

MIFFLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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James A. Estep, Superintendent

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September 19, 2019

Dear MCSD Parents and Guardians:

For the purpose of enhancing school security, the Mifflin County School District will be implementing the use of School Gate Guardian effective on Monday, October 7, 2019, in all school buildings within the district.

School Gate Guardian is a school visitor management program that will require all visitors to present a valid driver's license or other state-issued identification upon arrival at the entrance to the schools. Once the visitor's ID is scanned and checked against several databases, including the National Sex Offender database, visitors will receive a temporary visitor's badge in order to enter the building from the school lobby. Protocol is in place for those who might not have a state-issued identification.

The system can complete this scan in under one minute. Please make sure to bring your driver's license or other state-issued identification when you plan to visit a MCSD building before or during regular school hours.

Parents and guardians entering the school lobby to pick up students for early dismissals, drop off lunch money, etc. will not be required to provide ID. Only visitors going beyond the school office will be required to be processed by School Gate Guardian.

Please visit the Mifflin County School District website at <https://www.mcsdk12.org/visitors/> for more information on School Gate Guardian.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and your participation as we continue to keep safety and security a priority within the Mifflin County School District. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your building principal.

Sincerely,



Vance S. Varner

Director of Secondary Education

El Distrito Escolar del Condado Mifflin

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James A. Estep, Superintendente

Vance S. Varner, Director de las escuelas secundarias

Melinda K. Kenepp, Directora financiera

19 de septiembre de 2019

Estimados Padres y Tutores:

Con el fin de aumentar la seguridad, el Distrito Escolar del Condado Mifflin implementará el uso de School Gate Guardian (*Guardián escolar del portón*) del lunes 7 de octubre de 2019 en adelante en todos los edificios escolares del distrito.

School Gate Guardian es un programa de control de visitantes que requerirá que todo visitante presente una licencia de manejo vigente u otra identificación emitida por el estado al llegar a la entrada de las escuelas. Después de que se lleve a cabo una búsqueda electrónica verificando que el nombre del visitante en su identificación no aparece en varias bases de datos (incluyendo la base de datos nacional de los delincuentes sexuales registrados), el visitante recibirá un pase temporal para entrar al edificio desde la oficina de la escuela. Hay un protocolo para los visitantes que no tengan una identificación emitida por el estado.

El sistema puede acabar con su proceso de verificación en menos de un minuto. Favor de asegurarse de traer consigo su licencia u otra identificación emitida por el estado cuando visite un edificio del Distrito Escolar del Condado Mifflin antes o durante las horas escolares.

Padres y tutores quienes entran a la oficina para recoger a estudiantes para salidas tempranas, para dejar dinero para sus hijos, etc. no tendrán que mostrar sus identificaciones. Solamente los visitantes entrando al edificio más allá de la oficina tendrán que procesarse por medio de School Gate Guardian.

Favor de visitar el sitio Web del Distrito Escolar del Condado Mifflin - <https://www.mcscdkl2.org/visitors/> - para más información sobre School Gate Guardian.

Agradezco de antemano su cooperación y su participación mientras mantenemos como una prioridad la seguridad de los estudiantes del Distrito Escolar del Condado Mifflin. Si hay pregunta o duda alguna, sientan la libertad de ponerse en contacto con el director de su edificio.

Atentamente,

Vance Varner
Director de las escuelas secundarias

Attention:

All visitors going beyond the office are required to have a state issued photo ID.

Please be aware, for the safety of our students, an electronic background check will be performed. This includes a registered sex offender search, custody issue alerts, restraining order warnings, and protection from abuse order checks.

Please prepare to present your ID to the secretary and thank you for your cooperation!

Mifflin County School District



Atención:

Es obligatorio que todo visitante entrando al edificio más allá de la oficina presente una identificación emitida por el estado que contiene foto.

Por favor tenga en cuenta que, por la seguridad de nuestros estudiantes, será llevado a cabo una verificación electrónica de antecedentes. Esta incluye una búsqueda para delincuentes sexuales registrados, alertas de asuntos de custodia, avisos de interdictos, y verificaciones de órdenes de protección de abuso. Favor de prepararse para presentar su identificación. ¡Gracias por su cooperación!

El Distrito Escolar del Condado Mifflin



Frequently Asked Questions about School Gate Guardian

1. What is School Gate Guardian?

School Gate Guardian is a visitor registration system that enhances school security by retrieving data from a visitor's state-issued ID. The information is then compared with information from several databases including the registered sex offender database and a locally stored database created by the district that could include parents or guardians with custody issues, restraining orders, or visitors that have been deemed a threat to students and staff.

2. Why has Mifflin County School District decided to use this type of system?

Student safety is one of our highest priorities and the School Gate Guardian System can provide a consistent stream of information for tracking unwanted visitors in any of our facilities. In the unlikely event an incident does occur, police and other authorities will have access to these electronic visitor logs which have a photograph of the visitor as well as a date and time stamp of their entry and exit times.

3. What information is the School Gate Guardian retrieving from the photo ID?

The only information required to perform the proper searches are the first name, last name, date of birth and the photo of the visitor. Any other information on the ID is ignored by the system. None of this data will be shared with any other company or organization other than law enforcement and this will only occur in the event of an incident.

4. Does every visitor that enters a facility go through the screening process?

Yes. All first-time visitors to any school facility will be scanned by the School Gate Guardian System. The system does recognize return visitors and the option will be given on a time sensitive basis if another scan is necessary. The ability also exists to provide key passes for frequent visitors. These visitors, upon entering the building, will scan their key pass under the barcode reader. Their information, including a photo, will appear on the computer screen for a staff member to verify identity and print a badge. The amount of time between scans is a customizable parameter set by the administrative staff.

5. Does the Mifflin County School District have the right to require visitors, parents and guardians to produce a state issued ID before entering school facilities?

Yes. We need to be certain who is in our school district buildings, what the purpose of their visit is, who they are here to see, and if they have the authority or the right to have access to our facilities and students. We can only do this by performing the appropriate checks.

6. If a positive match does occur indicating a visitor is a registered sex offender, what procedures have the staff members been trained to do?

There are over 800,000 registered sex offenders in this country. Often, parents or relatives of one of our students will be deemed a registered sex offender. This person does have the right to conduct business on school property, but our staff members have been trained to analyze every unique situation and always have the ability to bring in one of their superiors to assess every situation. The system does show a positive match in a discreet and silent fashion so these instances are usually handled in a non-public venue to avoid any embarrassment to the individuals if they are deemed an inappropriate visitor. In the event they are not deemed appropriate, our staff has been trained to remain calm, ask them to take a seat, and seek immediate help from other district personnel or law enforcement officials. Our staff has been trained to not go into any further details with the visitor until the appropriate persons have arrived.

What will happen when a visitor enters any school with the MCSD?

1. The visitor will hand a state-issued identification card to a MCSD staff member, who will scan the ID card through a card reader. The reader will gather necessary information from the license.
2. The information will then be run through a sexual offender database and a district-maintained database. If no matches are found, the staff member will print a visitor badge that includes the visitor's name, photo, reason for visit and location of visit. The badge is self-expiring, meaning that within 12 hours of printing, a red stop sign will bleed through to the front of the badge. This prevents the visitor from keeping the badge and attempting to use it for future visits. If the visitor appears in the sexual offender database, a pop-up message will discretely appear on the computer screen. Staff members have been trained in how to handle this situation.
3. Upon completion of the visit, the visitor will return to the office to scan the barcode for exit and return the badge to a staff member.