



An **OPEN CAMPUS** can alleviate overcrowding problems in congested school lunch rooms while helping upperclassmen to learn the importance of personal responsibility associated with growing independence as they approach high school graduation. However, there are several important considerations a district should carefully weigh prior to declaring an open campus.

PACE BEST PRACTICES:

- The school board should approve the concept of an open campus and determine the age group allowed to leave campus
 - Age should be considered as a qualifying factor
 - A regular review of this policy allows for any problems that may arise to be addressed in a proactive fashion
- Students and parents need to sign an agreement listing all conditions for the privilege of leaving campus which at the very least, addresses each of the following areas of potential concern:
 - Check-out and check-in process: when, where and which school staff will be notified in advance
 - If student drivers will be transporting other student(s): All passengers will need signed waivers on file as well
 - A reference to the parental/guardian waiver listing any and all restrictions
 - Any time parameters/deadlines established for leaving and returning to campus
- An open campus may create concerns in terms of noise and possibly litter being scattered both on campus and on nearby private properties.
- Waivers need to be signed by parents and offer an opportunity to specifically designate places where they can or cannot go.
 - Consider allowing the driver alone to ride in any one vehicle
 - If students are allowed to transport other student(s), the other student(s) will need written parental/guardian permission
 - District will not be responsible for off-campus student activity
- District should establish security patrols to randomly monitor high-traffic venues regularly frequented by students.