

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF SEX OFFENDERS

In accordance with the Sex Offender Registration Act ("Megan's Law"), the Board of Cooperative Education Services supports the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in its effort to inform the community in certain circumstances of the presence of individuals with a history of sex offenses, particularly against children, in the school locality. This policy is enacted in order to minimize the possibility that the sex offender will come in contact with school-age children, and to assist law enforcement agencies in preventing further criminal activity from occurring. Furthermore, the BOCES shall cooperate with local police authorities and the local community in promoting and protecting the safety and well being of its students.

It is the policy of the BOCES to disseminate all information which the BOCES receives from local police authorities in conjunction with Megan's Law to designated staff members who might have possible contact with the offender during the course of their school duties including, but not limited to, building principals, supervisors, teachers, office personnel, and custodians. The District Superintendent reserves the right to automatically disseminate such information to additional members of the staff, designated supervisors of non-school groups that regularly use BOCES facilities and have children in attendance, parents/guardians of BOCES students, and other community residents who, in the opinion of the District Superintendent, have an immediate need to be notified of such data in order to protect the safety of our students.

Information that is disseminated to the BOCES pursuant to Megan's Law may be disclosed or not disclosed by the BOCES in its discretion. In situations where BOCES personnel work in component school district classrooms or programs, the policy for that school district relating to notification of sex offenders will prevail.

Staff members shall inform their immediate supervisor if they observe within the school building, on school grounds, at school activities, or at or near bus routes any individual whose description matches the information which was provided to the BOCES by local law enforcement authorities. Such law enforcement officials will be notified of this information by the BOCES as appropriate.

Any information which the BOCES receives regarding a sex offender from a source other than the Sex Offender Registry, and which is maintained independent of the requirements of Megan's Law, will be available from the BOCES, upon written request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Law.

Implementation

Administrative regulations shall be developed to implement this policy.

Correction Law Article 6-C
Public Officers Law Section 84 et seq.

Adopted: 7/10/02