

## WANDERING AND ELOPEMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the Board of Education to require all schools to incorporate wandering and elopement procedures into each school building safety plan.

**DEFINITIONS:** For purposes of this policy, the following items are defined as indicated.

- A. Elopement: A student intentionally leaving an assigned area without permission from or the knowledge of responsible staff.
- B. Wandering: A student meandering or straying, which leads to leaving a safe environment, intruding into inappropriate places or becoming lost and is often related to a physical or mental distraction.

The procedures required by this policy shall be separate and distinct from students' individualized Behavior Intervention Plans and/or Crisis Management Plans, which shall be required when a student demonstrates wandering and/or elopement behaviors on more than a single occasion within the current or prior school year.

All building-based staff must be provided annual training on the building's wandering and elopement plan prior to the first day that students arrive at school each school year.

Each building's wandering and elopement plan must contain the following components:

1. An explanation of any physical modifications to the building that may discourage wandering and/or elopement or facilitate notification of staff when an incident occurs, such as door alarms.
2. A protocol for notifying staff, including security staff, custodians, clerical staff and School Resource Officers, of specific students with a history of wandering/elopement (two or more incidents within the current or prior school year), which shall include recent photographs and a description of any triggers that may cause of physical reaction or further flight by the student.
3. Procedures and staff assignments for immediately notifying:
  - a. 911;
  - b. Parent/Family; and
  - c. Central Officewhen an incident of wandering and/or elopement occurs.
4. Protocols for communicating with responding police, including practices and procedures for accessing and disseminating any available video footage, floor plans, and maps of the school grounds and immediate surrounding areas.

