

## **Community Relations**

### **News Media Relationships**

The New London Board of Education recognizes that the New London Public Schools are public institutions serving the educational needs of the community and that it is important that the public be informed of activities which take place in the public schools.

The Board also realizes that the teaching – learning environment in the public schools must be such that learning may take place with little, if any, distraction from the educational process.

Additionally, the Board recognizes that it has legal and ethical obligations inherent in its relationship with students, parents, and guardians. These obligations require the protection of students from exploitation, embarrassment, and disruption which may result from exposure of students to representatives of the news media in the public school setting.

Therefore, the Board authorizes the following procedures:

1. Media access to school activities, programs, or events open to the public which are of a district-wide nature or which pertain to established school district policy is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools or his or her designee.
2. Media access to school programs, activities, or events open to the public which pertain to only one school or program or to an organization of one school or program is the responsibility of the Principal, and, where applicable, the Director, or his or her designee, of that school or program.
3. Representatives of the media wishing to cover a public school program, activity, or event, are, (except for athletic contests and other events where media coverage is traditional), requested but not required to discuss the coverage in advance with the appropriate administrator. News media personnel who intend to photograph, broadcast, or record for broadcast student activities shall provide appropriate identification to the school administrator, if requested, prior to access. Through this means, it is anticipated that any concerns of either the media representative or the applicable administrator can be amicably resolved. Only news media personnel employed by a newspaper, radio or television broadcasting company, or personnel of a recognized student news medium assigned to cover the activity shall be permitted to photograph, broadcast, or record for broadcast, such activity.
4. Requests by media representatives for media access to school facilities under circumstances where other members of the public are not entitled to such access without permission shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools or his or her designee.

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### **News Media Relationships** (continued)

If, in the judgment of the Superintendent of Schools or the Principal/Director, the presence of any media person causes such a disruption that orderly conduct of school business becomes infeasible, access by that media person to the school premises may be limited to the extent necessary to remedy the disruption.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-226 Recording, broadcasting or photographing meetings

Policy adopted: August 25, 2005

NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New London, Connecticut