

## CONTROLLING RELEASE OF STUDENTS

The withdrawal of a student is a pretty drastic step; that's something I would consider suspicious. If the mother comes in and acts hostile, belligerent, in a hurry, etc., I don't think I would waste any time in calling for police help. If the father is truthful, the woman should not leave the building with the child. The father needs to come in, and a lockdown issued.

The other option is for the school to release the student and allow the withdrawal. I would not want to defend that decision if something happened.

Best to hope for, is that the mother is reasonable, and both she and the father can come to a mutual understanding without police involvement. That would require the administrator to feel the situation out a little.

## ASSESSING THE LEGAL STATUS OF STUDENT TEACHERS

In my district, the mentoring teacher, Denny, would be a fool for allowing this. If something were to happen during his absence, his job would be in serious jeopardy. The student teacher should turn to his supervisor for guidance. My cooperating teacher left the room often, but he was always 3 doors down. He understood the need for one-on-one skill development, but would never leave the school. He allowed me to work with students after school while he went and did some sports setups and coaching, but that was the extent. A cooperating teacher is there to observe, mentor, and now prepare the student for the Praxis III. It is not a free ride to do whatever he wants.

## LOCATING A MISSING CHILD

The principal should suggest the parent to stay at the house in case Caitlyn comes home. Police should be alerted to the situation, and allow them to canvass the neighborhood. The Principal should make a call asking if any teacher has Caitlyn for after school help, check any potential extracurricular or after school intervention. Everyone on staff that is there should be alerted and start checking the rooms and grounds; Transportation should be notified and the driver radioed. The principal needs to be clear that everything she can do, she will do.

## PLEDGING TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

As a high school teacher, I would not say anything to either group of students. Students have to learn that they can make choices and that they can have any reason for not pledging to the flag. I had a student a few years ago not pledge the flag, and that was ok. They were "called to the carpet" a few times over it by other students (these were 18 year old seniors) and as long as the discussion was civil I let it transpire. Students also have to learn that freedom of expression does not grant them immunity from people voicing their opinion about their actions.

## MANDATING SCHOOL UNIFORMS

I agree with the majority of arguments espousing school uniforms, but I still have a rudimentary opposition to it. We are in the business of compulsory government education and I don't think any government organization what can and cannot be worn by a free people. Arguments about preparing students for work are some what valid, but I don't \*have\* to work; I choose to and in so doing trade some of my freedoms for a paycheck so I can have a car, house, etc. Public education, there is no choice. We have parents that obey the law and pay their taxes, but cannot choose the school to send their children to. Sure, you can send your kids anywhere, with the stipulation that you are responsible for the private school bill and your tax obligation to the school you are choosing not to utilize. What about a parent's responsibility to clothe their own children? Does a parent have the right to clothe their children as they see fit? I believe in a limited government and while government is involved in compulsory education I would not support a school uniform policy.

## PREVENTING POTENTIAL INTERNET ABUSE

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The case study deals with a situation involving inappropriate material displayed on a computer, possibly by accident during normal research for a health assignment.

### REASONABLENESS

No punishments are reached by the end of the narrative, leaving the situation at a point where it is possible the material was accidentally displayed. If that is the case, and the student that displayed the material is telling the truth about 1) The computer teacher not being available; 2)The popup screen not being easy to close; and 3)The report being about tattoos, then it would seem the student, Chad, did what he was supposed to do. I would not consider punishment being applicable in this situation.

### DUE PROCESS

I do not believe the situation should be reported to the principal's office if it was a mistake. I would argue that Chad's side of the story has already been adequately given, and everything seems to be logical except for the computer teaching being out of the room. If the incident did make it to the disciplinary principal, they would gather the same facts already stated and probably decide that no one is at fault.

### DISTRICT POLICY

I believe at Milton-Union, each case is judged on its own merit. The computer teachers and the librarian have an application that can monitor all student terminals for content, lock computers, take control, and make screen shots of what is displayed. Any student found deliberately in violation is suspended from computer use for a variable time period dependent on the severity, and given office detentions.

### MORAL IMPERATIVE

I think the right thing to do is determine if this situation was indeed an accident, and withhold punishment of any student. The school filtering system should be updated, and popup blockers be put on computer terminals.