



Superintendent's Circular

NUMBER:
LGL-22
Version 01

SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRY INFORMATION (S.O.R.I.)

This circular will remain in effect unless rescinded or superseded by a subsequent version.

The Sexual Offender Registry Law requires that all convicted sexual offenders in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts register with the police departments in the cities or towns where they live and work. The State classifies the offender on a level of 1 to 3, depending on the likelihood of whether the offender might repeat his/her crimes. Once a local police department receives the information, it can be shared with public school districts for the protection of children. As a result of this law, Boston Public Schools principals and heads of school can access SORI information per the state website as described below.

The Boston Public Schools will receive the Sexual Offender Registry Information (S.O.R.I.) from the Boston Police Department. Pursuant to state regulations, BPD must notify all schools in the community of a finally classified Level 3 sex offender or a sexually dangerous predator. Information available includes: the registered individual's name, home and/or workplace address, date of birth, general physical description, charges for which they were convicted, and a photograph, if available.

Information pertaining to the Sex Offender Registry website should be shared with your staff to educate them on this resource and of the public availability of S.O.R.I information.

Although S.O.R.I. information is distributed to alert communities and protect children, it must be handled in a responsible manner. It is against the law to distribute copies and/or use this information in an unlawful manner, e.g., threats, extortion, etc. It is also against the law to use the sex offender registry information to commit a crime or to engage in illegal discrimination or harassment of a sex offender.

The law was passed to prevent convicted offenders from preying on innocent children. If you identify a registered offender acting inappropriately around a school building or approaching children, contact the Boston Police Department immediately.

Attached, please find some common questions and answers.

1. Who must register as a sex offender?

A sex offender is anyone who lives, works, or attends school in Massachusetts who has:

- Been convicted of a sex offense
- Been adjudicated as a youthful offender or a delinquent juvenile for a sex offense
- Been released from incarceration, parole, probation supervision, or custody with the Department of Youth Services for a sex offense conviction or adjudication
- Been adjudicated as a sexually dangerous person, or a person released from civil commitment anytime from August 1, 1981

2. How can a principal or head of school request information from the Sex Offender Registry Board?

Once a person registers with the Sex Offender Registry Board and that information is shared with local police

departments, those departments can share the information with public school districts. Local police departments have access to information pertaining to Levels 1, 2, and 3 sex offenders.

3. How can non-school personnel or parents request information from the Sex Offender Registry Board?

The public may request information about sex offenders in the community by sending a Sex Offender Inquiry Form request to the Sex Offender Registry Board. Requests may either be submitted online or at the following mail address:

Attn: SORI Coordinator
Sex Offender Registry Board
P.O. Box 392
North Billerica, MA 01862

Please see <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/request-sex-offender-registry-information-sori> for more information.

A person may also request information in person at a local police station.

Unlike local police departments, members of the public can only access information about Level 2 and Level 3 offenders.

For more information about this circular, contact:

Owner:	Legal Advisor
Department:	Office of Legal Advisor
Mailing Address:	2300 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA 02119
Phone:	617-635-9320
Fax:	617-635-9327
Email:	legal@bostonpublicschools.org

OR

Owner:	Chief of Safety Services
Department:	Safety Services
Mailing Address:	213 Townsend Street, Dorchester, MA 02121
Phone:	617-635-8000
Fax:	617-635-8006
Email:	Operations-Department-Heads@bostonpublicschools.org

Mary Skipper, Superintendent

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY INFORMATION (S.O.R.I.)

Questions and Answers

- *What should I as a principal/head of school do with the information I receive from Safety Services or BPD on S.O.R.I. cases?*

You should establish a secure, central file for mandatory review by all staff members, including teachers, paraprofessionals and volunteers who have an established pattern of work in the school. This file will be a one-copy file, with opportunity for staff to come and review. No copies of this S.O.R.I. information can be made and/or distributed.

- *What if upon first review, I note that one of the offenders is an employee/volunteer at my school?*

Contact the Office of Human Capital for further direction. The Office of Human Capital will review each situation on a case-by-case basis and will work with the Office of Legal Advisor and the superintendent of schools on a final resolution.

- *What if upon first review, I note that one of the offenders is a student in my school?*

Contact Safety Services Unit at 617-635-8000 for further direction.

- *What should I do if a parent or community member comes to the school or calls seeking S.O.R.I. information?*

The individual should be directed to the nearest police district, which will provide the information upon request.

- *How will S.O.R.I. be handled relative to BPS employees, BPS students, BPS volunteers, and bus drivers?*
 - All employees hired henceforth will have a S.O.R.I. check done automatically. This will be in conjunction with the C.O.R.I. (Criminal Offender Registry Information) check that is already in place. Also, all information regarding S.O.R.I. offenders received by Safety Services will be run against the current employee listing to identify any employees who might be sex offenders.
 - All information regarding S.O.R.I. offenders received by Safety Services will be run against the current student listing to identify any students who might be sex offenders.
 - Partners in Education will request to be placed on the Police Department's mailing list on all S.O.R.I. cases and will check this on a regular basis against their listing of volunteers.
 - BPS's contracted transportation provider will request to be placed on the Police Department's mailing list on all S.O.R.I. cases and will check this on a regular basis against their listing of bus drivers.
 - Community Schools will request to be placed on the Police Department's mailing list on all S.O.R.I. cases and will check this on a regular basis against their listing of employees.
- *What if any situation, in general, occurs in or around my school relative to the S.O.R.I. process?*

Contact Safety Services Unit immediately at 617-635-8000.