

*Existing policy with an optional revision to consider.*

## **Students**

### **Safety: Student Dismissal Precautions**

The school district is legally responsible for the safety of its students during the school day. Therefore, each building Principal will establish procedures to validate requests for early dismissal, to assure that students are released only for proper reasons, and only to authorized person(s).

Staff members shall not excuse any student from school prior to the end of the school day, or into any person's custody without the direct prior approval and knowledge of the building Principal, or his or her designee.

In keeping with these precautions, the following procedures will be adhered to:

- The building Principal or designee shall not excuse a student before the end of the school day without a request for early dismissal by the student's parent or guardian.
- Telephone requests for early dismissal of a student shall be honored only if the caller can be positively identified as the student's parent or guardian.
- Children of single-parent families will be released only upon the request to the custodial parent; i.e., the parent whom the court holds directly responsible for the child, and who is identified as such on the school record.

Additional precautions may be taken by the school administration, appropriate to the age of students, and as needs arise. Parents shall provide documentation concerning parental rights, including divorce decrees and restraining orders if any.

No student shall be released from school to anyone other than the parent/guardian, or child protective services and law enforcement officers pursuant to law, and to any other persons specifically authorized in writing by the child's parent/guardian to pick up said student. Parents/guardians may submit a list of individuals authorized to obtain the release of their children from school, which may be amended as deemed necessary at any time, in writing. If anyone seeks the release from school of a student, he/she must report to the school office and present satisfactory identification to school personnel.

The Board of Education does not condone/approve students leaving the school campus in third-party ridesharing vehicles, especially such services whose own policies explicitly prohibit minors from using them unless accompanied by an adult. Therefore, it is the District's policy to prohibit ridesharing services from picking up students from the school campus or entering a school's pick-up lane. The decision to do so rests exclusively with each parent/guardian, who is strongly encouraged to review the operating policies and safety records of these services prior to use by students. *(It is the current policy of Uber and Lyft to not provide its service to anyone under 18 years of age riding unaccompanied by an adult.)*

Policy adopted: June 16, 2005  
Policy revised:

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Fairfield, Connecticut