

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Darien, Connecticut

SERIES 1000: COMMUNITY/BOARD RELATION
POLICY 1225

VISITORS

The Board of Education encourages visits by citizens, taxpayers, and parents to all school buildings. In order to promote a safe and productive educational environment for all students and staff, the Board of Education requires all visitors to receive prior approval from the school Principal or his/her designee before being permitted to visit any school building. The Board of Education, through the administration, reserves the right to limit visits in accordance with administrative regulations.

Upon arrival, all visitors must comply with any and all applicable building security procedures, including but not limited to utilizing security buzzers for access, complying with requests for photo identification, reporting directly to and signing in and out at the visitors' reception area of the school office, prominently displaying visitors' badges or other identification required for visitors to the school buildings, limiting access to those areas of the buildings and grounds for which the visitors have authorized access, and complying with directives of school officials at all times. All visitors and observers permitted into school buildings or on school grounds must comply with all school health and safety protocols in place at the time, including but not limited to any health screening protocols.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION: February 25, 2003

REVISED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION: February 24, 2015, (Effective July 1, 2015)
November 10, 2020
October 12, 2021

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Darien, Connecticut

SERIES 1000: COMMUNITY/BOARD RELATION
POLICY R-1225

VISITORS
(Administrative Regulations)

1. Any person wishing to visit a school building, and/or observe any student program, must obtain prior approval from the Principal or responsible administrator of the respective school building or program.
2. A visitor to any school building or program must be able to articulate a legitimate reason for his/her proposed visit and/or observation. Where the visitation involves direct contact with district students, or observation of an identified student or student program, the visitor must have a sufficient educational nexus with the district, its educational programs or the student to support such request.
3. All visits must be reasonable in length and conducted in a manner designed to minimize disruption to the district's educational programs.
4. When determining whether to approve a request to visit and/or observe student programs, the building Principal or responsible administrator shall consider the following factors:
 - a. the frequency of visits;
 - b. the duration of the visit;
 - c. the number of visitors involved;
 - d. the effect of the visit on a particular class or activity;
 - e. the age of the students;
 - f. the nature of the class or program;
 - g. the potential for disclosure of confidential personally identifiable student information;
 - h. whether the visitor/observer has a legitimate educational interest in visiting the school;

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- i. whether the visitor/observer has professional ethical obligations not to disclose any personally identifiable student information; and
 - j. any safety risk to students and school staff.
5. The building Principal or responsible administrator has the discretion to limit, or refuse, requests for visits and/or observations of student programs in light of the above criteria.
6. If a building Principal or responsible administrator approves a request to visit a school building and/or observe a student program, arrangements must be made in advance to ensure that the visit will not disrupt educational programs. The length and scope of any visit shall be determined by the building Principal or responsible administrator in accordance with these regulations and accompanying Board policy.
7. Upon arrival, all visitors must comply with any and all applicable building security procedures, including but not limited to utilizing security buzzers for access, complying with requests for photo identification, reporting directly to and signing in and out at the visitors' reception area of the school office, prominently displaying visitors' badges or other identification required for visitors to the school buildings, limiting access to those areas of the buildings and grounds for which the visitors have authorized access, and complying with directives of school officials at all times.
8. The district has an obligation to maintain the confidentiality of personally identifiable student information. All visitors and observers must restrict their visits and observations to the purpose identified in the request to visit or observe and are strictly prohibited from observing or collecting information on other students within the school. If the visitor/observer views, accesses or otherwise obtains personally identifiable student information concerning another student, the visitor/observer must notify the building Principal or responsible administrator as soon as possible.
9. All visitors and observers permitted inside school buildings or on school grounds must comply with all school health and safety protocols in place at the time, including any health screening protocols.
10. A refusal to comply with any of the Board's policy provisions and/or regulation concerning visitors shall constitute grounds for denial of the visitor's privileges, as determined appropriate by the building Principal or designee. Such refusal may also result in a referral to law enforcement personnel, as determined appropriate by the building Principal or designee.

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Legal References:

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