requested.

Parents/guardians with legal custody, except those who have been denied periods of physical placement and/or contact under state law, have the right to: (a) view the child's school records, (b) receive school progress reports and all school mailings, (c) attend parent/teacher conferences, and (d) visit the child briefly at school, if provided for in a court order and not interfering with the school day/activity.

The parent of any student enrolled in Unity Schools District may be provided all report cards, notices of school activities, disciplinary reports, conference appointments or summaries, or other student records, unless otherwise expressly curtailed or restricted by a provision of a court order that has been provided to the principal. It is the responsibility of the parent who does not have regular physical placement of the student to inform the school office in writing of his/her name, address and telephone number.

The principal shall not allow a parent to remove a child from school if the school has been notified that the parent has been denied periods of physical placement with the child by a court order, parenting plan or other court document.

District procedures provide that only the custodial parent(s) with rights of physical placement has/have the right to remove the child from school. If more than one parent or guardian has rights of physical placement, it is the responsibility of such parents/guardians to provide the school with written documentation (court order or agreement signed by both parties) explaining the arrangements for physical placement. If a custodial parent without rights of physical placement asks to remove a child from school, these steps will be followed:

1. If the custodial parent agrees in writing, the student will be released to the parent without rights of physical placement.
2. If such custodial parent does not grant permission, the student will not be released.

When a guardian ad litem wishes to interview or speak with a teacher or other staff member regarding a child custody matter, the principal is to require a copy of the court order appointing the person to be the guardian ad litem.

The district shall annually inform district residents of this policy via the district newsletter and/or website.

Reference: Student Records Policy
Student Admissions Policy